

America's Food Banks: The Cupboards Are Bare

(NAPSA)—With the downturn in the economy, the nation's food banks and other non-profits fighting hunger have seen a sharp drop-off in donations—while also experiencing an increase in demand.

“In some cases, food banks have been experiencing an increase in demand for months due to the slowing economy,” said Bill Shore, executive director of Share Our Strength, a leading anti-hunger organization.

In response to the critical need, Share Our Strength and Tyson Foods, Inc., have announced emergency product donations during the holidays. Since beginning their partnership to fight hunger in May 2000, the two organizations have provided more than 38

million meals—totaling over 7.5 million pounds of chicken—to more than 250 emergency food assistance agencies nationwide.

According to a national survey released this summer, many food providers receive the greatest demand from their clients during the holiday months. However, with the economy in a downward spiral, hunger activists fear a bleak holiday season for the more than 31 million people at risk of hunger in the United States.

For information on what you can do during the holidays to combat hunger, visit www.strength.org. For more information on Tyson Foods and the anti-hunger partnership, visit www.Tyson.com.

How You Can Make A Difference

1. **Send a contribution** to national and local organizations fighting to end hunger.
2. **Volunteer** at your local food bank or encourage your favorite restaurant to donate excess food to an area food rescue program.
3. **Pick up** extra food and donate it to your local food bank. Share Our Strength's recent survey reflects that food banks need meat/poultry donated most. Second on the list of items was dairy products, followed by vegetables, non-meat proteins, starches and bakery goods.
4. **Support** businesses that have committed to Share Our Strength as partners in the fight to end hunger, including Tyson Foods, Inc.
5. **Learn** more about the issues of hunger and poverty so that you can take action by visiting www.strength.org.

