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Colorado Food Bank Association Digest

"Building a well nourished Colorado through education, advocacy and resource development"

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National Perspective—New Initiative Highlights Plight of Children Living With Hunger

CHICAGO --- March 5, 2008 ---First-hand accounts of the daily struggles of children living with hunger in America will be highlighted today in Washington, D.C. A few of the stories – provided by food banks and hunger relief organizations as a part of the "Haul Across America" tour being conducted by ABF U-Pack Moving – will be presented by U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln at a Capitol Hill ceremony on Wednesday.

A part of the *U-Pack A Backpack* initiative, the "Haul Across America" tour is helping to raise awareness of child hunger through the words and stories of those who are involved in the effort to feed hungry children and families on a daily basis. One of the more shocking stories details the situation of 7-year-old Meghan, who hid food from her drug-addicted stepfather under her bed. She would then wait until the early morning hours, when everyone was asleep, to wake her 4-year-old brother to share the food with him.

Another story focuses on a first-grader who discussed the word "favorite" as part of a class discussion. When his teacher asked him to write a sentence using the word, the student wrote, "For my sister and me, our favorite day of the week is Friday." When he was asked why, he responded, "Because we get to take home food so we will not be hungry." The siblings were participating in their school's local Backpack program, which provides at-risk children with a backpack full of healthy foods and snacks every Friday afternoon.

Also included is the story of a disabled veteran who relies on a local after-school program to help feed the two young grandsons and high-school aged granddaughter he's raising. "I knew I didn't have the money, on my disability income, to feed them," he said before receiving help. "This collection of stories provides a vivid look at the face of hunger in America today. They humanize the bleak statistic that 35 million Americans do not always know where they will find their next meal," said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network. "The *U-Pack A Backpack* initiative demonstrates the urgent need to help feed the hungry, and reminds us that every contribution to us is significant."

The stories can be accessed online at www.u-pack.com/press.



Local Perspective—Weld County Food Bank, Greeley



North Weld Produce has gone above and beyond the call of duty of helping to feed the hungry in Weld County as well as throughout the country. This outstanding company has donated almost 648,000 pounds of onions since July 1, 2007.

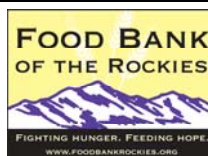
As a member of America's Second Harvest and of the Colorado Food Bank Association, Weld Food Bank was able to share this large local donation with the other four food banks in the state of Colorado: Food Bank for Larimer County, Community Food Share, Food Bank of the Rockies and Care and Share. We were also able to share with other food banks across the country.

For the month of February alone Food Bank for Larimer County received 32,000 pounds, Food Bank of the Rockies 50,000 pounds, Community Food Share 24,000 pounds, Care and Share-20,000 pounds, Harvesters in Kansas City 42,000 pounds, and Hunger Solutions in Minnesota 42,000 pounds.

Thank you, North Weld Produce, for making such a difference in our fight against hunger!

State Perspective

Don't forget to join the CFBA, Monday, March 17, 2008, in room 109 at the capitol for a lunch and conversation on hunger beginning at 11:45!



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