



November 2010

To: **My Friends and Customers**

From: A. W. Ahern, CPCM
Chief Executive Officer

RE: **St. Mary's Food Bank**

It's that time of year again! The holidays are approaching and with the economic "down turn", it is now more important than ever that I, once again, ask for your financial assistance.

I recognize that this has been a challenging year for the trucking industry and I also recognize that with the numerous natural catastrophes we've had, trucking will continue to be challenged.

However, this is also a special time of year.

- **It's a time to be thankful for what we have and not what we want;**
- **It is a time for us to reflect on our ability to help others.**

As you know, I became a Partner for Hunger with the St. Mary's Food Bank approximately ten (10) years ago. Since that time, I have raised a substantial amount of money for the food bank, throughout the country, because of people such as you who were willing to listen to what the food bank has to offer.

Once again, I would like to provide you with some impressive statistics.

- **Sixty percent (60%) of distributed food goes to agencies that care for children or families with small children.**
- **Thirty percent (30%) reaches senior adults or the disabled, and**
- **Only ten percent (10%) goes to the agencies that care for the homeless. In other words, St. Mary's Food Bank supports families and the elderly who have no other visible means of support or work for minimum wage.**
- **St. Mary's Food Bank was the first food bank in the world and was established in Phoenix, Arizona in 1967.**
- **It is the largest food bank in the world.**
- **St. Mary's is committed to volunteerism, building community relationships and improving the quality of life for those less fortunate.**





Please note:

- **For every dollar donated it allows St. Mary's to distribute \$7.00 worth of food**
- **Last year St. Mary's distributed over 72,262,239 lbs of food;**
- **St. Mary's distributed enough food to prepare the equivalent of 6,000,000 meals a month;**
- **Their kids café feeds 1,800 kids daily – five days a week – at 32 sites with 364,646 meals;**
- **Last year the food bank utilized over 386,046 volunteer hours;**
- **St. Mary's serves 15 counties throughout Arizona;**
- **They have over 900 partnership agencies throughout the country;**
- **96¢ out of every dollar goes back into the community. That's what I said; 96¢ of every dollar goes back into the community.**

In Arizona alone;

- **Nearly 900,000 individuals seek emergency food assistance.**
- **More than 16% of households receiving food assistance have at least one person working.**
- **One in five children live in poverty; 37% are under the age of 5.**

On a national basis;

- **There are over 40 million people that live at or below the poverty level.**
- **The number of children in poverty exceeds 14 million.**
- **The current poverty rate in the United States is 12.7% or nearly 1 in 8 people.**

Too often we get caught up in the commercialism of the holidays and we forget about the families with small children and the elderly that don't look forward to the holidays because it is too painful.

- **Many children (this year) will not have a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner;**
- **Many families don't have enough food or a roof over their head;**
- **Many elderly people don't have anyone to share the holidays with.**

These are very sad statistics and they're statistics that can be improved dramatically if we have your financial assistance.





Even though the trucking industry has its challenges, as individuals;

- We still have the ability to provide for our family;
- We have family and friends to share the Holiday's with, and;
- **We have our health and the necessities of life:**
 - a) Food
 - b) clothing
 - c) shelter

When you put things into perspective, life is very short and if we are to have a legacy, it is in our children... our family... and our community.

This year, your support is so crucial to the food bank's survival!

Please, as a favor to Ahern & Associates, as well as yourself, send a contribution immediately. I know that you all have your charities that you donate to, but this charity gives back to the community more than they receive. **St. Mary's is a very unusual charitable organization and now they're reaching out to foreign countries as well. Remember for each dollar contributed it equates to \$7 of food.**

During the holiday season, remember – it's better to give than to receive!

I would ask that you send a check made payable to the St. Mary's Food Bank in care of:

Ahern & Associates, Ltd
2198 E. Camelback Rd. #210
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

You will be doing yourself and the community a great favor.

P.S. Many thanks to my clients who have become foundation sponsors to St. Mary's in the past.

American Transport, Inc. Benesch, Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff, Fikes Truck Lines, Inc. Paschall Truck Lines, Inc.

