

To My Friends and Customers

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

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

**As you know, I became a Partner for Hunger with the St. Mary's Food Bank approximately ten (11) 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.

**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.

**Recently, I read an article that made my stomach turn! On a National basis;**

- There is over 43 million people that live at or below the poverty level.
- The number of children in poverty exceed 16million, and;
- The current poverty rate in the US is the highest that it has been in decades!

**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.**

**I think it's important to understand that although the economy is the worst that I have seen since the Great Depression, for many of us;**

- We still have the ability to provide for our family;
- We have family and friends to share the Holiday's with, and;

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ADVISORY

in this issue

St. Mary's Food Bank



Ahern & Associates, Ltd.

Accredited Member  
National Bureau of Certified  
Consultants Inc.

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- **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.**

**The St. Mary's Food Bank continually astounds me with their 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 73 million lbs of food;
- St. Mary's distributed enough food to prepare the equivalent of 6,000,000 meals a month;
- Last year the food bank utilized over 400,000 volunteer hours;
- 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.

**This year, your support is so crucial to the food bank's survival and also people know that we care!**

**There is an old saying that goes something like this... "When you give yourself, you receive more than you give. Invest in yourself, your family, your friends and your planet. It will bring a high rate of return"**

**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 many clients who have become foundation sponsors to St. Mary's in the past.**