

AHERN ADVISORY

The Gift Of Giving: The St. Mary's Food Bank

As many of you know, twice a year I ask for your kind support for the St. Mary's Food Bank, and twice a year you have been kind enough to help those in need.

This year, I received an emotional letter from the director of the food bank. Providing the following "gut" wrenching statistics;

- 49.1 million Americans are living at the poverty level.
- Several years ago, St. Mary's Food Bank was distributing 17,000 emergency food boxes a month.
- This year, that number has escalated to 40,000 food boxes a month, and;
- The number of children in poverty exceeds 16 million.
- The highest poverty rate in decades.

As most of you know, I have been a Partner for Hunger with the St. Mary's Food Bank approximately eleven 11 years ago. Since that time, we have been able to raise a substantial amount of money for the food bank, because of people such as you who were willing to listen to what the food bank has to offer.

This year your support is so crucial to helping those in need

St. Mary's Food Bank continues to astound me with their statistics.

- 60% of distributed food goes to agencies that care for children or families with small children.
- 30% reaches senior adults or the disabled, and
- 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.

To provide you the importance of the food bank, we witnessed two major catastrophes this year; one in Alabama and another one in Missouri.

- The food bank dispatched truckloads of food to those in need.
- Companies, such as, Swift Transportation and Knight Transportation donated the trucks to deliver the food.

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Ahern & Associates, Ltd.

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It is because of these types of contributions St. Mary's is able to help those in need. Yesterday, I received a very emotional letter from the director of the food bank. In his letter he wrote that;

- The number of people needing food has hit record highs.
- **It's the greatest in the lifetime of the food bank; "until now the community has helped us keep pace, but no longer"**
- Your support and the support of your numerous readers are so critical to the survival of so many people.
- **There is going to be many children this year that will go hungry during the holidays.**
- **This year there will be many elderly that will go hungry. Please don't let this happen.**
- **This year, more than any other year, we have the highest unemployment rate we've had since the Great Depression.**

These are very sad statistics, but they are statistics that can be dramatically improved if we have your financial support.

- **For every dollar you contribute, it equals \$7.00 of food.**
- **For every \$100 you contribute, it equals \$700 worth of food.**

When I began my newsletter in 1997, I had 300 quarterly readers. Today, the Ahern Advisory has 300,000 weekly readers. The newsletter is free of charge, and it has been free of charge since I started it 14yrs ago.

Twice a year I complete a fundraising project for the St. Mary's Food Bank, and this year we had Christmas in July and many of you "stepped up" to the plate and your kind contributions were overwhelming.

During this holiday, your support is so crucial not only to the food banks survival, but also to people that are in need. 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."*

I cannot begin to tell you the emotional impact I feel every time I go to the food bank and see families with small children, lined up for blocks waiting to get food so their family wont starve. Here we are, the greatest country in the world and we can't feed our children, and that is very sad.

Please, as a favor to Ahern & Associates, as well as yourself, if you would like to send a contribution, please do so to St. Mary's Food Bank. I know that you all have your favorite charities that you donate to, but this charity gives back to the community more than they receive. This charity reaches out throughout the world. St. Mary's is a very unusual charitable organization and it's important to remember that for each dollar contributed it equates to \$7.00 worth of food.

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

In closing, there is a saying by an un-known author that goes something like this... *"One hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child."*

I would ask that you send a check made payable to:

St. Mary's Food Bank
C/O Ahern and Associates, LTD
2198 Camelback Rd. Ste. 210
Phoenix, AZ 85016.

You would be doing yourself and the community a great favor. Thank you for your help!