



INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD IN NORTH SAN DIEGO

RURAL MOBILE FOOD PANTRY OVERVIEW

In 2008, 49.1 million people—including 16.7 million children—were uncertain of having or unable to acquire enough food for their families during the year (ERS, 2008). Poverty continues to be predictive of food insecurity. For those who are dependent on agriculture as a livelihood, the season to season income fluctuations engender financial instability, resulting in unmet nutritional needs of farmworker and rural families. In 2007, California grossed more than 36.5 billion in agriculture, however today's farmworkers living in rural communities throughout California are struggling to feed themselves (CDFA, 2007). Insufficient food and access is compounded by the economic downturn in communities across the nation.

In an effort to increase access to food in farmworker, low income rural communities in North San Diego County, the National Latino Research Center (NLRC) at California State University San Marcos partnered with Feeding America, Vista Community Clinic, Rainbow Community Church and Neighborhood Healthcare Pauma Clinic to launch the Mobile Food Pantry. In 2010 Feeding America

National Latino Research Center

- ❖ National Latino Research Center (NLRC) was established in 1998 with the mission of contributing to the knowledge and understanding of the Latino population through applied research, training, technical assistance, and information exchange.
- ❖ NLRC has an established infrastructure to access and serve vulnerable populations including immigrants and residents in rural communities. With a long-term commitment to community partnerships, NLRC works with diverse populations and actively supports multi-agency collaborations that seek to develop solutions to community challenges.
- ❖ Specializing in applied research, NLRC brings together key stakeholders from the community, government, NGOs and private sectors to conduct research and identify solutions to address social issues.

www.csusm.edu/nlrc

received funds to purchase a refrigerated truck to transport food to rural communities. The 10 door truck is stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, staple items, and grains; each truck load serves 400 families. The mobile pantry currently operates twice a month at eight locations throughout North County. In addition to receiving food aid, families obtain nutrition information, prescreening assistance for CalFresh program, and information about other vital resources available in the community. For a copy of the Mobile Pantry Schedule, please visit:

<http://feedingamericasd.org/need-help/>.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION IN NC

NLRC has been documenting barriers families encounter in accessing nutritious food in California. NLRC has hosted regional meetings in North San Diego County bringing together community-based organizations to discuss outreach efforts, share promising outreach strategies and resources, discuss emerging challenges, and devise promising solutions to enhance outreach efforts. Additionally, NLRC provides linkages with service providers to safety-net resources.

The *líderes comunitarios* have been especially critical to the success of this endeavor because they were the first to identify the need for food and petitioned community organizations to assist them in finding much needed resources. The *líderes comunitarios* network was formalized in 2005 through a grant from The California Endowment for ***Poder Popular para la Salud del Pueblo***, a community-building initiative with the purpose of building leadership capacity in the state's agricultural areas. During the last eight years, they have been advocating to improve the health, living and working conditions of agricultural workers in San Diego County. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact NLRC at 760.750.3500 or nlrc@csusm.edu.

Feeding America

- ❖ Feeding America is the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity; its mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage the country in the fight to end hunger.
- ❖ Each year, the Feeding America network provides food to more than 37 million low-income people facing hunger in the United States, including 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.
- ❖ With a network of more than 200 food banks, Feeding America serves all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, securing and distributing more than 2.5 billion pounds of food and grocery products annually. Those member food banks support approximately 61,000 local charitable agencies and 70,000 programs, which provide food directly to individuals and families in need.

www.feedingamericasd.org

