

NEWS RELEASE

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REFINERIES DONATE 50,000 POUNDS OF FOOD TO FOOD BANK

Concord, CA - The successful close of contract negotiations at three local refineries is providing much-needed food assistance to hungry people in Contra Costa and Solano counties. Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, Shell Oil Products US and ConocoPhillips had obtained food for those who would have worked at the refineries in case of a labor dispute, but the agreement they reached with the United Steelworkers means that food was donated to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The three refineries donated nearly 50,000 pounds of much need food including cheese, milk, apples, oranges, lettuce, beef, pork, chicken and much more.

"We are happy for both the workers and the refineries that they reached an agreement on their contract," said Larry Sly, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. "We are also thrilled that the people the Food Bank serves will receive high quality food because it will help us meet the increased need we see in the community."

Overall the Food Bank is serving 20% more people through member agencies and the direct distribution programs over two years ago. Over 98,000 people are coming to the Food Bank for food help each month. Some of the Food Assistance Program sites (individuals receive boxes of fresh produce, bread, and USDA commodities every month) are experiencing a 5 – 10% increase each month. This generous donation will help meet that increased need.

"There are few organizations that do as much for the community as the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano," said ConocoPhillips Refinery Manager Rand Swenson. "All of us at the ConocoPhillips Refinery were grateful for the opportunity to contribute."

"There's no greater feeling than knowing you've helped someone in need. We at Shell are grateful for so many things, not the least of which is the opportunity to share our good fortune with others less fortunate. We are very proud to support the work of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano", said, Alicia Izarraraz, General Manager, Shell Martinez Refinery.

"Tesoro employees are committed to serving their community and no one should go hungry. We should all do what we can through charity to improve the quality of life for our neighbors". Bill Bodnar, California VP and Refinery Manager.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano has been serving the communities of Contra Costa and Solano counties for over 30 years. The Food Bank currently provides food to 98,000 hungry people in need every month. Children, homeless families, low-income seniors, and others receive free meals and food baskets through a network of 175 charitable agencies supported by the Food Bank. To find out how you can assist the Food Bank in their work call (800) 870-FOOD or visit www.foodbankccs.org.

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