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Bank of America announces \$50,000 donation to Food Bank of Delaware's Mobile Pantry program

Wilmington, Del. (July 24, 2013) – The Food Bank of Delaware's new mobile pantry vehicle continues to travel up and down the state making a positive impact on Delaware's most-vulnerable communities. Bank of America announced today at the Northeast State Service Center that it's playing a role in alleviating hunger by donating \$50,000 to the program.

In the past three years Bank of America has donated more than \$440,000 to the food bank's hunger-relief efforts in the First State. In addition, Bank of America has partnered with the food bank annually on the national Give A Meal campaign and contributed nearly 11,500 volunteer hours over the last three years to assist in the fight against hunger in Delaware.

Fifteen Bank of America employees were on hand at a morning pantry to distribute food to 35 area families at risk of hunger. Just prior to the food distribution, bank employees presented an education session on financial literacy to pantry participants.

"Bank of America is committed to helping Americans build a solid financial foundation," stated Chip Rossi, Delaware market president for Bank of America. Rossi, who served as a special guest panelist at the "Ending Hunger Through Citizen Service Conference" in Newark in April, added, "connecting the critical issues of financial literacy and hunger relief by providing step-by-step support along the way will make life better for Delawareans."

Since the food bank launched the new mobile pantry program in March, 79 statewide distributions have been held servicing close to 1,500 households. In total more than 148,000 pounds of food have been distributed.

"The mobile pantry is making a difference in the lives of many Delawareans," said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. "Since our launch in March we have received tons of calls from community organizations interested in bringing relief to their local communities. Thanks to supporters like Bank of America, we are able to provide this much-needed resource to families struggling to make ends meet."

The 30-foot vehicle has both dry and cold storage space allowing for the distribution of fresh, nutritious foods. The sides of the truck roll up and an awning provides shade for participants as they walk through the pantry choosing foods best suited for their household.

The new mobile pantry program also delivers information through educational sessions that take place prior to the distribution. Every household receiving food must participate in the education session beforehand. Topics have included nutrition, healthcare, financial literacy and more.

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The Food Bank of Delaware distributes millions of pounds of food and grocery products each year to 508 hunger-relief partners throughout the state and also provides thousands of meals a month for children through the After-School Feeding Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Backpack Program. The Food Bank's hunger-relief programs directly provide for 241,600 Delawareans at risk of going without meals each year. For more information about the Food Bank of Delaware, visit www.fbd.org or call (302) 292-1305.