



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Turner
(302) 444-8074
kturner@fdb.org

Food Bank of Delaware kicks off its annual Thanksgiving food/funds drive

Newark, Del. (October 14, 2014) – The Food Bank of Delaware kicked off its annual Thanksgiving food and funds drive today. The hunger-relief organization asks for the community’s assistance in collecting food items and monetary donations in order to create 4,000 Thanksgiving meal boxes for families in need.

Through the food bank’s Thanksgiving for All holiday box distribution, eligible 501(c)3 organizations in New Castle and Kent counties will have an opportunity to pick up free meal boxes from the Food Bank of Delaware for families in need. Organizations in Sussex County may sign up for Mountaire Farm’s Thanksgiving for Thousands distribution. Households in need of holiday food assistance should call the Delaware Helpline by dialing 2-1-1 or #800-464-4357.

To help fill the boxes, the Food Bank is asking for the public’s assistance in making sure that no Delawarean goes without a holiday meal this season. Businesses, schools, faith-based organizations and other community groups are encouraged to organize food drives throughout the holiday season. Food for the Thanksgiving boxes must be received by Friday, November 7. Food received after that time will be distributed to the food bank’s network of Hunger-Relief Program Partners.

Most-needed items include:

- Juice
- Coffee/tea
- Cereal/oatmeal
- Canned ham
- Cornbread/bread/muffin mix
- Gravy packets/canned gravy
- Stuffing
- Sweet potatoes/yams
- Green beans
- Peas
- Mixed vegetables
- Corn
- Cranberry sauce
- Shelf-stable milk
- Pudding boxes
- Pumpkin
- Mixed fruit
- Applesauce
- Frozen turkeys (must be dropped off to our Newark or Milford facilities)

In addition to hosting food drives, fundraisers are also a helpful way to collect much-needed funds to purchase food. Bank of America’s Give A Meal program is an easy way for Delawareans to help support hunger-relief efforts in the First State. For every \$1 donated, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will give \$2 more, up to \$1.5 million. The program enables individuals to make a donation to Feeding America nationally or support the Food Bank of Delaware. Donations can be made at www.bankofamerica.com/give.

“More than 10,000 people in our community rely on the Food Bank’s network of Hunger-Relief Programs for assistance each week,” said Chip Rossi, Delaware market president at Bank of America. “Putting food on the table is a challenge that many hard-working Delawareans face, but fortunately they don’t have to face it alone. The Give A Meal program allows people to extend the impact of their giving so our neighbors don’t have to choose between feeding their families and paying their bills.”

-MORE-

“It takes all of us working together to meet the emergency food needs of Delawareans, not just during the holiday season, but year round,” said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. “Together, we can make sure seniors, children, hardworking families, veterans, active members of the military and others who rely on our services have a hot Thanksgiving meal.”

Those who collect more than 20 boxes/bags of donated food may make arrangements with the Food Bank of Delaware to have donations picked up. In an effort to save money on transportation costs, the food bank asks that donations of fewer than 20 bags/boxes be dropped off at the food bank’s Newark or Milford facilities:

Food Bank of Delaware – Newark
14 Garfield Way
Newark, DE 19713
(302) 292-1305
Hours: M-F: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Food Bank of Delaware – Milford
1040 Mattlind Way
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 424-3301
Hours: M-F: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information about hosting a holiday food drive, please visit <http://www.fbd.org/holiday-food-drives/>. Organizations who are interested in serving as a drop-off location for holiday food donations may contact Caitlin Custer, Donor Outreach Coordinator, at ccuster@fbd.org or (302) 292-1305 ext 253.

To sign up to receive holiday meal boxes, please contact Naty Russo at (302) 444-8077 or nrusso@fbd.org. Organizations in Sussex County wishing to learn more about Mountaire Farm’s Thanksgiving for Thousands distribution may visit <http://www.mountaire.com/thanksgiving/>. Households in need of food assistance may call the Delaware Helpline by dialing 2-1-1 (or 1-800-464-4357).

###

The Food Bank of Delaware distributes millions of pounds of food and grocery products each year through a network of 550 hunger-relief program partners throughout the state and also provides thousands of meals a month for children through the After-School Nutrition Program, the Summer Food Service Program and the Backpack Program. The Food Bank’s hunger-relief programs directly provide for 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.