



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **Food Bank of Delaware kicks off its annual Thanksgiving food drive**

**Newark, Del.** (October 14, 2012) – The Food Bank of Delaware kicked off its annual Thanksgiving food drive today. The hunger-relief organization asks for the community’s assistance in collecting food items in order to create 2,500 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 1-800-464-HELP.

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 15.

“Starting November 1, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients will automatically receive a decrease in their monthly benefits as a result of the expiration of the increase provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. “This will be detrimental for many, especially seniors, families with children and the disabled. With the automatic decrease and the government shutdown, it is possible that our most-vulnerable populations will not receive food benefits in the upcoming months. We are preparing for the worst. To help meet the increased demand, especially during the holiday season, we encourage Delawareans to step up to help their neighbors in need.”

The food bank is in need of:

- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned or packets of gravy
- Pie crust
- Chocolate pudding mix
- Canned pumpkin
- Cranberry sauce
- Seasoned stuffing mix
- Biscuit mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, yams and peas)
- Canned fruits (pineapple and apple sauce)
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Apple juice
- Shelf-stable milk (32 oz.)
- Turkey roasting pans
- Frozen turkeys (drop off to Newark or Milford warehouses only)

-MORE-

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](mailto:ccuster@fbd.org) or (302) 292-1305 ext 253.

To sign up to receive holiday meal boxes, please contact Barbara Brkovich at (302) 292-1305 ext 259 or [bbrkovich@fbd.org](mailto:bbrkovich@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 477 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 241,600 Delawareans at risk of going without meals each year. For more information about the Food Bank of Delaware, visit [www.fbd.org](http://www.fbd.org) or call (302) 292-1305.*