

Food Bank still needs turkeys

Donations down when need for food is highest

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PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE 1992

Hoping to provide holiday feasts to at least some of the Peninsula's hungry families, officials at the area's largest food collection agency are keeping up their call for donations of frozen turkeys over the coming weeks.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties has received 750 turkeys since it announced Nov. 18 a goal of collecting 5,000 birds.

Although the food bank is seeing "a stream of people coming and dropping off turkeys," it doesn't expect to reach its goal, said Second Harvest's development coordinator, Steven Mangold.

"It's a lot of turkey," said Mangold.

But more importantly, corporations — often faithful donors — just aren't giving as much as



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The cart of frozen turkeys pushed by Don Elkins of the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Mateo won't be enough to feed the needy on Thanksgiving, so more donations are needed.

they did in the past.

"Many corporations are downsizing and laying off," said Mangold. "We really feel the effects of the recession."

Mangold said that the number of people Second Harvest serves shoots up every holiday season. The food bank serves about 108,000 people per month during most of the year but expects to

serve between 145,000 and 150,000 during each of the holiday months.

Staffers and volunteers at Second Harvest sort and pack donated food for distribution to 300 charities throughout the area, including Urban Ministry of Palo Alto, Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto and St. Anthony's Padua Dining

Room in Menlo Park.

Frozen turkeys and other foods, including dry beans, powdered milk and canned tuna stew and chili may be dropped off at Second Harvest's San Jose headquarters at 750 Curtne Ave. or at the San Mateo warehouse at 2110 Palm Ave. in the Bayview Federal Savings Tower.



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With the click of a toy gun, Sarah Payton Lim, 8, winner of the Turkey Trot art competition for third graders at Encinal School, starts the Sunset Annual Turkey Trot, a benefit by Sunset employees for St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.