

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Roy Betts
(O) 202-268-3207
(C) 202-256-4174
roy.a.betts@usps.gov

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U.S. Postal Service and Letter Carriers Team Up for the Nation's Largest Single-Day Food Collection



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WASHINGTON — On Saturday, May 14, the U.S. Postal Service will join forces with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to provide assistance to America's families struggling to put food on their tables every day. Last year the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive collected a record 77.1 million pounds of food donations, pushing the 18-year total to more than one billion pounds of food.

The *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive, held annually on the second Saturday in May, has become the nation's largest single-day food drive. This year letter carriers representing nearly 1,500 local branches of the postal union will collect food donations along their postal routes. These donations will be used to replenish food banks and pantries in more than 10,000 communities.

"The need continues to grow as 50 million — including 17 million children — live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger in America," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Research shows that preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavior problems than children with no hunger.

"With the commitment and dedication of thousands of letter carriers, rural letter carriers, and postal and community volunteers, plus the involvement of our corporate partners, we will continue making a difference in helping to feed America's hungry," said Donahoe.

NALC President Fredric Rolando said the 300,000-member union was "incredibly proud of the partnership with the Postal Service and Campbell Soup Company to support the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive that has helped so many millions of families over the years.

"As letter carriers, we see people on our routes six days a week who must rely on the generosity and assistance of others to help provide something as basic as a meal. We're proud to have established a program that truly provides assistance in every community across the country," said Rolando.

The need for food assistance across America has never been greater. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual study measuring food security in the United States, the number of Americans living in a food insecure home surpassed 50 million in 2009 (the most recent year that such data is available). Perhaps most alarming is that approximately one-third of those at risk of hunger are children (17.2 million).

Helping with the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive is simple. Participants need only leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable food items, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fish or meats, pasta, rice or cereal next to the mailbox prior to regular mail delivery time Saturday, May 14. Letter carriers will collect these food donations as they deliver mail and take them to a local food bank or pantry.

Feeding America, a national partner in the drive, is the nation's leading domestic-hunger-relief organization, providing assistance to more than 37 million U.S. residents every year.

Today, one in eight Americans relies on the organization for food and groceries. In a recent survey conducted by Feeding America, nearly half (46 percent) of all households the organization serves reported having to choose between paying for utilities or food.

Also supporting the drive as national partners are the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Campbell Soup Co., Valpak, the AFL-CIO, United Way, and Uncle Bob's Self Storage.

For more information about the *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive, ask a letter carrier, contact a local Post Office, or visit www.helpstampouthunger.com, www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, or www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, *usps.com*, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$67 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 29th in the 2010 Fortune 500. *Black Enterprise* and *Hispanic Business* magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency six consecutive years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.