



Smith's Truck Caravan Delivers Much-Needed Valentine's Day Gift: Food for Hungry New Mexicans

(ALBUQUERQUE- February 9, 2011) - Smith's Food & Drug Stores is caravanning six semi trucks filled with food from its Tolleson, Arizona warehouse to the New Mexico Association of Food Banks on Valentine's Day. The caravan will arrive at Noon on Monday February 14 at the Roadrunner Food Bank warehouse located at 5840 Office Blvd. NE in Albuquerque. Over the next several weeks, the food will be shipped to food pantries across the state that will prepare nutritious food boxes and meals for those in need.

Accepting the delivery will be Kathy Komoll, Director of the New Mexico Association of Food Banks, along with representatives from several of the recipient food pantries. Elected officials or their representatives are expected as schedules allow.

This shipment includes 144,000 cans of tomato sauce, 90,000 cans of spaghetti with meat sauce, 120,000 cans of mixed vegetables and 72,000 bags of elbow noodles. The selected foods are being provided by Smith's at their cost to help stretch the Association's grant received from the State of New Mexico through the federal stimulus program. In addition, Smith's is donating 125 cases of food. In total the federal grant purchased 44 trucks full of nutritious food, equating to almost 1.7million pound, or approximately 1.3 million meals, from Feeding America, Smith's and other sources.

"This project represents the best of public/private partnerships. By using our network of community partners like Smith's and Feeding America, we were able to maximize the amount of food we could purchase with the money we received from the State of New Mexico. That partnership translates into millions of pounds of food for New Mexicans needing food assistance," said Ms. Komoll.

"At Smith's, fighting hunger is our top community priority, whether it is through food donations made by our stores, through monetary contributions or through creative community partnerships like this one," said Marsha Gilford, Smith's Vice president Public Affairs.

About Smith's

Smith's is a division of the Kroger Co., the nation's largest traditional grocery retailer. In New Mexico, Smith's 2,500 associates serve customers in 26 stores throughout the state. Smith's also operates 106 additional stores in Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona and Idaho. In 2010, Smith's contributed \$1.5 million in cash and products to local nonprofit organizations throughout New Mexico. For more information visit www.smithsfoodanddrug.com.

About New Mexico Association of Food Banks

The New Mexico Association of Food Banks is a 501c3 dedicated to building a well-nourished New Mexico. The Association manages the Emergency Food Assistance Program for the State of New Mexico and is the purchasing agent for produce for its five member agencies: The Community Pantry, ECHO, Inc., The Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico, The Food Depot, and Roadrunner Food Bank.

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