



## News from: Human Services Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2014

### CITY SERVES THANKSGIVING MEAL AND PROVIDES SERVICES TO COMBAT HUNGER AND ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

**23rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Slated for Tuesday, November 25, 2014**

**Oakland, CA** – The holidays are a joyous time for most. It's also a time to focus on the needs of those less fortunate. The City of Oakland's Human Services Department, Communities United Committee, Community Action Partnership and the Emergency Food Providers Committee are pleased to announce our annual city-wide event to feed seniors and those who are homeless and/or low income: The 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607.

At the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, the free turkey feast will provide a nutritious meal and entertainment to more than 2,000 low-income families, seniors and homeless individuals while providing them the opportunity to obtain a winter coat/jacket if needed. This volunteer-operated event brings out the best in our community and it is supported by donations, large and small, by hundreds of neighborhood volunteers – in a spirit of giving and fellowship. Just \$17.00 will provide a meal for one guest or \$170.00 for a table of ten. The City of Oakland is still actively seeking volunteers and donations to meet our goal of serving 2,000.

Major sponsors of the Thanksgiving Dinner are the City of Oakland's Human Services Department Hunger Program and Community Action Partnership, and Klay Thompson, Warriors guard, the Golden State Warriors, Oakland Marriott City Center, Assemblyman Rob Bonta, and the many concerned citizens of Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area.

“Thanksgiving dinner is something that every family should have the opportunity to enjoy together during the holidays and I'm lucky enough to have the ability to help those in need enjoy a meal with their loved ones this year,” said Thompson. “In past years, several of my teammates have stepped up and donated to help make the City of Oakland's Thanksgiving Day meal a reality. It's my pleasure to do it this year for these families and senior citizens in need.”

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“We are grateful to all the people and organizations who keep this event going each year to support the feeding of Oakland’s needy. The community of supporters including the Golden State Warriors and various players continue to assist us. Klay Thompson’s generous contribution really solidified the event this year and for that we are thankful,” said Susan Shelton, Community Housing Services Manager, “The event is a grass roots effort and continues even through the challenges to make it our 23rd year.”

The City’s Human Services Department and its partners invite your participation as a volunteer or donor. Volunteers will be serving a scrumptious dinner with all the trimmings while our guests enjoy live entertainment and a nutritious meal. Donations are greatly appreciated and are still very much needed, as this event is entirely supported by gifts from agencies and individual donors. This event and many other concerted efforts to alleviate hunger in Oakland are in fact reliant upon support from the community. Please consider giving generously of your time and resources to make this annual event a success.

The City of Oakland’s Hunger Program also provides brown bags of emergency food to low-income households in the seven Community Development Districts of Oakland. Each bag of groceries contains from 10 to 16 meals and has an average cost of \$12. Food distributions occur at least ten times per year, with the focus of effort and resources coming in the winter months. The program distributes 210,000 pounds of food annually. The next distribution will be held Friday, November 21, 2014.

The vital backbone to the food distribution network in Oakland is the Emergency Food Providers Advisory Committee. Committee members tirelessly combat hunger year-round, often stretching resources to meet the demand for food among low-income families. A variety of community groups have joined together to serve Oakland’s diverse population in need.

[To volunteer or make a donation please call the Human Services Department Hunger and Homeless Program at 510-238-2077 or mailing address: 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. Checks should be made to the City of Oakland Hunger Program and your donations are tax deductible and the tax identification number is 94-6000384.](#)

Thank you for your contribution to help combat hunger and homelessness in our city.

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