



News from: Department of Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2012

CITY SERVES HOLIDAY MEAL AND PROVIDES SERVICES TO COMBAT HUNGER AND ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

21st Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Slated for Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Oakland, CA – During this time of giving thanks, the City of Oakland’s Department of Human Services, Communities United Committee, Community Action Partnership and the Emergency Food Providers Committee is hosting their annual city-wide event to feed seniors and those who are homeless and/or low income: The 21st Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607.

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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 \$12.63 will provide a meal for one guest and \$25 per family.

Major sponsors of the November 20, 2012 Thanksgiving Dinner are the City of Oakland’s Department of Human Services’ Hunger Program and David Lee, forward for the Golden State Warriors, Oakland Para-transit Program, Oakland Marriott City Center, and the many concerned citizens of Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area.

“We are grateful to David Lee and the Golden State Warriors for making this event a reality,” said Susan Shelton, Community Housing Services Manager, “Their sponsorship means the world to us and allows us to continue our good work.”

The City’s Department of Human Services 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, 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 five 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 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 Department of Human Services' Hunger and Homeless Program at 510-238-2077. 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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