



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lone Tree Non-Profit to host 2nd Annual Food Drive

Lone Tree, Colorado (March 1, 2010) – The Giving Tree, a non-profit organization formed last year by a group of Leadership Douglas County Alumni in response to decreasing food donations at the Douglas/Elbert Task Force Food Bank, will host the second annual Giving Tree Food Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, in the Lone Tree Safeway parking lot at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Yosemite Street, and will be also collecting donations in homeowner's associations throughout Lone Tree.

The most requested items are soup, beans, canned fruit and vegetables, tuna, chili, cereal, granola bars, pet food and canned meat.

“We are thrilled to be hosting the second annual Giving Tree Food drive after the success of last year,” says Susan Squyer, one of The Giving Tree’s founders. “In total, we collected 28,000 pounds of food from donors last year, and have an unofficial goal to double that in 2010. We are asking all of the Lone Tree community to get involved by either making a food or cash donation. A \$5 donation buys 23 pounds of food for the Douglas/Elbert Task Force.”

The Douglas/Elbert Task Force Food Bank is located in Castle Rock and offers assistance with rent, utilities, transportation and food. It opens daily at 9 a.m. to serve the 20 families/individuals allotted for that day. Each recipient receives enough food for one week. In 2009, the Task Force Food Bank provided \$862,974 in client assistance (16% over the previous year) and served 14,630 people with food, hygiene and household supplies (30% increase over previous year). Over half the recipients are children and 10% are seniors. Single moms represent the largest group of recipients; however there has been a significant increase in two-parent families needing assistance.

Don Rogers, President of First Commercial Bank in Lone Tree and a Giving Tree founder, is charging local businesses and their employees to get involved in the Drive. “We are asking local businesses to bring food or cash donations to their workplace to be picked up by Giving Tree volunteers on Friday, March 12,” says Rogers. “We hope this will increase donations by accommodating those who wish to contribute but cannot do so on the day of the Drive. In addition, we’re asking business leaders to make a corporate donation in order to reach our food drive goals.”

(More)

Members of The Lone Tree City Council, Lone Tree's volunteer boards and commissions and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, will be on hand the Lone Tree Safeway during the Food Drive to receive donations and greet residents. In addition, U-Haul has donated trucks to be parked at neighborhoods throughout Lone Tree to receive food donations from residents in those neighborhoods.

For more information, or to inquire about how your business can get involved, contact Don Rogers at 303-754-5380 or Susan Squyer at 303-906-9890. To volunteer, contact David Williams at 303-708-8854.

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