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Friday, December 15, 2017

*San Diego residents asked to take food donations to any Albertsons or Vons locations through noon on Dec. 16*

**San Diego** – More than 494,000 people in San Diego County are impacted by hunger, including 164,300 children. To combat this problem, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), North County Transit District (NCTD), Albertsons/Vons, Girl Scouts San Diego and Armed Services Y are teaming up with the San Diego Food Bank for the 10th annual Stuff the Bus food drive.

San Diego residents are being asked to make non-perishable food donations at any of the 75 San Diego County Albertsons or Vons locations any time this week. In a final push, on Saturday, December 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, 530 Girl Scouts will be at 49 stores encouraging residents to help Stuff the Bus!

Stuff the Bus organizers are challenging San Diego residents to break last year's record of 24,000 pounds of food for families during the holiday season. All donations will go directly to the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, which will then be distributed to local organizations that help the hungry.

"MTS launched Stuff the Bus ten years ago not only to collect food for families in need, but to help raise community awareness about the issue of hunger in San Diego," said Paul Jablonski, MTS chief executive officer. "This is a great partnership for a great cause and we are confident the community will step up to the challenge."

"As a company, we are fully committed to hunger relief programs, and are proud to host a food drive tackling this important issue," said Shane Dorcheus, division president for Albertsons, Vons and Pavilions. "Stuff the Bus barrels are prominently located in all Albertsons and Vons locations in San Diego for this worthy cause, and we look forward to seeing them filled throughout the week."

Donating is easy. Vons has pre-packaged "hunger bags" available for shoppers to purchase for \$5 and donate on-scene. Or, shoppers can donate any nonperishable food item at any Albertsons in San Diego. A list of the most needed items can be found [here](#).

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank president & CEO James Floros said, "We are very grateful to the community for supporting the Stuff the Bus Food Drive! With rising demand over the holidays from individuals and families in need, food drive donations are critical to the Food Bank since we are currently feeding more than 370,000 people per month in communities throughout San Diego County. We are very grateful to MTS, NCTD, Vons, Albertsons, the Girl

Scouts San Diego and our supporters for helping us feed families in need. Every can of food donated will prevent a San Diegan from going to bed hungry. On behalf of the Food Bank's staff and family of volunteers we thank the community for supporting the Stuff the Bus Food Drive and helping our fellow San Diegans in need."

"Many families face hunger and food insecurity throughout the year in San Diego County," said Matthew Tucker, NCTD executive director. "The annual Stuff the Bus campaign is a wonderful opportunity for North County residents to donate food that will certainly brighten the holiday season for our neighbors in need."

Stuff the Bus is Girl Scouts San Diego's largest countywide service project. Girl Scouts earn a patch by volunteering on event day or leading their own friends-and-family grocery collections and delivering the donations at the drop-off sites.

"Stuff the Bus brings hundreds of Girl Scouts together with the community to help alleviate the critical problem of hunger," said Carol Dedrich, CEO of Girl Scouts San Diego. "Taking action to make the world a better place is a cornerstone of Girl Scouting. Through programs like Stuff the Bus, Girl Scouts learn firsthand how to become responsible, productive, caring and engaged citizens."

An MTS or NCTD bus, along with Girl Scout representatives, will be on-site at the following 15 Albertsons locations Saturday, December 16 from 9 a.m. to noon.

- Carlsbad Vons (6951 El Camino Real)
- Chula Vista Albertsons (720 Third Avenue)
- El Cajon Vons (1201 Avocado)
- Escondido Albertsons (1509 East Valley Parkway)
- Lemon Grove Albertsons (7090 Broadway)
- Mira Mesa Vons (8310 Mira Mesa Boulevard)
- Oceanside Albertsons (3450 Marron Road)
- Oceanside Albertsons (3925 Mission Avenue)
- Rancho Bernardo Vons (11986 Bernardo Plaza Drive)
- San Carlos Albertsons (8650 Lake Murray Boulevard)
- San Marcos Albertsons (1572 San Elijo Road South)
- Serra Mesa Vons (3550 Murphy Canyon Road)
- Santee Vons (9870 Magnolia Avenue)
- Spring Valley Albertsons (543 Sweetwater Road)
- University City Vons (7788 Regents Road)

From there the 15 buses will caravan to the Food Bank warehouse where Food Bank volunteers will be waiting to unload the food into bins to be sorted and distributed during the holiday season. The food donations at the remaining Vons and Albertsons stores will be picked up by Food Bank vehicles later in the week. For additional Stuff the Bus information, including a list of most needed grocery items, visit the MTS website at [sdmts.com](http://sdmts.com) or the NCTD website at [GoNCTD.com](http://GoNCTD.com).

San Transit System

STUFF THE BUS

SERVING SAN DIEGO COUNTY SINCE 1977



THE JACOBS & CUSHMAN  
**SAN DIEGO  
FOOD BANK**

Fighting Hunger  
Feeding Hope



**Stuff the Bus Photo (from L to R):** Girl Scouts from University City, Carol Dedrich, CEO of Girl Scouts San Diego; Helen Cha, Manager, Public Affairs & Internal Communications for Vons and Albertsons; James Floros, Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank president & CEO; Rebecca Jones, NCTD Chair and San Marcos City Councilmember; Bill Spraul, MTS Bus Chief Operating Officer; more Girl Scouts from University City

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San Diego

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