



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — May 6, 2008

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## **Community Resource Center appeals for Post Office Food Drive Participation on Saturday, May 10, 2008**

**Encinitas**--Community Resource Center (CRC) is struggling to build up its emergency food reserves as staple food costs and the number of people requesting help increases. CRC Food Programs serve the North County Coastal regions and are in crisis mode. "Negative economic factors predictably lead to more demand for daily social services, and that includes essentials like food," says Laurin Pause, CRC Executive Director. "Our food reserves need to be higher so that we can keep up. We cannot help everyone in need without more food donations coming in, and this does not include reserves needed to deal with emergencies like what we saw with last October's wildfires."

Community Resource Center's emergency and general food distribution services rely on supplies brought in by community drives organized throughout the year. The upcoming Post Office food drive this Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> will build up reserves of local food banks, which help area non-profit organizations such as CRC. The San Diego District of the National Association of Letter Carriers is participating in the nationwide campaign to end hunger and CRC is encouraging area residents to participate. "Our local post offices are making it easy to help a neighbor in need. Just leave non-perishable items in a bag out by your mailbox on May 10<sup>th</sup> before your carrier arrives," explains Pause. (No glass containers or expired items please).

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Community Resource Center's spring food supply fell to alarmingly low levels earlier this year, but recent large drives provided some much-needed staples thanks to local faith-based organizations and Encinitas Cub Scout Pack 774, which brought in nearly 2 tons of food last month.

Community Resource Center runs "Holiday Baskets," the largest holiday distribution program of its kind in the county every December at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, and begins collecting staple foods for that program in the summer. "We need food to give out now, food to have ready for emergencies, and food for Holiday Baskets," explains Pause. "We need to be prepared, and we are appealing to the public to participate in food drives that help to keep our community supplies at a safe level."

Community Resource Center has been the primary provider of comprehensive social services in the North County Coastal region since 1979.

Non-perishable food may also be dropped off at Community Resource Center at 650 Second Street in Encinitas from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily. Highest current needs are rice, evaporated or powdered milk, saltine crackers, beans, and juices. Please contact Suzie Colby at (760) 230-6305 for more information.

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