



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MONDAY, DEC. 5, 2011

CONTACT: Cindy Elder, celder@rifoodbank.org or 401-942-6325, Ext. 213

Clements Market Employees Donate Over 500 Cases of Dry Goods to RI Community Food Bank's Holiday Meal Drive

Clements supports employee giving with program to purchase food for hungry Rhode Islanders

PORTSMOUTH, RI – Responding to an urgent need for food assistance around the state, the employees of Clements Market donated over 500 cases of dry goods on Wednesday, Dec. 7 to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. They did this with the support of Clements Market, which leveraged employees' contribution by looking for wholesale deals on healthy food items most needed by the Food Bank. The retail value of the donated food totals \$12,000.

“We wanted to offer our employees an opportunity to make donations to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank,” says Clements Market General Manager Tracy Anthony. “Donations ranged from 25 cents per week to one or two dollars per week. The employees were really happy about being able to help their neighbors -- 60% of our 140 employees chose to participate.”

The contribution will get the Food Bank closer to its goal of raising 350,000 pounds of food by Dec. 30th during its Holiday Meal Drive. Thus far, the Food Bank has collected about 150,000 pounds, including donations from individuals, groups and businesses. Cash contributions to the Holiday Meal Drive also play an important part, as each dollar donated allows the Food Bank to acquire more than three pounds of nutritious food.

More than 60,000 Rhode Islanders now rely on the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's statewide network of 163 emergency food pantries to help meet their basic food needs. The need for food assistance in Rhode Island has risen 58% since the start of the recession four years ago.

“This contribution from the employees and management of Clements says a lot about their relationship with the community they serve,” says Andrew Schiff, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. “They understand that many people in Rhode Island are struggling to put food on the table. We want to be sure that all families have a good holiday meal, but even more importantly, we want to focus on helping families to have nutritious food every day of the month.”

Between now and Dec. 30, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank will be accepting donations of non-perishable food or funds every weekday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at its facility at 200 Niantic Avenue in Providence. Most needed items include: peanut butter, canned tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, dried or

canned beans, pasta, rice, breakfast cereal, and canned soups, stews or chili. For more information, visit www.rifoodbank.org/HolidayMealDrive.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's statewide network of more than 250 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 9.4 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org.

###