



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Contacts:**

#### **Boy Scouts of America**

Erin Canfield  
(401) 831-1200 x 105  
[ecanfield@nharbor.com](mailto:ecanfield@nharbor.com)

#### **Rhode Island Community Food Bank**

Michael Cerio  
(401) 942-6325 x 213  
[mcerio@rifoodbank.org](mailto:mcerio@rifoodbank.org)

## **Scouting for Food Generates 20% More than Last Year to Help Rhode Island Community Food Bank Meet Increasing Need**

*Rhode Islanders Respond with Increased Generosity to Help Neighbors in Need this Fall*

**Providence, RI** – For the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year, thousands of Boy Scouts from the Narragansett Council made their way through Rhode Island neighborhoods to collect food donated by local neighbors in support of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Despite the difficult economic times gripping our state and country, the 2008 drive generated a 20% increase over last year – including 10,000 pounds from local Walgreen's stores.

The annual initiative, which is the largest food drive in New England, highlights one of Scouting's primary focuses – doing a "Good Turn" daily. Overall, the drive generated a total of 300,000 pounds of food, with 210,000 being directly received by the Food Bank – up 20% from the 173,000 received in 2007.

"Every year the Scouts of the Narragansett Council are excited to participate in the food drive and eager to do their part and help make a difference in their communities," commented Joe DeStefano, Volunteer Coordinator for Scouting for Food for 21 years. "Knowing the impact the food drive has on families who struggle to put food on the table is their motivation to make sure the effort is a success. We are extremely proud to say that the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America collected 300,000 pounds of food in Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts and nearby Connecticut."

Since the drive's inception in 1988, the Narragansett Council has collected more than 6.5 million pounds of food in Rhode Island and surrounding communities.

"The hard work and dedication of everyone involved with the Narragansett Council and Scouting for Food is truly remarkable," said Andrew Schiff, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. "As the economy continues to struggle, more and more people are turning to food pantries to help feed their families – people that never before needed help or envisioned being in such a difficult position. The food collected through this drive will help make a difference for thousands of families, finished Schiff."

The Narragansett Council Boy Scouts of America and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank would like to thank everyone who participated and donated through this year's drive. The food donated is part of the continued effort to help fight hunger in our local communities.

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Scouting for Food is a cooperative effort supported by the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Walgreen's, WPRI-12 News, Fox Providence, the Rhode Island National Guard, WCTK Cat Country 98.1, The Valley Breeze, CVS/Ryder Logistics and area fire stations.

**Photos of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scouting for Food Drive are available upon request.  
Please contact Michael Cerio at (401) 942-6325 ext. 213.**

**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 network of over 300 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 8.3 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit [www.rifoodbank.org](http://www.rifoodbank.org)

#### **About the Narragansett Council**

Boy Scouts of America's mission is to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential. The Narragansett Council offers a program for boys and young men ages 6 to 21 and young women ages 14 to 21. Scouting programs stress value based action-oriented activities that challenge young people to learn and grow. The Council serves over 23,000 young people from Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers, Explorers and Learning for Life participants. The Narragansett Council services Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts, and Pawcatuck, Connecticut. For more information, please logon to [www.narragansettbsa.org](http://www.narragansettbsa.org).

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