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Ocean State Job Lot Partners with Customers to Support RI Community Food Bank's Holiday Meal Drive

Job Lot delivers 25,000 pounds of food, more on the way

PROVIDENCE, RI – A tractor-trailer truck emblazoned with Ocean State Job Lot's logo rolled up to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's facility on Niantic Avenue in Providence with a special delivery on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Their donation: 25,000 pounds of boxed prepared dinners – enough to fill up an 18-wheeler. It's one of at least 14 truckloads Job Lot expects to contribute to the Food Bank's Holiday Meal Drive, which runs through Dec. 30.

In what has become a tradition, Job Lot has been inviting customers to donate \$1 at the register to help buy food for Food Banks in their service area during the holiday season. Job Lot then matches that amount dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. According to Job Lot owner Alan Perlman, this has resulted in a fund of \$1.1 million, which Job Lot is using to purchase food at Job Lot prices (often well below wholesale) for Food Banks in the seven states in which they have stores.

Donations are directed toward the state Food Banks in which stores are located; the Rhode Island Community Food Bank benefits from the contributions of Job Lot's 16 Rhode Island stores. The total donation is based on the generosity of their customers. Based on prior years, Job Lot anticipates a total donation to the RI Community Food Bank of 14 to 15 full tractor trailer loads, ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 pounds per truckload (depending on the weight of the particular food type), during the winter season.

“Ocean State Job Lot demonstrates its commitment to the communities it serves in a very real and tangible way,” says Andrew Schiff, CEO of the RI Community Food Bank. “By leveraging their customers dollars and sending them back into the communities where they live in the form of food assistance, they make a real difference in the lives of people who live down the street and around the corner.”

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.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank accepts 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. (The facility will be closed Dec. 26.) 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 248 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.

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