



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **RI Food Bank Sets Goal of 350,000 Pounds of Food for 2011 Holiday Meal Drive**

PROVIDENCE, RI – The Rhode Island Community Food Bank has set an ambitious goal of collecting an additional 350,000 pounds of food between now and Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> during its annual Holiday Meal Drive. Donations of non-perishable food, as well as financial donations, support this goal. Every dollar raised through the Holiday Meal Drive enables the Food Bank to acquire more than three pounds of nutritious food for Rhode Islanders in need.

More than 60,000 Rhode Islanders rely on the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s statewide network of emergency food pantries to help meet their basic food needs.

“Most of us think of the holidays as a time of plenty, but many people in Rhode Island are struggling to put food on the table,” says Andrew Schiff, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. “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 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.

### **Holiday Meal Drive Open House Set for Saturday, Dec. 3**

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank will hold a Holiday Meal Drive Open House on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at its offices at 200 Niantic Avenue in Providence. Individuals, families and groups are invited to bring their donations directly to the Food Bank, take a tour of the facility and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies. For more information, visit [www.rifoodbank.org/HolidayMealDrive](http://www.rifoodbank.org/HolidayMealDrive).

## Return Filled “Nothing” Cans

This autumn, the Food Bank sold cans of “Nothing” that symbolize the hunger experienced by many Rhode Islanders. Each can has a coin slot on top, and many people have been collecting donations for the Food Bank. Filled Nothing cans may be returned to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s offices at 200 Niantic Avenue, Providence, any weekday between 7:30 am and 4 pm, or on Saturday, Dec. 3, between 9 am and Noon during the Holiday Meal Drive Open House.

For additional locations accepting returns of filled Nothing cans, visit [www.nothing.org/ri](http://www.nothing.org/ri) and click on “Nothing is the Solution.”

**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](http://www.rifoodbank.org).

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