



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 24, 2011**

### **Boy Scouts of America**

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## **Scouts Ask Community to Give Generously to 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Scouting for Food Drive**

*Scouts Drop-Off Plastic Bags on October 29th*

**Food will be collected the following Saturday, November 5 - Starting at 9 am**

**Providence, RI** – Thousands of Boy Scouts will be on the move on **Oct. 29**, dropping off empty bags on neighborhood doorsteps to collect food for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Scouting for Food Drive. Scouts are counting on the community to join them in helping their neighbors in need by filling bags with non-perishable food items. Scouts will return to local neighborhoods to collect the donated food on **Nov. 5, beginning at 9 am**.

“The annual drive reinforces the life lessons taught in Scouting and allows our Scouts to see first-hand the impact they can make on their community,” said Dave Anderson, Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, Scout Executive. “Our Scouts work hard each year to make the drive a success, and we encourage donations of any size as thousands of families are still struggling and in need of help.”

For 24 years, the hard work and dedication of the Boy Scouts has inspired the community’s generosity to help neighbors in need. Over 200 Boy Scout Packs and Troops participate in the drive, reinforcing the motto for local Scouts to do a “Good Turn” daily. The Scouting for Food Drive is the most significant, annual community service event for the Narragansett Council.

Last year, the drive collected more than 300,000 pounds of food, with 185,000 pounds being brought directly to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Some of the food collected throughout Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts and Connecticut goes directly to area food pantries and donation centers. Since the drive’s inception in 1988, the Narragansett Council has collected more than 6.8 Million pounds of food for those in need.

“The Scouts set a tremendous example for young people by giving their time to help people in their own community who are struggling to meet their basic food needs,” said Andrew Schiff,

Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. “The issue of hunger really hits home in Rhode Island. Currently, one of three persons we serve is a child under the age of 18. The efforts of the Narragansett Council Boy Scouts and the generosity of the community will mean a lot to the 60,000 Rhode Islanders who depend on our statewide network of emergency food pantries.”

The drive itself is the largest food drive in New England and is a cooperative effort supported by the Narragansett Council Boy Scouts of America, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, WPRI Channel 12, FOX Providence, the Rhode Island Army National Guard, Walgreens, The Valley Breeze and area fire stations.

**Donors are encouraged to fill their bags with the Food Bank’s most needed items:**

- Protein: Canned Soup, Tuna, Meats, Peanut Butter, Nuts
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables including Juices and Dried Fruit and Tomato Sauce
- Carbohydrates: Nutritious Breakfast Cereals, Whole Wheat Pasta and Rice
- Crackers, Granola Bars and Cheese & Cracker Packages
- Canned or Dried Beans

**If the Scouts are unable to cover your neighborhood, please visit your local Walgreen’s store to drop off your donation between November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 nearly 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).

**About the Narragansett Council**

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’s program stresses action-oriented activities that challenge young people to learn and grow. The Council serves more than 15,000 young people through Boy Scouting, Cub Scouting, Venturing, Exploring and the school based Learning for Life character education program. The Narragansett Council serves Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts, and Pawcatuck, Connecticut. For more information, please log on to [www.narragansettbsa.org](http://www.narragansettbsa.org).

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