Food Lifeline Wins Two National Awards From Feeding America

Local News

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Shoreline, WA (Wednesday, April 8, 2009) - Food Lifeline, the largest hunger relief organization in Washington State, is the recipient of two highly-coveted, national awards from Feeding America. Food Lifeline received awards for Model Food Sourcing Program of the Year and Model Fundraising Program of the Year.The Model Food Sourcing Program of the Year award is given to a member organization, like Food Lifeline, that finds a new or pioneering manner in which to increase pounds of food and grocery products provided to the food banks and meal programs it serves. Food Lifeline received this award for its innovative Seattle's Table Partner Program."One of the most important goals of a food bank is to increase the amount of food it distributes to its agencies and thus onto the plates of those who need it most," said Vicki Escarra, President and CEO of Feeding America. "The outstanding food sourcing work of Food Lifeline demonstrates the leadership that our network strives for in our mission to feed America's hungry."

For its innovative Food Frenzy Program, a lively summer competition among professional firms to raise funds and food for hungry children in the community, Food Lifeline received the Model Fundraising Program of the Year award. This award is given to member organizations with an original program that increased revenue and demonstrated growth potential in the coming year. "Successful campaigns like this serve as a role model for members of our network looking to further develop hunger-relief efforts at a local level," says Escarra. Food Lifeline's meal programs and food banks are noting increasing numbers of first-time visitors as a result of the fragile economy. These awards represent Food Lifeline's commitment to finding creative and effective ways to provide additional food and funds to make sure every hungry person in Western Washington gets a healthy meal.

Linda Nageotte, Food Lifeline President and CEO, says, "I was most honored to accept these two awards on behalf of the many people that support Food Lifeline's work. The Feeding America network sets the benchmark for quality in the emergency food sector, so receiving these awards really validates our efforts to be efficient and innovative." **About Food Lifeline**Food Lifeline is the largest hunger relief organization in Washington State, efficiently serving the local Western Washington area by using 95 cents of every dollar of revenue to directly feed hungry people. Last year the organization delivered more than 17 million meals to hungry people through its network of more than 300 neighborhood food banks, hot meal programs, shelters and other food providers. Food Lifeline is also a member of the national organization Feeding America. For more information about Food Lifeline or to make a tax-deductible donation, log onto http://www.foodlifeline.org/ or call 206-545-6600. ***About Seattle's Table Partner Program***The Seattle's Table rescues otherwise-wasted prepared food from local restaurants, caterers, corporate dining rooms and other food service providers. Food is delivered on the same day to meal programs to incorporate into healthy meals for the day.The Seattle's Table Partner Program allows neighborhood food banks and meal programs to rescue surplus perishable food from the hospitality industry. Between August and December of 2008, Food Lifeline rescued enough food to provide 17,000 meals for those in need. The goal of the program, made possible through a partnership with Seattle Public Utilities, is to

reduce the more than 64 thousand tons of quality, edible food that Seattle businesses throw out needlessly every year. ***About Food Frenzy***Food Frenzy is a competition among professional firms to raise funds and food for hungry children during the crucial summer months in the community. In July 2008, the Food Frenzy event raised $240,000 in funds, collected 10,000 pounds of food, and resulted in 1,600 hours of volunteer time spent in Food Lifeline's warehouse. Through Food Frenzy, Food Lifeline seeks to raise key revenue to support its hunger-relief programs. Food Frenzy has the intention of raising funds and food specifically for children who no longer have access to federal meal programs offered through the school system. **About Feeding America (Formerly America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network)** Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 25 million Americans each year, including 9 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks support 63,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit http://www.feedingamerica.org/.