

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ST. JOE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS BAY AREA FOOD BANK \$12,500 TO PROVIDE MEALS TO AREA SCHOOL CHILDREN

MILTON, Fla. (February 14, 2014) – The St. Joe Community Foundation has awarded \$12,500 to Bay Area Food Bank for sponsorship of its Backpack Program, which provides pre-packaged meals for chronically hungry students to take home over the weekend. This grant helps extend the Backpack Program to students in Walton and Bay counties attending Mossy Head Elementary, Waller Elementary and Southport Elementary.

“Two of the Foundation’s guiding principles are supporting wellness and education,” said Janet Greeno, Executive Director for the Foundation. “Providing this grant supports both. Students will have nutritious meals enabling them to be better prepared to learn in the classroom.”

Through its Backpack Program, Bay Area Food Bank provides students with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when school meals are not available. Bay Area Food Bank’s Panhandle Branch currently supports 1,400 children a week through the Backpack Program in 42 schools.

“Currently, over 11,000 children in Walton and Bay counties are food insecure, meaning they don’t know where their next meal is coming from,” said Leah Weber, Child Nutrition Coordinator at Bay Area Food Bank. “Thanks to St. Joe Community Foundation, more of these children will be getting the nutritious food their minds and bodies need to thrive.”

About the St. Joe Community Foundation

Since its inception, the St. Joe Community Foundation (STJCF) has provided more than \$17 million in grants to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. STJCF provides charitable grants primarily in Bay and Walton counties that embrace the arts, strengthen education, protect the environment and improve healthcare. These efforts help build healthy, caring, long-lived communities. For more information, visit www.stjcf.com.

About Bay Area Food Bank

Bay Area Food Bank serves a 24-county area spanning the panhandle of Florida, south Mississippi, and south Alabama. In 2013, the food bank distributed over 17 million pounds of food to more than 400

church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple nutrition programs, including Summer Food Service, Afterschool Snack, Backpack, Disaster Relief and Mobile Pantry. For more information, visit www.bayareafoodbank.org.

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