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12 NEWS & KTAR TEAM UP WITH BASHAS' & FOOD CITY STORES TO HOLD TURKEY TUESDAY DRIVE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

- Arizona Residents Invited to Donate Frozen Turkeys on Tuesday, Nov. 24 -

ARIZONA (Nov. 11, 2009) – The nation's largest one-day turkey drive, 12 News Turkey Tuesday, will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 24. On this designated Tuesday, 80 Bashas' and Food City stores will collect frozen turkeys and monetary donations for St. Vincent de Paul.

Now in its 16th year, 12 News Turkey Tuesday has become a Thanksgiving tradition for many Arizona families, schools and businesses. From 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, residents are invited to make a frozen turkey or monetary donation at any Bashas' or Food City store in metropolitan Phoenix and northern Arizona.

All donations will benefit hungry families just in time for Thanksgiving. According to St. Vincent de Paul, a local non-profit that cooks and distributes more than 3,000 meals each day to the hungry, turkey donations are the key to meeting an increased demand this year.

"The need in our community has never been so critical," said Steve Zabilski, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. "This year, more families are asking us for help. They're living on the economic edge, struggling to stay in their homes, pay their bills and feed their families."

From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Turkey Tuesday, 12 News Sports Anchor Bruce Cooper and Weather Anchor James Quiñones will challenge one another to see who can collect the most turkeys for St. Vincent de Paul. KTAR personalities Gambo & Ash and Mac & Gaydos will join the challenge, broadcasting live throughout the day. Individuals unable to visit a store on Turkey Tuesday can call the 12 News phone bank or make an online donation at www.stvincentdepaul.net.

During last year's Turkey Tuesday drive, Arizonans donated a record 26,432 frozen turkeys, which fed thousands of local, needy families. St. Vincent de Paul volunteers collected the frozen birds, and packaged thousands of the donated turkeys into food boxes, which were immediately delivered to hungry families throughout Arizona.

"We're so thankful for this annual turkey drive because it helps us to meet the strong need we're facing," said Zabilski. "Even when times are tough, we're blessed by the generosity of our community."

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In addition to the one-day drive, during the month of November, all Bashas' and Food City stores statewide will be selling \$1 paper turkey icons to benefit St. Vincent de Paul. Customers can customize the turkey-shaped icons by writing in what they are most thankful for this holiday season. To find a Bashas' or Food City store near you, visit www.bashas.com or www.myfoodcity.com.

About the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need. For more information, visit www.stvincentdepaul.net.

About Bashas' Family of Stores

Bashas' Family of Stores – the family-owned grocer that operates Food City, AJ's Fine Foods, Sportsman's Wine & Spirits, Eddie's Country Store, and both Bashas' and Bashas' Diné supermarkets – is an Arizona-based company founded by brothers Ike and Eddie Basha, Sr. With 10,000 members and 135 grocery stores, it is one of the largest employers in the state and one of the Best Places to Work in Arizona. Since the company's inception in 1932, Bashas' has given back more than \$100 million to the communities it serves. For more information, visit www.bashas.com and www.myfoodcity.com.

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