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12 News Turkey Tuesday collects a record-breaking number of turkeys for Valley families in need

PHOENIX (Dec. 11, 2009) – In less than 24 hours, St. Vincent de Paul received a record-breaking number of frozen turkeys to feed Arizona families in need this holiday season. Thanks to 12 News Turkey Tuesday, the nation's largest one-day turkey drive, St. Vincent collected 27,605 frozen turkeys. This surpassed last year's tally by more than a thousand, creating a new frozen turkey fundraising record.

Arizonans came out in droves to participate in Turkey Tuesday, held annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. They donated frozen turkeys and dollars at more than 80 Bashas' and Food City stores in metropolitan Phoenix and northern Arizona, through St. Vincent de Paul's Web site, and by calling a 12 News phone bank.

"It's humbling to see the overwhelming support that our community gives to Turkey Tuesday every year," said Steve Zabilski, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. "A successful drive like Turkey Tuesday allows us to meet the increased demand we're experiencing this year, and we're so very grateful for that."

The total amount raised includes donations from 12 News viewers; NewsTalk 92.3 KTAR & Sports 620 KTAR listeners; Bashas' and Food City customers; 3 Amigos Tequila; A.R. Mays Construction; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona; Cardiovascular Consultants; Casino Arizona; The Chandler Compadres; Chanen Construction; Co-Sales; Crown Imports; First Credit Union; Friends of Bashas'; Gallagher & Kennedy Law Offices; Hensley Beverage Company; Hormel Foods; Lucas Candy; The Malt-o-Meal Company; Novamex; Phoenix International Raceway; Quarles & Brady LLP; Qwest; Sanderson Farms; Sleep America; State Farm; Stinson, Morrison & Hecker LLP; Sunmex LLC; Tecate Beer; Tropicale Foods Inc.; Westcor; and many other donors.

"You might think that in a tough economy, fewer people would participate, but it actually turned out to be quite the opposite," said Kristy Nied, Director of Communications for Bashas' Family of Stores. "I can't tell you what's better – knowing how many thousands of families will be helped during their darkest hours, or seeing so many kind-hearted, generous people from our community come out to donate, helping others in a time of need."

About St. Vincent de Paul

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.

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