**

# August 26, 2013

Dear Youth Leader and Youth Participants:

Thank you for participating in “TRICK OR TREAT SO OTHERS CAN EAT” (TOTSOCE), a countywide community service event organized by Ventura County 4-H to benefit [FOOD Share](http://www.foodshare.com/), Ventura County’s food bank. TOTSOCE is simply a canned food drive with all donations directly benefiting individuals and families in need in Ventura County. **Collection should take place between 10/1 and 11/1 and all food should be at Food Share by 4:00 PM Friday 11/1.**

2013 marks the 17th year Trick Or Treat So Others Can Eat has been in action in the Ventura County community. In 2012, over 15 youth groups joined 4-H to collect over 6000 lbs. of food. Thank you to AYSO, local Girl Scout Troops, Cal State University Channel Islands students and many others who made last year such a success; let's do it again this year!  **Our goal this year is 7,500 lbs. of food**.

**HERE’S HOW IT WORKS/ How to get started**

**Attached to this email are your starter materials, which can also be found on our** [**4H website**](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development/4-H/)**.** Both the door hangers and thank you notes should be copied on **BRIGHT NEON ORANGE** paper. This makes it very easy for the resident to see and for the youth to spot when returning for donations. Here are more tips for door to door collecting:

**Collection should take place between 10/1 and 11/1 and all food should be at Food Share by close of Friday 11/1. This is important, so it doesn't overlap or get confused with other food drives or events at Food Share.**

There are many ways to collect the canned food and other non-perishable food items. Your group can host a food drive, partner with a local grocery store, do an online donations campaign, or simply collect food at your next youth/group meeting or promote a Food Share collection barrel at meeting or event. Contact us at totsoce@gmail.com if you have a new idea or if you need ideas! We really encourage creativity and love to brainstorm and share success stories.

An additional way to donate this year is through  **Online Monetary Donations** through the FOOD Share website at <https://www.ghostcart.com/cart/donation_front.php?store_name=foodshare-tot>. Friends and family can support your group's collection efforts with monetary donations that go a long way. Every $1 donated enables FOOD Share to purchase $5 worth of nutritious food! Email the link, post it on Facebook, especially to those who can't get food to you.

Below are the easy steps to door to door collecting:

1. **Print door hangers and thank you notes out on BRIGHT ORANGE PAPER.**
2. **Hang door hangers on front doors in designated neighborhoods 3-5 days in advance of your collection date ( not in mailboxes, this is illegal)**. The door hanger contains information about TOTSOCE as well as the date on which the volunteer will return to collect the non-perishable food items (no glass please). This may be done anytime between October 1st and November 1st (i.e. after school, on a weekend, etc), or on Halloween or at a Halloween party.
3. **On the designated date** (between October 1st and November 1 st)**, youth volunteers return to the neighborhoods to collect the canned food.** Residents can either give the donations to the volunteer when they come to the door or leave a box or bag on their porch with the flyer attached. “Trick-or-Treaters” can choose to go out individually or in groups, but everyone should dress in costumes OR in their appropriate youth uniforms (i.e. 4-H uniform, sports shirt, Scout uniform, etc.). R*EMEMBER: Have an adult with you at all times!*
4. **Lastly, get the donations to FOOD Share by 4:00 November 1st.**. All groups should coordinate their donations at one location (i.e. a leader’s home, etc.) and then either deliver to FOOD Share’s warehouse (4156 Southbank Road, Oxnard) or call FOOD Share for a pick-up if your group has collected over 200 lbs - 805-983-7100 ext. 135.

 **FOOD Share in Oxnard
4156 Southbank Rd.**[**see map**](http://maps.google.com/maps?rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-Address&oe=UTF-8&rlz=1I7LENN_enUS468&q=4156+Southbank+Road++Oxnard,+CA+93036&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x80e84c932a3a1d23:0xa08bcf3b7d58b1d9,4156+Southbank+Rd,+Oxnard,+CA+93036&gl=us&sa=X&ei=mbRYUNfPHo3VigKt5YGIAw&ved=0CDAQ8gEwAA)

**NOTE:** When delivering the collected items to FOOD Share please remember to identify yourself as being part of the TOTSOCE program as they receive many donations daily. This is very important to ensure we can accurately track donated totals.

**GET OTHERS INVOLVED!**

**We want as many Ventura County Youth to participate in this great community service event. Please pass along our registration email and this letter to other youth groups you know, including sports teams, church groups, private schools, school clubs, and service groups such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scout troops. Also, individual youth may sign up to participate. Get your friends involved so that we can show our county how much our young people care about this community!**

**Thank you for participating in this worthwhile community service event for the hungry.** You are truly helping those in need right in your community! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us via the email at (totsoce@gmail.com. Again, thank you!

Christina Morrison ( 4H TOTSOCE adult leader)

Ellie Morrison ( 4H TOTSOCE teen leader)

Gracie Morrison ( 4H TOTSOCE youth leader)

Loma Vista 4H, Ventura County