



Contacts: Suzanna Stanton, 12 News, 602-261-6145 or sstanton@12news.com
Kristy Nied, Bashas' Family of Stores, 480-201-2030 or knied@bashas.com
Mary Chou-Thompson, St. Vincent de Paul, 602-339-5902 or mthompson@svdp-phx-az.org

12 NEWS, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC & 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. 23 -

ARIZONA (Oct. 25, 2010) – The nation's largest one-day turkey drive, 12 News Turkey Tuesday, will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 23. On this designated Tuesday, 77 Bashas' and Food City stores will collect frozen turkeys and monetary donations for St. Vincent de Paul.

Now in its 17th 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. 23, 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 3,400 meals each day to the hungry, turkey donations are the key to meeting an increased demand this year.

"We are seeing new faces in our dining rooms each day," said Steve Zabilski, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. "Those who used to donate food to us are now finding themselves on the receiving end of our services."

Arizona residents also can join their favorite 12 News anchors, radio station personalities and Basha family members on Turkey Tuesday for an official "Turkey Challenge," from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at these two store locations:

- Bashas', 4940 S. Gilbert Rd. (Chandler Heights & Gilbert Road), Chandler, 85249
- Food City, 845 W. Southern Ave. (7th Ave. & Southern), Phoenix, 85041

During the "Turkey Challenge," 12 News Sports Anchor Bruce Cooper and Weather Anchor James Quiñones will compete against one another to see who can collect the most turkeys for St. Vincent de Paul. News-Talk 92.3 KTAR's Mac & Gaydos and Sports 620 KTAR's Gambo and Ash 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 27,605 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.

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“It is through these economically troubling times that a community shines by stepping up to care for those who are truly in need. We can’t say enough to express our gratitude to those who think of others during the holidays.”

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 more than 8,000 members and 132 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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