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Olympics

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May 13, 1996

TO: Cheryl Macias
Department of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
fax 202-720-8816

From: Bill Bolling, Executive Director
Rob Johnson, Olympic Task Group Project Co-ordinator

The Atlanta Community Food Bank is pleased to be exploring with your department the availability of Americorp Volunteers this summer to assist our food distribution project during the 1996 Olympics.

We are prepared to formally request up to 30 volunteers. This letter and attached page will summarize how volunteers would provide critical support to our efforts to collect over 250,000 pounds of expected excess from the Olympics.

Projected Sources of Food

The Atlanta Community Food Bank has received enthusiastic official authorization from ACOG, contracted food & beverage suppliers, and their vendors to collect expected excess box lunches and other prepared/perishable foods from at least 14 separate venue sites. At least three downtown hotels and four caterers anticipate having daily donations. Throughout the 17 days of the Olympics, we are preparing to collect between 10,000 and 30,000 pounds of food daily.

Distribution Outlets for Donated Food

Food collected from the Olympics will be distributed primarily among the 500+ agencies throughout northeast Georgia that currently receive products from the Food Bank. Additional City of Atlanta neighborhood groups/civic organizations/community development organizations will also have opportunities to feed needy people. And other nearby food banks in the southeast will be used as back-up distribution outlets.

Overall Staffing and Management

The existing 39 employees of the Atlanta Community Food Bank will form the corp of a special Olympic Task Force. Normal operations will be reduced to allow shifting much of our work to managing these special donations. Some operation, including food



970 Jefferson Street N.W. ▼ Atlanta, GA 30318 ▼ (404) 892-9822 ▼ FAX (404) 892-4026

Atlanta Community Food Bank - Americorp Background Report Page 2

pick-ups, will occur seven days a week. Experienced management staff will serve as supervisors of all functions.

Additional Needed Volunteer Support

Our basic agreement with Olympic food vendors is to provide our own staff and volunteers daily at each venue sight to help pack, box, and otherwise prepare donated excess for late-night truck pickups. At each of 14 sites, two to six volunteers daily will spend 3-6 hours staging donations - up to sixty venue slots a day.

At other times, those and/or additional volunteers will be used to accompany drivers making food deliveries, re-package food in our warehouse, label food storage containers, clean equipment, and perform clerical and other administrative support tasks. Many of these tasks will require repeated lifting of light (less than 20 pounds) containers of food. A summary of our three volunteer positions that include all of those roles follows on a separate page.

Americorp Volunteer Proposal

Our request is for up to 30 Americorp Volunteers available for 5 weeks starting July 8 and working up to 40 hours a week through August 9th. Responsibilities would primarily include those of the Olympic Venue Assistants. Secondarily time would be allocated as Driver Assistants, and Warehouse/Administrative Assistants.

File:Olympics.ag1



DATE: 5/13/96

FAX TRANSMISSION

PLEASE DELIVER TO: Name: Cheryl Marcia
Fax No: 202 720-8819

NUMBER OF PAGES: _____

FROM: Bob Johnson / Bill Bolling

**IF YOU OBSERVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS
TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL 892-1250 AND ASK
FOR THE PERSON LISTED ABOVE.**

NOTE: Please call to confirm receipt

We have 2 people budgeted
for 12 wks
If we get pay



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Can we get other



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File:Olympics.ag1

**ACFB Olympic Task Group
Position Description Summaries - 5/10
Volunteer and Intern Opportunities**

Olympic Venue Assistants (2-6 daily at 6 - 14 sites)

On-site assisting to our Olympic Venue Co-managers: working with ACOG venue food vendors, packing up, inventorying and reporting in daily donations for later-in-night driver pick-ups. Venue assistants will also be assigned to other non-olympic hotel and catering sites (3-7) expected to give daily donations.

Drivers Assistants (4-6 daily)

Helping drivers with pickups and unloading. Olympic venues will require late night (midnight - 6am) schedule. Food should be palletized. Other non-venue sites (eg Hotels, caterers) will require hand-truck loading onto smaller trucks. Weighing procedures will be simpler than normal procedures. Food Re-packers (4-8 daily)

Warehouse/Administrative Assistants (8 - 30 daily)

Working in warehouse assisting Inventory Co-managers and Transportation Co-managers in repacking donated boxed lunches, produce, and prepared foods in bags & aluminum pans. Large quantities will be prepared for pick-up and/or shipment to individual recipient agencies. Other support will include cleaning equipment, labeling containers, providing clerical and administrative assistance to Project Co-ordinators (word processing, phone, fax, copying, and mailing support.

Letter to

Bill Basil

Olympics

& Skier - Bashed

Chicago

language to
Christine

June 10 - Memo

Second Harvest

band -

NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Communications News Room 460-A
Washington, DC 20250-1300
Internet: News @usda.gov Phone: 202-720-9035
World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0426.96

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746
Amy Hudson (404) 875-8352

170 TONS OF FOOD RECOVERED AT OLYMPICS BY USDA AMERICORPS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 1996--The total amount of food recovered from Summer Olympic venues--in a project coordinated by USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps members--has risen to 170 tons of perishable food. The amount of food rescued from the various vendors and venues increased substantially after closing ceremonies for the Games.

The food collected will provide an estimated 226,000 meals, according to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, which, along with the Congressional Hunger Center, served as a prime partner with USDA AmeriCorps on this initiative.

"It is clear that the USDA AmeriCorps effort to recover food from the Olympic Games has been an incredible success. The Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Congressional Hunger Center, and the AmeriCorps members all deserve gold medals in food recovery," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"This AmeriCorps project is part of a national initiative by USDA to coordinate and promote public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts," Glickman said. "Every year millions of pounds of nutritious, uneaten food are thrown away. It is my highest personal priority to find ways to get this food to the hungry--before it finds its way to the dumpster."

Three of the AmeriCorps members engaged in the project are part of the Department's special 12-week AmeriCorps "Summer of Gleaning" program currently underway in 20 states. Other AmeriCorps members from the Congressional Hunger Center are assisting in the project.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

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NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>

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World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0422.96

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746
Beeper: 1-800-SKY-PAGE, Pin # 570-86-79
Amy Hudson 404-875-8352

USDA AMERICORPS MEMBERS SALVAGE 60 TONS OF FOOD AT SUMMER OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2, 1996--For the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps members, the Summer Olympics in Atlanta are particularly special: They are salvaging food from the various vendors and events and assisting in distributing it to those in need.

To date, the AmeriCorps members, who are working in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, have rescued more than 60 tons of perishable food. The food bank estimates the salvaged food is enough to provide some 80,000 meals.

"The international games have provided our AmeriCorps members with a unique opportunity in the battle to alleviate hunger in the host city," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "For the first time in history, we are recovering food at the Olympics. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is to be commended for their cooperation in this effort. I hope that this work is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all sorts of special events nationwide."

"This AmeriCorps project is part of a national initiative by USDA to coordinate and promote public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts," Glickman said. "Every year millions of pounds of nutritious, uneaten food is thrown away. It is my highest personal priority to find ways to get this food to the hungry -- before it finds its way to the dumpster."

As the games are coming to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members start their nightly service, according to Amy Hudson, community relations manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "They have been invaluable, working all night to rescue food from events in Atlanta and delivering it to the food bank," she said.

Three of the AmeriCorps members are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are Casey Long and Gabe Weinberg of Atlanta, and Paul Soares of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development mission area.

Other AmeriCorps members from the Hunger Center assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: Alex Dishun, Julia Dennehy, Sofia Ginzburg, and Aileen Cham.

-more-

AmeriCorps members participating in this summer's USDA gleaning projects across the country are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environment team, and a rural development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to "get things done," while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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DRAFT

August 7, 1996

_____ (need name)

Letters Editor

The Washington Post

1150 15th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20071

To The Editor:

Congressman Tony Hall and his Congressional Hunger Center should be applauded for their efforts to promote the gleaning and rescue of perishable food (op-ed, August 7).

In a unique public/private partnership forged between the Center, USDA, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Members of the AmeriCorps national service program helped collect an astounding 170 tons of food from venues in Atlanta connected to the Olympic games.

USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members will be training local groups in San Diego and Chicago to recover excess food from both the Republican and Democratic national conventions. We hope to set a precedent in which organizers of all major events routinely arrange to distribute extra food to citizens in need.

Furthermore, in "Summer of Gleaning" projects now sponsored by USDA in collaboration with community groups in twenty states, AmeriCorps Members are working to recruit non-compensated volunteers to recover food on a daily basis directly from fields and institutions.

This initiative provides a powerful example how government can serve as the essential -- but limited -- catalyst to help citizens band together to begin tackling some of the nation's most pressing problems.

Sincerely,

Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

August 2, 1996

To: Tom Amontree, Martha Phipps, Laura Trivers, Joan Shaffer, Cheryl Macias, Katherine Gibney, Donna Hines

From: Joel Berg *JB*

Subject: Coverage to Date of Food Recovery at the Olympics

Days ago, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, our prime partner at the Olympics, started an aggressive media campaign to get coverage for the food recovery effort related to the Games.

Unfortunately, most of the coverage focused on the food bank and not on AmeriCorps or USDA. Clips are attached.

NOTE: If we speak to NBC we should let them know that WXIA 11---- the NBC affiliate in Atlanta --- already did a story on the effort, thus the network could easily get good footage for a national story.



Olympic Food Rescue Effort - Media Report

Joel,

*FYI - You probably have a copy of our press release, but I have attached it just in case. With every interview, we did our best to encourage reporters to include the fact that we couldn't do what we're doing without the Americorps volunteers. Some reporters/editors chose to use that angle and others did not. As you will see, we received lots of television news coverage and the kids were almost always in the scene working with their Americorps T-shirts - some cameras even zoned in on the logos on their T-shirts. One of the most exciting things for me was an apple web site called Atlanta Street Scene 96 which featured our story - Americorps was prominent in this piece. You can see it at:

<http://live.apple.com/atlanta96/archives/olyleftovers.html>

If your computer has enough memory and you have plug ins, you'll get audio and a mini movie which are very cool....Be sure to hit the Americorps highlight and the Americorps web page comes up!

Of the attached clippings, the Christian Science Monitor included the Americorps angle. The USA Today photo includes two of the Americorps volunteers, but the editors chose not to i.d. them as such.

Here's a listing of the press we received on the food rescue effort :

(Note: If I felt Americorps vols were part of the coverage, I've commented on that.)

- USA Today - attached
- Chronicle of Philanthropy - attached
- Christian Science Monitor - attached - Americorps got mentioned - see highlight
- Atlanta Journal & Constitution (early story) - attached
- CNN - Food & Health Dept. - ran extensive story on Monday 7/29 at least twice (I won't have tape for two weeks and did not see it, but they shot the kids working so it's a good bet Americorps logo got in the picture.)
- WXIA 11 Alive - local NBC affiliate
- WAGA TV 5 - Good Day Atlanta
- WSB TV 2
- WSB Radio - Major Atlanta News Talk station - I was interviewed & it aired this a.m. 8/2. I talked about the Americorps volunteers and feel certain they included. I have requested a copy.



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- Goteborgs Posten - Major Swedish daily - we really pushed Americorps and I feel he wrote a thorough story - have asked to receive a copy when he can get it to me. Took lots of photos too.
- Sports Nippon - Major Japanese sports newspaper
- Kyodo News - Japanese newspaper
- 680 The Fan "Fan Focus" - local sportstalk community affairs talk show
- Several NBC affiliates - WVTM/Birmingham, WOWT/Omaha, WTLV/Jacksonville, WRCB/Chattanooga
- France2 - most widely viewed French TV news
- TF1 - French TV news
- Worldwide TV News - International Video News Wire - They taped the kids working, so good chance Americorps covered.
- Denmark Nightly News
- Nippon TV - The producers described their program as the "Good Morning America of Japan". They taped the kids working, so good chance for Americorps coverage.
- Not sure when it will run. This crew was with us the night of the bombing.
- WABE FM - The NPR affiliate - Bill Bolling was interviewed & I'm pretty sure he mentioned Americorps. Was scheduled to air in Atlanta this week. We are working on getting NPR to cover the story

Press currently in the works:

- Atlanta Journal & Constitution follow up story - I encouraged the reporter to include the Americorps angle.
- Scripts Howard Newspapers & the Columbus Dispatch. Mike Harden has a column and the food rescue should be included in this Sunday's papers 8/4 - he interviewed me and I talked about Americorps, so hopefully he will use the angle.
- Creative Loafing - progressive Atlanta weekly - I interviewed today, and included Americorps.
- Atlanta Daily World - usually print my releases word for word, so should include Americorps.
- France 3 - might tape story tonight - if so, Americorps vols will be working.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Amy Hudson
(404) 875-8352 or (404) 892-9822
cell phone (404) 735-8315

OLYMPIC FOOD RESCUE CONTINUES... OVER 100,000 POUNDS COLLECTED SO FAR

For the first time in history, a food bank has collaborated with an Olympic committee to orchestrate the nightly rescue of surplus food from Olympic venues. Saturday's tragedy did not halt efforts. In keeping with the spirit of the Games, volunteers and staff of the Atlanta Community Food Bank and its perishable food program, Atlanta's Table, worked through the weekend to pick up food from the venues. Food pick ups resumed in Centennial Olympic Park on Tuesday. Over 100,000 pounds of food have been rescued and distributed since the Games began!

ATLANTA -- July 31, 1996 -- The 1996 Centennial Olympic Games have offered virtually endless dining options for spectators, athletes and corporate sponsors. The "eating scene" runs the gamut from elaborate spreads prepared by hotel chefs to boxed lunches and the standard stadium fare. Where there is food for the masses, there are plenty of leftovers. What is happening to the excess food?

The Atlanta Community Food Bank and its perishable food rescue program, Atlanta's Table, are capturing as much of this food as possible every night during the Games and getting it into the hands of community groups feeding the hungry each day. The organization is working closely with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) and various food service vendors to pull it off. Bonnie Perez, ACOG Food and Beverage Director calls the effort a natural solution. "We are delighted to be working with an established agency with the know-how to rescue surplus food which would otherwise be thrown away."

-more-



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Page 2/Olympic Food Rescue

Weeks before the Games, Food Bank staff and volunteers received ACOG accreditation to pick food up from Centennial Olympic Park, Olympic Village and all venues within the Olympic Ring, as well as several hotels hosting Olympic guests. Volunteers from Americorps and the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington, D.C. who arrived at the onset of the Games have been instrumental in collecting all the food. Being linked to the nationwide food bank network, Second Harvest, has also enabled the organization to recruit extra trucks and volunteers from food banks in other cities. Most recently, Transport International Pool has donated a refrigerated trailer which will be invaluable in transporting the large quantities of food expected.

When asked why the Food Bank has undertaken such a monumental challenge, founder and executive director Bill Bolling says it best. "While two million people of all nationalities gather in Atlanta for three weeks of sportsmanship and fun, many millions around the globe live in poverty and never have enough to eat. With this food rescue effort, the Food Bank hopes to raise the world's collective consciousness of the hunger problem. We want to leave a legacy and working model for other host cities to follow."

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YOUR DAILY UPDATE ON OLYMPIC NEWS

ATLANTA GAMES *13 days*

Group prepares to salvage, distribute tons of leftovers

By Paula Schwed
STAFF WRITER

FOOD

In the biggest food rescue and recycling effort ever attempted, the Atlanta Community Food Bank plans to retrieve a half-million pounds of Olympic food to feed the hungry with leftovers from swank parties and the athletes' training tables.

Every day during the Games, between midnight and 6 a.m., Food Bank trucks will pick up excess and leftover food all over town, from the Aquatic Center to the Olympic Village cafeteria to Centennial Olympic Park to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel downtown.

"They're going to be eating very well," said Peter Pahk, the Ritz-Carlton's executive chef, about the beef tenderloin and

red snapper likely to be donated to the effort. "Whatever's on the banquet menu is pretty upscale."

Hotels like his and numerous restaurants already recycle leftovers for pickup by Atlanta's Table, part of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

But the logistics of moving this much food in a short time are daunting. At least 60 volunteers a day will be needed to pull it off. Braving formidable traffic and security, a fleet of refrigerator trucks will pick up the food daily and distribute it to organizations that feed the hungry in 43 counties in



Ritz-Carlton Executive Chef Peter Pahk says donated food will be "pretty upscale" during the Games.

Georgia. The leftovers will provide more than 300,000 meals, says Amy Hudson, the Food Bank's community relations manager. Food banks in Birmingham and Charlotte are on standby to send trucks should the amount of food be larger than anticipated.

"When there are hurricanes and floods, we have worked with Red Cross to get food in and out quickly. It's the same kind of thing," says Rob Johnson, project director of Atlanta's

Table, working in a room plastered with charts to map who will drive the trucks and where they will go. A hunger activist told him to think of it: "a positive disaster."

They regard the Olympics as an opportunity not just to fill more plates than usual but to help change the way people think about feeding the hungry.

"This whole philosophy is catching on, that food shouldn't be wasted. It's becoming a trend that's part of the process of planning an event," says Janis Reece, assistant director at Atlanta's Table.

"We think just because this is America, land of the plenty, we can use all this up and throw away what's left. Let's eliminate the waste and get it into the hands of those who can use it."



THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

Olympic Bounty for the Poor

WHILE MANY Olympic spectators and athletes are sleeping, the Atlanta Community Food Bank's employees and volunteers are spending their nights retrieving leftovers from each day's festivities.

The surplus food will provide much-needed nourishment for the poor, but collecting it poses a logistical nightmare. "We've picked up food during the Super Bowl," says Bill Rolling, the group's executive director, "but this is like having 16 Super Bowls every day for three weeks."

"The food will be put to good use, my leaders of the shelters, soup kitchens, and other charities that depend on the food bank for supplies. Many of those organizations are bracing for increased requests this month."

"The world is coming to Atlanta, and a part of that world are poor people who may just find themselves in need of a meal," says Lyssa A. Hunter, a spokeswoman for the Atlanta Union Mission, whose headquarters is in the heart of the downtown area where most of the Olympic events are

Even before the start of the Games last week, the Atlanta food bank had stepped up its activities, getting extra food from the many lavish lunches and dinners that were held to welcome Olympic participants to town and from leftover box lunches intended for Olympic employees and volunteers. By the time the Games end, the food bank expects to have collected a half-million pounds of food — or roughly 300,000 meals. That is as much perishable food as the group collected during all of 1995.

taking place.

The massive food collection comes with a hefty price tag. Officials at the food bank say they will have to raise \$90,000 to cover costs. The charity has already received \$5,500 from the Coca-Cola Company, \$2,000 from the Allstate Insurance Company, and \$10,000 from the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta.

Here, food-bank employees retrieve pans of surplus hot dogs and hamburgers from a vendor at the Centennial Olympic Park.

Photograph by Erik Lesser/Gamma Liaison, for The Chronicle

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

10C • TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1996 • USA TODAY

ATLANTA '96

SCENE



Leftovers put to good use: Food bank volunteers, left to right, Aileen Chiam, Casey Long and Joann Daniels pack up food from Savor the South restaurant for distribution to non-profit agencies.

Food bank makes sure poor get taste of Games

By Craig Wilson
USA TODAY

ATLANTA — Every evening during the Games, a band of volunteers has been lurking behind the scenes, waiting for the

Games," says Bill Bolling, executive director of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The project is being watched closely by the Australians, who might repeat it at the 2000 Games in Sydney.

now. The Olympic Village, the last venue to jump on the plan, joined us late last week." Once it reopens today, Centennial Olympic Park will rejoin the food collection sites.

And what's coming in? Ev-

nignny party to end.

And then their work begins. Throughout the early morning hours, volunteers travel Atlanta's streets picking up leftover food at dozens of sites, the first step in getting it into the hands of some 600 agencies in the Southeast.

For the first time in history, a food bank has collaborated with an Olympic committee to orchestrate the nightly rescue of surplus food from Olympic venues and area hotels.

During the Games, they hope to collect as much as a half-million pounds, enough to provide more than 300,000 meals. So far, almost 90,000 pounds have been collected.

"This may be the greatest legacy we leave from the

volunteers and staff, using nine refrigerated trucks, pick up food from a number of Olympic hotels and caterers, in addition to eight Olympic venues, between midnight and 6 a.m. The food is then distributed to dozens of non-profit agencies — from shelters to soup kitchens in Atlanta and 46 north Georgia counties.

The Food Bank usually sells the food at 14 cents a pound, but during the Olympics it's being given away.

About 4,000 meals are being picked up nightly — the number increases almost every day — and by early morning they are all distributed.

"Our system of distribution is actually working well," Bolling said. "Everyone is on line

everything from hoppin' john to gourmet hors d'oeuvres that never got served at gala corporate sponsor parties.

But Bolling says his organization will take just about anything.

"A lot of times, we'll get soft drinks and potato chips and crackers," he says. "But the summer camp programs love it, so we pass it on."

And the Food Bank's Amy Hudson says they gladly gathered up 80 cases of hot dogs the other night.

"As long as it's got some kind of nutritional value," she says.

Bolling thinks the whole project makes perfect sense.

"Why not share the hospitality, the abundance, we have here during the Games?"

NEWS

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Joel Berg (202) 720-5746
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"The international games have provided our AmeriCorps members with a unique opportunity in the battle to alleviate hunger in the host city," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "For the first time in history, we are recovering food at the Olympics. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is to be commended for their cooperation in this effort. I hope that this work is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all sorts of special events nationwide."

"This AmeriCorps project is part of a national initiative by USDA to coordinate and promote public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts," Glickman said. "Every year millions of pounds of nutritious, uneaten food is thrown away. It is my highest personal priority to find ways to get this food to the hungry -- before it finds its way to the dumpster."

As the games are coming to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members start their nightly service, according to Amy Hudson, community relations manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "They have been invaluable, working all night to rescue food from events in Atlanta and delivering it to the food bank," she said.

Three of the AmeriCorps members are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are Casey Long and Gabe Weinberg of Atlanta, and Paul Soares of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development mission area.

Other AmeriCorps members from the Hunger Center assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: Alex Dishun, Julia Dennehy, Sofia Ginzburg, and Aileen Cham.

-more-

AmeriCorps members participating in this summer's USDA gleaning projects across the country are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environment team, and a rural development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to "get things done," while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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Release No. 0426.96

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Amy Hudson (404) 875-8352

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507-8157

Josh Sunday

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Am + HVD 50

404-895-8352

404-892-9827

570-86-79

To: Hank Olthman

TALKING POINTS ON USDA AMERICORPS FOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS AT THE OLYMPICS

- * In an effort spearheaded by Secretary Glickman, AmeriCorps Members at the Olympics in Atlanta are salvaging food from the various vendors and events and assisting in distributing it to those in need.
- * As of Sunday, July 28, the AmeriCorps Members, who are working in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, had rescued more than 34 tons of perishable food.
- * This is the first Olympics in history in which there has been a systematic effort to recover the excess food. USDA hopes that this project is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all types of special events nationwide.
- * The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has been extremely helpful in this effort.
- * As the games are coming to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members start their nightly service. They work all night to rescue food from event venues.
- * Three of the AmeriCorps Members involved in this effort are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are Casey Long and Gabe Weinberg of Atlanta, and Paul Soares of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development mission area.
- * Five other AmeriCorps/VISTA members sponsored by the Congressional Hunger Center are assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: Alex Dishun, Julia Dennehy, Sophia Ginzberg, and Eileen Cham. The Congressional Hunger Center was created by Representative Tony Hall (D-OH) and the late Bill Emerson (R-MO).
- * The Summer of Gleaning AmeriCorps projects nationally are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments. In partnership with literally dozens of locally based anti-hunger groups, youth service corps, food pantries, and food recovery organizations, this special summer initiative is a small, but important, part of both the USDA AmeriCorps program and the overall AmeriCorps program.
- * The Summer of Gleaning Projects last twelve weeks, during which the AmeriCorps Members receive small living stipends. All AmeriCorps Members who successfully complete this special summer program will receive a \$1,000 educational award that can be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

* While most AmeriCorps projects are NOT run by Federal agencies, the USDA AmeriCorps program is the exception to the rule. USDA is reinventing government by using AmeriCorps as an alternative mechanism to deliver vital services to citizens. USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 Members who are fighting hunger, protecting the environment and preserving public lands, and boosting rural community development. All USDA AmeriCorps projects “get things done” while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

* This Summer of Gleaning project is part of a larger national initiative spearheaded by Secretary Glickman in which USDA is coordinating and promoting public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts. This effort is not a large new government program, but is intended to be a series of efforts to encourage, energize, and reward ongoing and new efforts of citizens, state and local governments, and non-profit organizations.

* The USDA Food Recovery Initiative is **not** based on the traditional liberal premise that a heavy-handed, bureaucratically driven, large government program based in Washington has all answers to the nations’ problems. Conversely, the initiative is **not** based on the traditional conservative premise that the free-market, volunteers, and non-profit organizations alone --- without any government help at all --- can solve all the nation’s social problems. Rather, **the initiative is based on the reinventing government philosophy of President Clinton and Vice-President Gore which believes that government must provide energy, vision, and some limited Federal funds as a catalyst to empower local communities to help solve their own problems.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

13-Jun-1996 10:26am

TO: Julie E. Demeo

FROM: Janet B. Abrams
Office of the Vice President

SUBJECT: food

I am really looking forward to talking with your friend. Thanks for your message.

In the mid-'80s when I was in business school, I became concerned about domestic hunger and WASTE of food from restaurants, caterers, etc. I started an organization in the SF Bay Area called FOODNET to link up sources of surplus food and soup kitchens.

Great to hear USDA is involved, re: The Games.

Thanks.

July 20

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

*A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff ---
August 2, 1996*



AmeriCorps Team Recovers Food at Olympics

If there was a gold medal for food recovery, the AmeriCorps Team that salvaged food from the Olympics in Atlanta would be the recipient.

As of July 31, the AmeriCorps members, who are working in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, had rescued more than 60 tons of perishable food from various vendors at the Olympic events.

"THE INTERNATIONAL GAMES have provided our AmeriCorps members with a unique opportunity in the battle to alleviate hunger in the host city," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "I hope that their work is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all sorts of varied types of special events nationwide."

As the games came to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members started their nightly service, according to Amy Hudson, community relations manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "They have been invaluable, working all night to rescue food from Centennial Park events and delivering it to the Food Bank," she said.

Three of the AmeriCorps members are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are **Casey Long** and **Gabe Weinberg** of Atlanta, and **Paul Soares**, of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development Agency.

THE OTHER AMERICORPS/VISTA members from the Hunger Center assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: **Alex Dishon**, **Julia Demehy**, **Sofia Ginzburg**, and **Aileen Cham**.

The AmeriCorps/USDA members in 20 states participating in this summer's USDA gleaning projects across the country are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments. Preliminary figures indicate that as of July 31, these teams had gleaned approximately 50 tons of food.

August 19-25 has been designated as Food Recovery Week and all AmeriCorps/USDA projects are urged to spend that week -- or at least one day that week -- engaged in some activity to recover excess food. Specifics on the Food Recovery Week were published in the July 26 edition of *Esprit d'AmeriCorps*. All projects should have received a response form by now to be faxed to the National Office detailing their special food recovery event. **Please fax forms by August 10.**

Members Leave Olympic Park 30 Minutes Before Bomb Blast

The normal routine of the AmeriCorps members gleaning food at the Olympics would have put them at the stage in Centennial Park at about the time that a bomb went off killing two people about 1:30 a.m. on July 27.

But the team finished a little early that night and left at about 1 p.m., according to Max Finberg of the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington.



THE GEORGIA COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020 EQUITABLE BUILDING ★ 100 PEACHTREE STREET ★ ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 ★ (404) 657-7827 ★ FAX: (404) 657-7835

Zell Miller
Governor

Lynn Thornton
Executive Director

URGENT: FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: AmeriCorps*USA Programs
FROM: Lynn Thornton, Executive Director
DATE: June 5, 1996
SUBJECT: Another Olympic Opportunity

Georgia's AmeriCorps members have another opportunity to serve during the Olympics.

ACOG (the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games) has agreed to donate leftover food to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The Food Bank is in desperate need of volunteers who can pick up and pack the donated food at the Olympic venues and help to distribute it to shelters and other groups which need food. The Food Bank is located within the Olympic Ring, as are the pick up sites, making it more difficult for most of the Bank's usual volunteers to help, on top of which a much larger than normal volume of food will need to be distributed.

This opportunity to serve might appeal to corps members who wish to be part of the Olympic Team for the Games, and to those who simply need to make up additional hours in order to complete their term of service and receive their educational award. While, ordinarily, any service outside that provided directly by the program must contribute to the program's meeting of its objectives in some manner, that rule will be waived in this case.

Volunteers must be available for four weeks and will receive training from the staff of the Team for the Games and the Food Bank. If from outside metropolitan Atlanta, those who are currently AmeriCorps members will be housed at Atlanta Christian College, and fed. Be advised !! the living accommodations at Atlanta Christian are very spartan. Corps members and team leaders are sleeping in bunk beds, 16 people to a room, in an elementary school. Yes, it is air conditioned and there are showers.



SPONSORING GEORGIA'S AMERICORPS PROGRAM

Another Olympic Opportunity

June 5, 1996

Page 2

Volunteers must pass a security clearance from ACOG. Most of the service on this project will occur between the hours of noon and 10:00 p.m. There may be some food pick-ups which occur between midnight and 6 a.m.

It would be great if a staff member or team leader could accompany corps members, but no application will be refused for lack of a staff member.

The Georgia Peach/AmeriCorps and the Greater Atlanta Community Corps are the only corps from Georgia which are sending a contingent to be part of the Team for the Games. I hope other corps can send a few individuals to serve with the Food Bank. I sincerely believe that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of a huge service effort, bringing in participants from all over the nation, and to be a part of the Olympic service force.

Please provide information **immediately** about this opportunity to your corps members. Call me immediately with any questions, and fax me names and addresses at which a Fed Ex package containing the application can be received.

Because security clearances must be done before service can be approved, and because there are a limited number of slots available, it is urgent that you respond immediately, preferably no later than Friday COB.

LT/rfc

cc: Diana Algra
Don Mathis

From: Katherine Gibney
To: jberg, mcashion
Date: 7/31/96 12:21pm
Subject: final list of hometowns

aileen cham of chester, new jersey; sofia ginzburg of philadelphia, pa; alexandria dishun of frederick, md.; julie dennehy of boston, mass - all vistas; paul soares, usda/congressional hunger center; of norfolk, va; two funded by usda/rural development in georgia: casey long of atlanta, and gabe weinberg of marietta, ga.

FS
NR
RD
FL
FS

From: Tom Amontree
To: JBERG
Date: 8/1/96 3:52pm
Subject: No News from First Lady's Event -Reply

joel -- I called the v.p.'s office and spoke to ginny who said that she did not think gore was going to do a specific Americorp event but that he was going to have a general thank you event that they could be invited to. I also asked if something about the food rescue effort could be incorporated into his speech, ginny said she would check.

NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Communications News Room 460-A
Washington, DC 20250-1300
Internet: News @usda.gov Phone: 202-720-9035
World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0426.96

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746
Amy Hudson (404) 875-8352

170 TONS OF FOOD RECOVERED AT OLYMPICS BY USDA AMERICORPS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 1996--The total amount of food recovered from Summer Olympic venues--in a project coordinated by USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps members--has risen to 170 tons of perishable food. The amount of food rescued from the various vendors and venues increased substantially after closing ceremonies for the Games.

The food collected will provide an estimated 226,000 meals, according to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, which, along with the Congressional Hunger Center, served as a prime partner with USDA AmeriCorps on this initiative.

"It is clear that the USDA AmeriCorps effort to recover food from the Olympic Games has been an incredible success. The Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Congressional Hunger Center, and the AmeriCorps members all deserve gold medals in food recovery," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"This AmeriCorps project is part of a national initiative by USDA to coordinate and promote public and private gleaning and food recovery efforts," Glickman said. "Every year millions of pounds of nutritious, uneaten food are thrown away. It is my highest personal priority to find ways to get this food to the hungry--before it finds its way to the dumpster."

Three of the AmeriCorps members engaged in the project are part of the Department's special 12-week AmeriCorps "Summer of Gleaning" program currently underway in 20 states. Other AmeriCorps members from the Congressional Hunger Center are assisting in the project.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

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June 17, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PARTNERS

FROM: JOSHUA YATES: CONVENTION RECOVERY TASKFORCE

**RE: PREPARING HOST COMMUNITIES OF POLITICAL CONVENTIONS
TO RECEIVE AND HANDLE PROPERLY FOOD RESCUED FROM THE
CONVENTIONS.**

History

At this year's national Food Chain Conference, Secretary Dan Glickman announced his plans to promote and enhance gleaning and food rescue efforts around the country. During his speech, he described three specific objectives for the summer. First, the Secretary announced his Summer of Gleaning Initiative. The USDA will sponsor a number of projects using USDA/AmeriCorps Teams to focus on gleaning and food rescue in their communities over the summer. The second objective is to use AmeriCorps Members to work with Atlanta's Table to rescue food during the Summer Olympics. His third objective is to use AmeriCorps Members to prepare the communities hosting the political party conventions in August to safely receive food rescued from convention events. The first two objectives are already in progress. This memorandum is an attempt to make the last of these summer initiatives come to life.

Need

Given the high profile of national political conventions and the large amount of salvageable food in need of quick and safe turn-around, the potential for problems arises. Proper food handling is paramount. Few things could hurt food rescue efforts both in these host communities and in other communities around the country more than for someone to get sick from food recovered from a political party convention. In order to ensure (as much as possible) that no one is made ill from improper food handling we offer the following solution.

Solution

Sending USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team Members from the Milwaukee Community Service Corps and the Los Angeles Interfaith Hunger Coalition to Chicago and San Diego respectively, partnering them with chefs from the local chapters of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) in both cities, and working in conjunction with local food rescue organizations (The Greater Chicago Food Depository and Love's Gift Hunger Relief of San Diego), this collaborative effort will prepare recipient agencies to properly handle, store, and distribute food rescued from the conventions.

We realize that most food rescue operations require recipient agencies to have a certified food handler; however, we also realize that in certain food rescue-intense situations recipient organizations are forced to bring on volunteers who may not have sufficient food handling training. This plan offers a way of providing food safety courses to such volunteers, and could

also serve as a refresher course for others. Moreover, the combination of USDA/AmeriCorps Members and the American Culinary Federation chefs with the local food rescue providers offers a positive media angle which will be good for gleaning efforts in these and other communities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of USDA/AmeriCorps Members is two-fold: first, Members' presence represents the Secretary of Agriculture's interest and national leadership in the area of gleaning and food rescue; and second, to assist the local ACF Chefs in preparing and facilitating the food safety trainings.

The ACF chefs' interest is in continuing the ACF's national commitment to proper food handling since in many cases it will be ACF chefs, themselves, who are preparing the food about to be rescued. They would be responsible for the programming and educational aspects of the food safety seminars.

The USDA is responsible for making sure that the conventions are willing to allow their food to be rescued. Secretary Glickman has already sent written requests to the leadership of both conventions. Chances are that the local food rescue operations have already made arrangements to rescue food from convention events. The USDA is looking to provide financially for some of the costs incurred by its AmeriCorps Teams and some of the training and technical assistance. The Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Department is enthusiastic about the effort and has offered to provide training materials. Finally, Joel Berg and Donna Hines of the USDA's National Service Working Group have agreed to lend press, media and other assistance as needed.

The local food rescue organizations play a crucial role by enabling this effort to be community-based. Besides endorsement, minimum involvement would include providing the AmeriCorps/chef delegations access to recipient agencies and assistance in obtaining training space. Beyond such basic involvement, each organization can decide the level of its participation.

Prospective Timeline

As the political conventions take place during the first and fourth weeks of August, we are aiming at the week of July 29-August 2 to give the seminars. I submit the following agenda only as a beginning of discussion:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| July 29th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*AmeriCorps Members arrive in host communities*Members meet with chefs and appropriate rescue personnel*Orientation and strategy session |
| July 30th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Chefs provide food safety training preparation to delegation*Material preparation |
| July 31st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Training day (one or two congregate trainings at a central site) |
| Aug. 1st | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Wrap-up and leave |

Logistics

Housing and transportation will be taken care of by this task force prior to the event. While we have possible arrangements, additional ideas are welcomed. Supervision will be provided by Team Leaders.

A Little About USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Teams

Part of President Clinton's national service initiative to address our nation's critical human needs at a community level, these Anti-Hunger Teams specialize in providing hunger-fighting expertise through direct community service. Emphasizing concrete, measurable, and demonstrable results, these Teams serve their communities by meeting the immediate needs of those who are hungry by working with emergency food distribution sites like local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and food banks and by enhancing existing means for those with immediate needs to receive an applicable form of public assistance. Teams also look toward long-term, sustainable solutions. To this end, Teams promote sustainable agriculture opportunities, educate young people about the importance of proper nutrition, and empower those dependent on public assistance to develop tools for self-sufficiency through life-skills seminars.

Conclusion

The overall goal is to promote gleaning and food rescue in our country. This is an effort to capitalize on the Secretary of Agriculture's leadership and the opportunity for national exposure which political conventions bring. Furthermore, we hope to use the experience of this collaborative effort to develop national models for future food rescue and gleaning initiatives. At the very least, we want to help these host communities feed their hungry.

Please review this memorandum and send your comments, questions, clarifications, etc. This plan is meant to be the beginning of discussion only. Over this week we hope to finalize the details of the plan and make sure that all partners are agreeable and on the same page so that preparations can be made.

Please contact me by phone at (202) 547-7022 or via fax at (202) 547-7575 for more information. Thank you for your interest and your timely consideration.

Page 2/Olympic Food Rescue

Weeks before the Games, Food Bank staff and volunteers received ACOG accreditation to pick food up from Centennial Olympic Park, Olympic Village and all venues within the Olympic Ring, as well as several hotels hosting Olympic guests. Volunteers from *AmeriCorps* and the *Congressional Hunger Center* in Washington, D.C. who arrived at the onset of the Games have been indispensable in collecting all the food. Being linked to the nationwide food bank network, Second Harvest, has also enabled the organization to recruit extra trucks and volunteers from food banks in other cities.

When asked why the Food Bank has undertaken such a monumental challenge, founder and executive director Bill Bolling says it best. "While two million people of all nationalities gathered in Atlanta for three weeks of sportsmanship and fun, many millions around the globe live in poverty and never have enough to eat. With this food rescue effort, the Food Bank hopes to raise the world's collective consciousness of the hunger problem. We want to leave a legacy and working model for other host cities to follow."

###



To: Frieda Morris, NBC news

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

4 PAGES, including this cover

FYI, updated information on the incredibly successful food recovery effort at the Olympics.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 720-5746.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Amy Hudson
(404) 875-8352 or (404) 892-9822
cell phone (404) 735-8315

OLYMPIC FOOD RESCUE CONTINUES THROUGH THURSDAY **387,000 POUNDS COLLECTED SO FAR**

For the first time in history, a food bank has collaborated with an Olympic committee to orchestrate the nightly rescue of surplus food from Olympic venues. 387,000 pounds of food have been rescued since the Games began! The Atlanta Community Food Bank will continue to bring in huge truckloads through this Thursday. This food will be distributed from the Food Bank's warehouse to agencies feeding the hungry.

ATLANTA -- Tuesday, August 6, 1996 -- The Centennial Olympic Games have offered virtually endless dining options for spectators, athletes and corporate sponsors. The "eating scene" ran the gamut from elaborate spreads prepared by hotel chefs to boxed lunches and the standard stadium fare. As expected, food for the masses brought tremendous excess. With the help of the Food Bank, Atlanta's hungry were able to enjoy much of the leftover food. Now that the Games are over, the Food Bank is hauling in record loads of goods which were never even prepared during the Olympics....food which would otherwise be thrown away.

The organization has pulled off this first-ever food rescue endeavor by working closely with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) and various food service vendors. Bonnie Perez, ACOG Food and Beverage Director calls the effort a natural solution. "We have been delighted to work with an established agency with the know-how to rescue surplus food."

-more-



970 Jefferson Street N.W. ▼ Atlanta, GA 30318 ▼ (404) 892-9822 ▼ FAX (404) 892-4026

**ACFB Olympic Task Group
Position Description Summaries - 5/10
Volunteer and Intern Opportunities**

Olympic Venue Assistants (2-6 daily at 6 - 14 sites)

On-site assisting to our Olympic Venue Co-managers: working with ACOG venue food vendors, packing up, inventorying and reporting in daily donations for later-in-night driver pick-ups. Venue assistants will also be assigned to other non-olympic hotel and catering sites (3-7) expected to give daily donations.

Drivers Assistants (4-6 daily)

Helping drivers with pickups and unloading. Olympic venues will require late night (midnight - 6am) schedule. Food should be palletized. Other non-venue sites (eg Hotels, caterers) will require hand-truck loading onto smaller trucks. Weighing procedures will be simpler than normal procedures. Food Re-packers (4-8 daily)

Warehouse/Administrative Assistants (8 - 30 daily)

Working in warehouse assisting Inventory Co-managers and Transportation Co-managers in repacking donated boxed lunches, produce, and prepared foods in bags & aluminum pans. Large quantities will be prepared for pick-up and/or shipment to individual recipient agencies. Other support will include cleaning equipment, labeling containers, providing clerical and administrative assistance to Project Co-ordinators (word processing, phone, fax, copying, and mailing support).