



# PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:** Max Vargas,  
Public Affairs Manager  
(209) 467-6665

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 22, 2016

## **Multi-agency "Stuff the Bus" drive collects over 28,000 pounds of food**

(Stockton, CA) – San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) and its partners collected over 28,000 pounds of food, including 640 turkeys, at the 18th Annual Stuff the Bus food drive on November 18-20. Since 1999, RTD and its partners have now raised over 315,000 pounds of food donations at Stuff the Bus events. This year, Stuff the Bus also collected coats for those in need, bringing in 64 coats.

RTD worked with local transit agencies, Lodi Grapeline, Manteca Transit, and Escalon eTrans, in a simultaneous countywide food drive to collect food for local nonprofit agencies, including the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton, the Salvation Army of Lodi, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Escalon CARE.

The Boy Scouts – Greater Yosemite Council participated in Stuff the Bus event in Stockton by dropping off food donations collected via the "Scouting for Food" program. The Boy Scouts went door-to-door on November 19 picking up nonperishable food donations, collecting over 3,400 pounds. Girl Scouts troops also participated by volunteering at Stuff the Bus locations.

Individually, each organization collected the following: 9,630 pounds (RTD); 6,088 pounds (Manteca Transit); 5,643 pounds (Lodi Grapeline); 3,420 pounds (Boy Scouts of America – Greater Yosemite Council); and 3,396 pounds (Escalon eTrans). Together, the food donations will provide over 22,500 meals!

Cumulus Broadcasting, Stockton Record, Food 4 Less, and Big Boy Market sponsored the events. KWIN/KWNN (97.7/98.3) promoted the campaign with live on-site broadcasts, promotional appearances, on-air interviews, and public service announcements. The Record promoted the food drive with event advertising. Food 4 Less stores in Lodi, Manteca, and on Hammer Lane in Stockton, along with Big Boy Market in Escalon, hosted the three-day event, with each store donating gift cards for raffles prizes. San Joaquin Delta College's "Fierce" the Mustang mascot also provided on-site entertainment and outreach.



In addition to thanking campaign sponsors for their continued support, RTD would like to give special thanks to the organizations and people who helped make this year's food drive a success:

- Lodi Grapeline, Manteca Transit, and Escalon eTrans
- Boy Scouts of America – Greater Yosemite Council – Troops 145, 148, 50, 52, 10
- Girl Scouts – Troops 884, 1737, 1730, 2327, 1811
- KWIN and KJOY staff, and their generous listeners
- San Joaquin Delta College and "Fierce" the Mustang mascot
- Emergency Food Bank of Stockton, Salvation Army of Lodi, Second Harvest Food Bank of Manteca, and Escalon CARE staff and volunteers for their support
- All the Stuff the Bus participants, event volunteers, and staff

RTD is proud to serve our community through the annual Stuff the Bus food drive and to lead a group of local agencies that, by working together, are able to help so many local residents in need this holiday season.

# # #