



www.foodbankst.org

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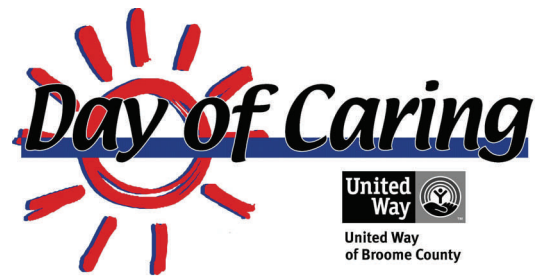
A Regional Agency of  
Catholic Charities

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**TO:** News Editors  
**DATE:** January 18, 2010  
**CONTACT:** Melissa Smith, Community & Public Relations Manager  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
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[mlsmith@feedingamerica.org](mailto:mlsmith@feedingamerica.org)  
**RE:** *United Way of Broome County's Day of Caring benefits the Food Bank's Backpack Program™!*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Broome County, NY** – The United Way of Broome County held a special Day of Caring food drive, which lasted throughout the whole 2009 year. Each month, a different business committed to collecting donations from their employees.



Nine businesses participated in collecting donations. These businesses include: BAE, CSEA, Columbian Financial Group, EIT, Emerson Network Power, Frito– Lay, HealthNow, Modern Marketing Concepts and Universal Instruments. Additionally, Columbian Financial Group raised \$700.

This community- wide food drive collected over 1,100 pounds of non-perishable items for children at risk of hunger. The food was delivered to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to be repacked into packs for use at the Broome County Backpack™ sites.

“We are extremely pleased to have partnered with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and many of our local businesses to support the Backpack Program,” said Alan Hertel, Executive Director of the United Way of Broome County. “Education is key to a child’s success in life and a child not experiencing hunger will be more open to learning. Our goal is to reach as many of our students experiencing hunger as possible, so they can focus on their education,” added Hertel.

The Food Bank’s Backpack Program™ provides healthy, kid-friendly, and easy to prepare foods to children at risk of hunger over weekends and holiday breaks when children don’t have access to free or reduced price school meal programs. During the 2008-2009 school year, the Food Bank served 18 school districts across the Southern Tier, reaching over 1,200 children each week.

To learn more about the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and how you can support local hunger-relief efforts, visit the Food Bank’s website at [www.foodbankst.org](http://www.foodbankst.org) or call 607-796-6061.

*About the Food Bank*

*In operation since 1981, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier distributes food and food-related products to people in need through a network of more than 185 hunger-relief agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit organizations. The Food Bank also has a number of programs that fight hunger including the Backpack Program™ and Mobile Food Pantry. Located in Elmira, NY it is a regional agency of Catholic Charities and an affiliate of Feeding America serving the six counties of Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins.*

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