

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Francine Pares/949-481-7559
fpares@intelibrand.com

Big Blue Bus Announces Over 29,000 Pounds of Food Donated During 15th Annual Food Drive

Santa Monica, Calif. – The numbers are in and show, once again, the generosity of the city's employees and the public when it comes to helping local families in need.

The Big Blue Bus, which spearheaded the 15th annual food drive competition between city departments, announced today that a total of 29,001 pounds of food was collected during the latest drive. The food will be distributed to families in need throughout Santa Monica and the Westside.

New to this year's campaign was the ability of the public to donate food at special bins placed around town, or via cash contributions through a special online donation center set up by the American Red Cross in Santa Monica. All donations benefited the American Red Cross, which distributes food to agencies around L.A. County, including the Westside Food Bank.

The winning Santa Monica city departments and their donations were:

Small Department: City Attorney's Office – 8,500 pounds of food
Medium Department: Library – 5,953 pounds of food
Large Department: Big Blue Bus – 2,859 pounds of food

City employees donated \$4,312 in cash contributions, and online donations to the Red Cross came in at \$885, which when totaled are equivalent to 25,985 pounds of food. Together with the 3,016 pounds collected from the food bins around town, the grand total was 29,001 pounds of food donated, which will go directly to local families.

Recipients of the American Red Cross of Santa Monica include the Westside Food Bank, which feeds more than 70,000 people each year; WISE Senior services, which operates local senior centers in the area; and Meals on Wheels, offering mobile food service for local senior citizens.

The annual food drive ran from November 26 to January 10.

For more information about the Big Blue Bus, visit www.BigBlueBus.com. To learn more about the American Red Cross and its services, visit www.redcrossofsantamonica.org.

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