

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Kyle Schoolar

Office: (850) 626-1332 ext. 2104

kschoolar@feedingthegulfcoast.org



Feeding the Gulf Coast | 5709 Industrial Blvd. Milton, FL 32583 | (850) 626-1332

800 FAMILIES TO RECEIVE HOLIDAY MEAL BOXES AS A PART OF FARM TO CITY WEEK

This event is NOT open to the public. Families receiving the food were pre-registered. This alert is intended for media opportunities only.

WHAT: In partnership with The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, and Leonard & Susan Kichler Farm, Feeding the Gulf Coast will provide holiday meal boxes to 800 pre-qualified families for National Farm to City Week; a national effort to bring about a better understanding between rural and urban people by increasing knowledge and appreciation for agriculture.

On Tuesday, November 21st food will be distributed to 400 pre-registered families in Santa Rosa County and 400 pre-registered families in Escambia County. Feeding the Gulf Coast will provide holiday meal boxes which include a turkey, ham or chicken and all of the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. The University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service, and Leonard & Susan Kichler Farm will provide locally grown produce. Additionally, UF/IFAS extension staff will be in attendance to demonstrate how to prepare and cook the produce being distributed, as well as how to can fresh produce. Local volunteers will be on hand to help with the distribution.

In Escambia County, 19.3% of residents experience food insecurity which is defined by the USDA as a measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Santa Rosa County is not far behind with 14.3% of citizens struggling with food insecurity.

WHERE: Santa Rosa County
Guy Thompson Community Center
5629 Byrom Street
Milton, FL 32570

Escambia County
Waterfront Rescue Mission
380 W. Herman Street
Pensacola, FL 32505

WHEN: Tuesday, November 21, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WHO: Feeding the Gulf Coast
The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Science

About Feeding the Gulf Coast:

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Panhandle of Florida, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2016, the food bank distributed over 18 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple nutrition programs, including Summer Feeding, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Community Garden, Mobile Pantry, Produce Drop, Cooking Matters, and SNAP Outreach. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

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