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CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES COLLECT OVER 40,000 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES

San Mateo, CA, September 17th, 2013 – This summer, public libraries across California partnered with local area food banks to collect food for those in need. Together, libraries collected 40,000 pounds of food, exceeding the original target of 10,000 pounds of food by 300%.

The food drives were spearheaded by the California Library Association (CLA). In response to the rising number of Americans dealing with food insecurity, the *Acquire A Taste for Giving* program encouraged libraries to create partnerships with local food banks, hold summer food drives, run food-for-fines programs, and highlight issues relating to hunger in America. Over 175 branch libraries participated. Library collection totals ranged from 10 pounds at some branches, to over a thousand pounds at others. Every little bit helped. The food drive was part of the 2013 statewide summer reading program, Reading Is So Delicious!, which was coordinated by CLA.

CLA President, Derek Wolfgram, said, “When libraries make a commitment to do something positive for their communities, they always follow through. I’m exceedingly proud of CLA and the 175 participating libraries for contributing over 20 tons of food to help fight hunger in California. This food drive, along with the highly successful Summer Reading Program, are excellent examples of the ways that libraries transform the lives of Californians.”

CLA and California libraries are also addressing issues of hunger through the [Lunch at the Library](#) program. In partnership with the California Summer Meal Coalition and funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, CLA is piloting a free program that combines literacy activities with free summer lunches for children, to help them return to school in the fall healthy and ready to learn.

For a list of libraries that participated in the food drive please visit the [Acquire A Taste For Giving Food Drive page](#) on the [CLA website](#).

The California Library Association provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and librarianship.

The California Summer Reading Program is a project of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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