



United Samaritans Foundation's mission is to deliver food to people in need in Stanislaus County, and to facilitate the provision of services to assist them in a transition to a better quality of life.

FEBRUARY 2009

Poverty in U.S.

The U.S. subprime mortgage crisis has been receiving extensive media coverage lately. But many news reports miss a big part of the story: Our country's poorest areas are the epicenter of the crisis and hard-working low-income borrowers are facing an ever more uncertain future.

More than three million homes are expected to go through foreclosure. When families lose their homes to foreclosure, many will simply be forced out on the street. Most have already cut back on their living costs and exhausted their savings in an effort to prevent foreclosure. With their credit rating ruined, they may not qualify for rental housing. The result will be deeper poverty and hunger, especially in communities where poverty is already widespread.

Today more than 12 percent of the U.S. population live below the poverty line. Which was \$17,170 for a family of three in 2007. Researchers have found that families need about twice the poverty level to meet the actual costs of housing, food and other necessities. More than 90 million Americans work at low-wage jobs and live on the edge of poverty.

While more than 12 percent of U.S. population lives below the poverty line, many more are not officially "poor" but are nonetheless on the edge of financial emergency.

The proverbial "one paycheck away" from being unable to pay the rent and buy food. They are asset poor, meaning that a sudden halt in their income would have serious consequences right away. People who have less than about \$5,000 in savings are considered

asset poor because if they lost their jobs or become ill, they would not have enough savings to live on at the poverty level for 12 weeks. This is the reality for more than one-fifth of all Americans—including 39 percent of all children in the country.

Families also need assistance getting through this current crisis. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that states experiencing economic distress, including as a result of foreclosures, had a substantial increase in enrollment in the Food Stamp Program.

Clearly, poor people are turning to the national nutrition programs to keep from going hungry. These programs will be vital to helping families cope and eventually get out of poverty for good. www.bread.org

Hunger in Stanislaus County

USF is seeing the results of the economic downturn in Stanislaus County. On our lunch trucks for the 2008 Calendar year we served 422,886 This is an increase of 14,218 from the previous year. Our emergency food box program in 2008 increased by 1,870 for a total of 7,852 people. We rely on the community to help us meet the needs of the hungry. Your donations make a difference and touch many lives in our communities.

Feinstein Foundation Challenge

Get ready for another Feinstein Foundation Challenge! This is the thirteenth year that the Feinstein Foundation is dividing \$1 million among non-profit organizations throughout the country who are helping fight hunger. All contributions, including food donations, received by United Samaritans Foundation between March 1 and April 30, 2009 will help us qualify for part of these funds. . **Remember**, that by donating in March & April you will become a partner in what has become the most successful grassroots drive ever in this country to fight hunger. Schools can participate also by holding food drives. Every item of food that is donated will be valued at \$1.00. The funding we have received each year has been extremely helpful to our mission. With your generous donations, we have the ability to achieve even more.

Please Indicate on your check the
"Feinstein Challenge"

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOUCHING LIVES**

Within the community of believers, there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life — Pope Benedict XVI



**Needed ~ Individually wrapped
candy for Valentines Day**



3rd Street Café Celebrates Valentine's Day from 5 - 9 pm for a Special Valentine's Dinner.

Menu ~ Entrée ~ Prime Rib Au Jus 8 oz. cut ~ \$19.95 12 oz. cut ~ \$24.95 ~ Salmon with Sun-dried Tomato Pesto or Basil Pesto \$19.95 ~ Chicken Alfredo \$16.95

Dinner Includes: Fresh Baguette, Caesar Salad or Spinach Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing, Medley of Mix Vegetables, Baked Potato or Garlic Mashed Potatoes, or Rice Pilaf.

Dessert ~ Cheesecake with Fresh Strawberries or Chocolate Delight.

Make Your Reservations Now

(209) 883-4941

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ATTENTION ALL BOY SCOUTS

IF YOU ARE A BOY SCOUT WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING AN EAGLE SCOUT AND ARE IN NEED OF A COMMUNITY PROJECT WE HAVE ONE FOR YOU. OUR PARKING LOTS ARE IN NEED OF BEING RESTRIPEDED. PLEASE CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS ON FOR YOUR PROJECT.

Meals served on our trucks during the month of December were 33,207. In our emergency food box program 179 families were provided with a three-day, three meals per day supply of food.

Enclosed is my gift to United Samaritans Foundation

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Gift given for:

Name _____

_____ Death

_____ Anniversary Death

Please send Acknowledgment to:

_____ Birthday

_____ Wedding

Name _____

_____ Anniversary

_____ Graduation

Address _____

_____ Father's Day

_____ Mother's Day

City, State, Zip _____

_____ Christmas

_____ Other

Set up a recurring Donation on line by going to our website: www.unitedsamaritans.org

DONOR INFORMATION:

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Your Gift is Tax Deductible

Please make your check payable to United Samaritans Foundation and mail this section with your contribution to:
United Samaritans Foundation ~ 220 S. Broadway ~ Turlock, CA 95380

For more information , please feel free to call us at (209)668-4853

