

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 1, 2016 CONTACT: William Diepenbrock PHONE: 909-206-5304

Baldwin Park Unified Schools Gather Canned Goods for City's Annual Christmas Food Basket Program

Effort provides food baskets to up to 400 city families

BALDWIN PARK – Eleven Baldwin Park elementary, middle and junior high schools are gathering canned goods through **Wednesday**, **Dec. 7** as part of the City of Baldwin Park's annual Christmas Food Basket Program, which will provide the food to residents in need this holiday season.

Participating schools include Central, De Anza, Elwin, Foster, Geddes, Heath and Walnut elementary schools, Holland and Olive middle schools, and Jones and Sierra Vista junior high schools.

"It is heart-warming to see the collections at each campus swell with the generosity of our Baldwin Park Unified families," Superintendent Froilan N. Mendoza said. "Our students demonstrate a real sense of civic pride and community spirit as part of this effort, which helps so many local families in need."

The food basket program was launched nearly two decades ago and distributes up to 400 baskets each year. Recipients – who are limited to one per family and must show proof of income and city residency – receive a box filled with produce, chicken, tortillas, cheese, apples and other fare.

Primary contents of the baskets are donated by Navidad en el Barrio, a nonprofit organization, and are supplemented with the canned goods donated by Baldwin Park Unified families and staff. Each basket can weigh as much as 50 pounds.

To obtain baskets, families must fill out applications before Dec. 7.

Information is available at (626) 813-5245, ext. 330, www.baldwinpark.com, Esther Snyder Community Center and Teri G. Muse Family Service Center. Baskets will be distributed from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10 at Esther Snyder Community Center, 4100 Baldwin Park Blvd.

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