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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONDUCT MASSIVE FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT SAMARITAN HOUSE AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK**

*Students Seek to Break School's Guinness World Record  
While Setting a Positive Example for Bay Area Schools*

**San Mateo, CA, November 6, 2013** - This year San Mateo High School, as part of the Jefferson Public Service Awards "Youth Service Challenge", will be conducting their annual holiday food drive from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 2nd, 2013 to benefit Samaritan House in San Mateo and Second Harvest Food Bank. The students' goal this year will be to collect over 250,000 pounds and continue their tradition of being one of the largest food drives in the country.

In 2005, San Mateo High School students collected 372,000 pounds of food during its canned food drive, which set a new school record and surpassed the school's previous Guinness World Record set in 1999.

"The kids are amazing," says Sara Catalli, Leadership Teacher and Activities Director at San Mateo High School. "Many spend long hours in front of grocery stores collecting food from shoppers. They collect literally tons of food in just two weeks with two purposes: to help those in need and to set a good example for others in our community."

"This year in particular, Samaritan House is anticipating an increase in requests for food assistance due to SNAP funding cuts resulting from sequester reductions," adds Patty

Hsiu, Samaritan House Board of Directors President. “The annual San Mateo High School Food Drive is an extraordinary effort by students to raise money and collect food. The SMHS Bearcat spirit is legendary, and we are thrilled that each year students focus their legendary spirit and energy on this community effort. Samaritan House is extremely grateful for all the planning, dedication, and organization of the students every year!”

Community members who wish to donate may bring their canned food or monetary donations directly to San Mateo High School, located at 506 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo, weekdays from 7:45 am -3:15 pm. Monetary donations are tax-deductible and checks should be made out to “Samaritan House.” Donations can also be made through the “Virtual Food Drive” at the Second Harvest Website - [www.shfb.org/donateonline](http://www.shfb.org/donateonline).

After-school hours and weekends, students will be collecting donations at local supermarkets throughout the Peninsula from San Bruno to Palo Alto. For more information about ways to donate in-person or online, contact San Mateo High School’s Community Service Commissioners at [smhs.communityservice@gmail.com](mailto:smhs.communityservice@gmail.com).

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**SAMARITAN HOUSE – NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR (Tax ID 23-7416272)  
4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403**

Since 1974, Samaritan House has been helping families regain self-sufficiency. Working with city and county governments, civic, religious, and school organizations, and over 2,000 volunteers, we provide bilingual counseling and case management, food, clothing for children, healthcare, rental assistance, shelter for the homeless, worker resources, and holiday assistance, all free of charge.

[www.samaritanhousesanmateo.org](http://www.samaritanhousesanmateo.org)

**SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL  
506 North Delaware Street, San Mateo, CA 94401**

San Mateo High School is deeply involved in its community through many programs and educational services, including our Biotechnology Career Pathway, San Mateo Adult Resources Technology (SMART) Center, and San Mateo Performing Arts Center, Blood Drive, Volunteer Fair, and *World's Largest* Canned Food Drive.

<http://www.sanmateohigh.org>