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A Regional Agency of
Catholic Charities

A Member of
FEEDING AMERICA™

TO: News Editors
DATE: April 6, 2009
CONTACT: Melissa Smith, Community & Public Relations Manager
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RE: Food Bank of the Southern Tier Receives National Recognition for Model Senior Hunger Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Elmira, NY – The Food Bank of the Southern Tier announces that it is the 2009 recipient of the Model Senior Hunger Program of the Year award from Feeding America. Accompanying the award was a cash gift in the amount of \$1,428.57 designated to support the Food Bank’s senior hunger initiative.

This marks the first year that Feeding America honors a member food bank with the Model Senior Hunger Program of the Year award. This award recognizes an outstanding local program that successfully increases capacity, effectiveness, efficiency and quality in serving seniors at risk of hunger. The winning program or campaign also contains elements that can be replicated by other member food banks.

The Food Bank’s senior hunger initiative is committed to providing hunger-relief for seniors in need. The senior component of the Mobile Food Pantry Program is designed to distribute fresh produce, dairy products, and other food and grocery products directly to seniors who need food. The food is fresh and nutritious, which is beneficial for good health.

“What makes this program unique is that a volunteer accompanies each senior through the line to help carry the food items back to the senior’s apartment and right into their kitchen—which prevents seniors from forgoing food because they cannot carry it,” said Vicki Escarra, President and CEO of Feeding America. “Our network strives to create ways that better serve the most vulnerable of our population.”

The Mobile Food Pantry Program has also enabled the food bank to significantly increase its overall perishable foods distribution. In 2008, the food bank’s distribution to seniors increased by 46 percent because of the program.

About the Food Bank

In operation since 1981, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier distributes food and food-related products to people in need through a network of more than 180 hunger-relief agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other non-profit organizations. The Food Bank also has a number of programs that fight hunger including the Backpack Program™ and Mobile Food Pantry. Located in Elmira, NY it is a regional agency of Catholic Charities and one of eight Feeding America affiliate Food Banks in New York State serving the six counties of Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga and Steuben.

To learn more about the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and how you can support local hunger-relief efforts, visit the Food Bank’s website at www.foodbankst.org or call 607-796-6061.

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