

Next distribution Dec. 20

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Hungry helped by new Food Bank program

Food Banks

By Bob Teeter

(here) the same kinds of services that are available outside the area."

Most recipients are senior citizens, he said.

The food is available to anyone making less than 150 percent of

poverty income.

San Lorenzo Valley's needy are getting new help from Food and Nutrition Services.

The countywide non-profit organization through a division, Santa Cruz Food Bank, began distributing government surplus cheese, butter and honey from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at St. John's Catholic Church, Felton.

The Food Bank and volunteers from St. John's, St. Michael's Catholic and St. Andrew's Episcopal churches hope to make the event monthly, the next distribution being Dec. 20 at St. Michael's, 13005 Pine St, Boulder Creek. In the future, they may distribute flour, corn meal and dry milk as well.

"Instead of having to go to Santa Cruz, they can come right here," said Annette Marcum, a volunteer from St. Andrew's Outreach.

"This is the first time the San Lorenzo Valley has had access to this program," Supervisor Joe Cucchiara said. "For the past couple of years, I've been pushing to bring



Lewis Alcorn delivers food to Roger Childress of Boulder Creek.

Photos by Chip Scheuer

John Werner, one of those who came out at the first distribution, figures he will make about \$5,000 this year. He was laid off from the SLV School District and is trying to start a wholesale jewelry business.

Werner said he saw a poster at the laundromat, "and I decided I qualify."

The service is for people just like Werner.

Since the food is government surplus, "we as taxpayers have paid for this already," said Jane Wade of Food Bank. "They should see this as something they own, not something grudgingly given. . . A few years ago, Reagan was talking about dumping this in the ocean."

Local programs are becoming necessary because of cutbacks in federal revenue sharing money, which supports similar projects, Cucchiara said.

"It has a specialness no government program can match," he said.

Home-Delivered Meals, another division of Food and Nutrition Services, serves housebound senior citizens and handicapped residents six days a week.

One of those is Roger Childress,

a Boulder Creek paraplegic. Childress lost the use of his legs in January 1983, when his wife accidentally shot him, he said. Since his wife left him, he has lived alone dependent on Social Security and Home-Delivered Meals.

"Without meals on wheels I wouldn't have anything," he said. "There's somebody here who can check on me. . . If something happens, at least you know somebody's going to come by."

Recently, for example, Childress had a broken leg and no telephone for two days. The meals program was his only outside link.

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