



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Dennis Mochon
Public Information Officer
Office: 925-455-7558
Email: dmochon@lavta.org

4,260 lbs of Food Donated to Local Food Pantries at Wheels Annual “Stuff-A-Bus” Holiday Food Drive

LIVERMORE, Calif., December 9, 2014 – Tri-Valley residents were extremely generous, donating over two tons of food at the Saturday, December 6th Wheels “Stuff-A-Bus” holiday food drive. The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), operator of the Wheels bus system in the Tri-Valley, hosted its annual “Stuff-A-Bus” holiday food drive in support of the Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry. This year, Safeway Supermarkets hopped on board to promote the holiday food drive at three of its Tri-Valley stores. Wheels bus drivers and other volunteers collected non-perishable food donations to help bring good cheer to families this holiday season.

““We are pleased and deeply thankful for the generosity of Tri-Valley shoppers during this holiday season. Impacts to families due to economic hardship can happen anywhere and anytime. The generous donations to support our neighbors is truly heartwarming.” said Chair of the LAVTA Board and Alameda County Supervisor, Scott Haggerty.

“The donations from the food drive will help over 3,000 people at our agencies this holiday season, and for months to come. It’s wonderful to have Wheels and Safeway partnering together to make a difference for those in need in the Tri-Valley,” said Ann King, Executive Director, Tri-Valley Haven and Linda McKeever, Executive Director, Open Heart Kitchen.

Safeway provided \$10 food donation bags at their stores and donated 100 turkeys as their contribution to the food drive. Safeway’s Public & Government Affairs Director, Keith Turner, said “In partnering with the Wheels’ for their annual ‘Stuff-A-Bus’ event, we helped ensure that all donations collected at Safeway that day go to the two local food pantries, helping serve those in need in the Tri-Valley.” Safeway also provided 20 gift cards for prizes as part of radio station’s KKIQ livecast at the Livermore Safeway location. Participants there spun a prize wheel for the gift cards, Wheels bus passes and other items.

Wheels “Stuff-A-Bus” food drive is an annual event, and this years’ collection of over two tons of food exceeded all expectations and was the most food collected in the history of the food drive.

For more information on Wheels, visit www.wheelsbus.com.



Above: Volunteers moving the turkeys onto the bus. Included in the photo: Keith Turner (Safeway), Christy Wegener (LAVTA), Linda McKeever (Open Heart Kitchen), John Marchand (Mayor of Livermore), Scott Haggerty (Alameda County Supervisor), Ralph Johnson (Tri-Valley Haven), Wendy Gutshall (Safeway), Gregg Eisenberg (Wheels).



Above: Food collected onboard the Wheels bus at the Livermore location.

About the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) is the provider of the Wheels fixed bus routes and paratransit service in the Tri Valley area. Wheels was founded in 1985 by the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton and Alameda County to serve the community's transit needs and interests. Wheels mission is to provide equal access to a variety of safe, customer oriented, reliable, and affordable public transportation choices, increasing the mobility and improving the quality of life of those who live, work in or visit the Tri Valley.

Wheels supports environmental sustainability by eliminating thousands of car trips off local roads, easing traffic congestion and helping to keep the air clean in Tri-Valley. We are able to continually provide services through the support of federal, state and local funding, including Alameda County's Measure B. Wheels serves nearly 2 million customers a year with our Wheels fixed bus routes and our paratransit services.

Follow LAVTA on Twitter @wheelsbus and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wheelsbus or visit our webpage www.wheelsbus.com for more information.

###