

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
INSERT DATE

**Media contact:** INSERT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

**Personal Income Tax Refunds Offer Opportunity for Californians to Help Struggling Neighbors**

*INSERT YOUR CITY* – Tax season is here, and San Franciscans/Angelenos/etc. can use their personal income tax refund to refuel the hungry in their community. California allows taxpayers to make a voluntary, tax-deductible contribution to the Emergency Food for Families Fund in the “Contributions” section of their state tax return. In 2017, almost 20,000 Californians checked off the Voluntary Contribution box on the state tax form 540, raising over $362,262.

The Emergency Food for Families Fund was established in 1998 to support California food banks. Since that time, the fund has raised millions of dollars. The program uses an existing infrastructure managed by the California Department of Social Services to efficiently distribute the tax check-off contributions and federal disaster food to all 58 counties.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FOOD BANK

INSERT A OF COUPLE SENTENCES ON HUNGER FACTS FOR YOUR COUNTY OR CITY THAT ILLUSTRATE THE NEED AND HOW FUNDS HELP FEED PEOPLE

It’s easy for taxpayers to participate in the program. On the California Income Tax Form 540, there is a line labeled Emergency Food for Families Fund under Voluntary Contributions. People can write in any amount greater than one dollar that they wish to donate. If the state owes the taxpayer money, the contribution will be deducted from the refund. If taxes are owed, the taxpayer simply adds the desired donation amount to their check payable to the State. People who employ someone to prepare their taxes are encouraged to instruct the preparer to include a donation to the Emergency Food for Families Fund.

INSERT A CLOSING QUOTE (OPTIONAL BUT A GOOD SPOT TO HIGHLIGHT A PROMINENT BOARD MEMBER)

About FOOD BANK
INSERT YOUR BOILERPLATE

# # #