

For Immediate Release  
November 2, 2009

## **Tarrant County employees to deliver Thanksgiving early to Tarrant Area Food Bank**

**Turkey donation grows to 53,000 pounds, or 5,300 birds**

***Mounted Tarrant County Sheriff's Deputies to escort turkey truck***

***Sign-waving attorneys, protesting turkey to meet truck at Food Bank***

**VISUALS:** Mounted sheriff's deputies, with Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector Betsy Price riding shotgun in the truck, escort Turkey Valley Farms 18-wheeler two blocks; protesting turkey carries sign, "Eat more ham!"; sign-waving attorneys meet truck at Food Bank; "bucket brigade" of Tarrant County employees and officials unload cases of turkeys into Food Bank warehouse.

**WHAT:** The greatest number of turkeys ever donated to Tarrant Area Food Bank by any one community organization is delivered in time to distribute to hunger-relief charities preparing Thanksgiving food baskets. For the fifth annual Tarrant County Turkey Challenge, county employees are donating approximately 5,300 turkeys and delivering them with fanfare. The original estimate of how many turkeys the employees' contributions could purchase was 4,000.

**WHEN/WHERE:** Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 in Fort Worth.

Between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m.:

Caravan begins at Henderson and Cullen Street, 76107 and proceeds west on Cullen St. for two blocks to Tarrant Area Food Bank, 2600 Cullen St.

10 a.m.: Bucket brigade of Tarrant County employees to off-load cases of frozen turkeys from truck to Food Bank warehouse at 2600 Cullen St., Fort Worth 76107.

**WHO:** Turkey protester

Elected Tarrant County Officials:

Commissioners Roy Brooks, Gary Fickes and Marti Van Ravenswaay

County Clerk Suzanne Henderson

County District Clerk Tom Wilder

County Tax Assessor-Collector Betsy Price

Tarrant County employees who participated in Turkey Challenge

Ann Farmer, Tarrant County Community Resource Coordinator

Bo Soderbergh, Executive Director, Tarrant Area Food Bank

**WHY:** The food pantries and other hunger-relief charities that depend on Tarrant Area Food Bank for much of the food they provide have reported a 20 percent increase in the demand for food assistance over the past year. These same charities expect to need to provide a corresponding number of Thanksgiving dinners this year.

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