March 2008

Faculty, staff and students still have time to contribute items to UA4Food, The University of Arizona's annual food drive. Collections of food to support the Community Food Bank's child hunger and nutrition programs will continue through April 4.

During the last two years, the UA community has contributed more than $70,000 and 20,000 pounds of food to the food bank’s Snak Paks for Kids program through UA4Food. This year, food and money collected during the UA4Food campaign also will benefit the food bank's Kids CafÂ© and Summer Meals programs.

The Snak Paks program helps children who receive reduced-cost school lunches by filling backpacks with nutritious snacks every Friday so they don't go hungry over the weekend.

"There are over 50,000 children in Pima County who are living below the poverty level and are hungry. Without adequate nutrition their chance of success at school is dramatically compromised," said Holly Altman, outreach coordinator for the UA Office of Community Relations. "We want them to be future Wildcats, and if they are so hungry they can't focus on their schoolwork, they don't have a chance."

Food and monetary contributions can be made at several drop-off locations across campus. While all nonperishable packaged foods are welcome, items that are nutritious and costly for the food bank to purchase, such as peanut butter, canned meats and canned vegetables, are recommended.

A list of donation locations, as well as the Community Food Bank's virtual giving center, can be found at the UA4Food Web site.

Another upcoming UA4Food event is the annual Spring Fling food drive April 10-13 at Rillito Downs.

For more information, visit UA4Food online or contact Altman at 626-4671.