



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feeding San Diego Expands School Pantry Program to South Bay *Nicoloff School Launches Food Program for Students and Families*

SAN DIEGO — As students get settled in to a new year at Nicoloff School, they will have a free resource to keep their bodies and minds nourished. Feeding San Diego and the South Bay Union School District are celebrating the district's newest school pantry, serving between 200 and 260 families every other week.

Feeding San Diego's school pantry program provides critical support for students and their families to make sure they are getting the nutrition they need to live healthy and productive lives. One in six children in San Diego County, or more than 125,000 kids face hunger.

"Our commitment is to make sure that every child who goes to school in San Diego has a full stomach and is ready to learn," said Vince Hall, CEO of Feeding San Diego. "Kids who are hungry have significantly lower math scores, experience developmental impairments in language and motor skills, have more social and behavioral problems, and are less prepared to join the workforce when they're adults. We fail our future when we allow hunger to exist."

"Our district is deeply concerned about ensuring that our students and families have proper nutrition" said South Bay Superintendent Katie McNamara. "We are delighted to partner with Feeding San Diego on this initiative to provide healthy meals and fresh produce to our community."

"My first responsibility is to ensure that all students at Nicoloff reach their full potential," said Principal Marla Fernandez. "The School Pantry Program provides easy and routine access to nutritious food for our entire community."

Members of the media are invited to attend a food distribution at Nicoloff on **Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 9am – 10am**. Available for interview are:

- Dr. Katie McNamara, Superintendent, South Bay Union School District
- Marla Fernandez, Principal, Nicoloff School
- Vince Hall, CEO, Feeding San Diego
- Volunteers and families of students

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ABOUT FEEDING SAN DIEGO

Feeding San Diego is the leading hunger-relief organization in the County, distributing healthy food with dignity to San Diego residents facing hunger. It is the only Feeding America affiliate in the region, and has been innovating logistical, technological, and relationship-building models since 2007.

ABOUT SOUTH BAY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

The award winning South Bay Union School District proudly serves over 7,500 students in Imperial Beach, San Ysidro, and south San Diego. The District is comprised of twelve campuses, including nine K-6 schools, two K-8 charter schools, and one Preschool. South Bay offers several specialized programs including Dual Language, Instrumental Music, Leader in Me, No Excuses University, Visual and Performing Arts, and a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Academy.