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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Escambia and Santa Rosa Letter Carriers Celebrate the 24th Annual *Stamp Out Hunger* Food Drive

Pensacola, Florida (May 4, 2016)-On Saturday, May 14, 2016, Escambia and Santa Rosa Letter Carriers will once again join forces to help *Stamp Out Hunger* in our community. In its 24th year, the annual food drive has grown to be the largest national single-day effort that benefits millions of Americans who struggle to put food on the table.

Residents are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag of non-perishable foods, such as canned soups, fruits, vegetables, or meat, dried pasta, rice, beans and cereal next to their mailbox prior to their regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 14. Escambia and Santa Rosa letter carriers will collect food donations for five local organizations including: ACTS Ministry of Holley Assembly of God in Gulf Breeze, We Care Ministries of Navarre United Methodist Church in Navarre, Feeding The Gulf Coast (formerly Bay Area Food Bank) in Pace and Milton, Warrington Emergency Aid Center and Manna Food Pantries. Last year, their organizations received a total of 186,804 pounds of food from the community during the food drive.

"I would like to thank everyone in our community who donates food, our volunteers, local businesses, and especially Publix Supermarkets for providing the food drive bags," said Phillip Skipper, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Northwest Florida Branch 321. "Please give generously this year, so we can help provide food to those who are less fortunate."

Despite generous support, the need is still great in our community. Last year, Manna Food Pantries helped a total of 20,303 individuals through all of their pantries and programs in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Of those, 34 percent were children. "This is such an important food drive because it comes at a time when donations are typically low and the need has increased," said DeDe Flounlacker, Manna Food Pantries' Executive Director. "During the school year, many children get a healthy meal through the free or reduced breakfast and lunch programs. During the summer, those programs aren't available. The donations from Stamp Out Hunger allow us to provide nutritious food to hungry families and children throughout the summer months."

Last year, Feeding the Gulf Coast was able to provide nearly 27,000 meals to the hungry through their partner agencies because of Stamp Out Hunger. "We are very grateful to the National Association of Letter Carriers and the individuals who donate food through Stamp Out Hunger in our community," said Dani Roberts, Feeding The Gulf Coast's Agency Relations and Food Drive Manager. "We wouldn't be able to have the impact on those in need in our community without the generous donations from this food drive."

For more information about the annual *Stamp Out Hunger* food drive visit www.helpstampouthunger.com or www.facebook.com/StampOutHunger, and follow the drive at www.twitter.com/StampOutHunger.

United Way of Escambia County, United States Postal Service, National Association of Letter Carriers, Feeding America, Publix, AARP, Valpak, National Rural Letter Carriers Association, AFL-CIO, Valassis Communications and Uncle Bob's Self Storage are supporting the drive this year.

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