

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2009

Contact: Jennifer Jones
Marketing Coordinator
jjones@starhop.com
(603) 271-7827 x110

NH Food Bank Campaign Inspires a Local Boy's Call to Action

CONCORD, NH – A recent report issued on the NH Food Bank's critical food shortage this summer sparked the initiative of 12-year-old Patrick Regan of Merrimack, NH, creating Patrick's Super Food Bank Project.

The goal to collect food and help the Food Bank was brought to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center by Patrick's mother, Kathleen Regan, director of development at the Discovery Center. What began as a staff project has been expanded and opened to the public. "My son, Patrick, saw a feature story on WMUR-TV about the shortage of food at the NH Food Bank and that the supply was at its lowest in 25 years," said Regan. "The segment scanned all the shelves and they were empty. Patrick got very upset about kids not having food, asking, 'How will the children get food to eat?' He jumped up, ran to the table and started making a poster showing pictures with kids saying 'I need food', the Food Bank saying 'we're out of food' and Patrick saying 'I have food for you' and 'give food, you can make a difference'."

The segment inspired Patrick to make a colorful collection box. His mother decided to bring it to the Discovery Center and ask coworkers to help Patrick's cause. The project has taken off with tremendous success. "I have always told [Patrick] that one person can truly make a difference," said Regan. "We hope that lots of people visiting the Discovery Center will make a difference too."

A collection box is now located inside the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center by the front desk. Each visitor who participates in Patrick's Super Food Bank Project by bringing in a nonperishable food item to the Discovery Center during the month of September will receive \$1 off the general admission fee. And if a visitor brings in two items, the visitor will also receive a discount on Discovery Center Science Store purchases.

The NH Food Bank's mission is to feed hungry people by soliciting and effectively distributing grocery products, foods, and services through a statewide network of approved agencies; by advocating for systemic change; and by educating the public about the nature of, and solutions to, problems of hunger in New Hampshire. For more information on the NH Food Bank, visit www.nhfoodbank.org.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a lively science center, featuring 21st century interactive exhibits on aviation, astronomy, and Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium, and a variety of science, technology, engineering and math programs.

The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners. For a full schedule of programming, visit www.starhop.com.

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