



Pictured, Left to Right: **Carl Hansen**, SLO County Foodbank Executive Director, **Erik Talkin**, SB County Foodbank Executive Director, **Linda Van Dyke**, CoastHills Executive Assistant and Rancho Vino Event Coordinator, **Scott Coe**, CoastHills SVP Marketing and SB County Foodbank Board Chairman, and **Jeff York**, CoastHills President/CEO.

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CoastHills Foundation's 'Rancho Vino' Nets \$33,000 for Food Banks

CENTRAL COAST -The CoastHills Community Foundation raised \$33,000 at the Rancho Vino food, wine and entertainment event Sept. 20, the second annual event to help local food banks feed hungry children

More than 220 people attended the fundraiser at Rancho Miranda in Santa Maria, with proceeds from ticket sales and auction bids to be shared equally between the food banks of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties for the Backpack Program they sponsor in partnership with local public schools.

The Backpack Program, which began in 2006, provides backpacks full of nutritious food for children who are homeless or living in transient housing to eat on weekends. It takes \$500 per school year to fund one child, with half the cost coming from foundation grants that must be matched by the local community.

During the school year, the children receive free lunches and snacks during the school day, but often go hungry when school lets out Friday afternoons and until it resumes Monday mornings.

Every Thursday, volunteers fill hundreds of backpacks with ready-to-eat, healthy foods such as peanut butter, fresh fruit, bottled water, pop-top cans of tuna and other easy-to-prepare meals. The children take the backpacks home and enjoy six healthy meals over the weekend. They bring them back on Monday to be refilled for the following weekend,

“It’s an honor for our organization, and a tribute to the community, to see so much support for the food banks’ efforts to help people – especially young children - who need it the most,” said Scott Coe, CoastHills’ VP of Marketing and chair of the Santa Barbara County Food Bank Board of Directors. “We are extremely grateful to all the donors who made this significant contribution possible.”

For more information about the Backpack Program in Santa Barbara County, go online to foodbanksbc.org, or in San Luis Obispo County, slofoodbank.org.

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