PRESS RELEASE

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett Launches Nutrition Gap Program in South County

Formal launch event set for Wednesday, October 14 at 1:00 PM
at Ruby's Diner located in San Clemente Outlets
101 W Avenida Vista Hermosa, San Clemente, CA 92672

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pauline Colvin
Tel: (714) 474-1781
Pauline.Colvin@ocgov.com

_____

ORANGE COUNTY, CA (October 7, 2020) – Seeing food insecurity as a major challenge for many members of her district's most vulnerable population, Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett recently launched the Fifth District's COVID-19 Nutrition Gap Program (NGP).

The program serves seniors age 55 and older, individuals with a disability and military veterans, regardless of age. It is designed to provide bi-weekly deliveries of food boxes to participants in the program.

"COVID-19 has made it extremely difficult for our seniors, veterans and disabled residents to keep food on the table," said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District. "Some are afraid to go to the grocery store for fear of catching COVID, or simply don't have the means necessary to get there." she continued. "That is why it was so important this program include a delivery service, so we can bring food directly to them," she said.

Each food box contains groceries, fresh produce and prepared meals provided by Second Harvest Food Bank, and Ruby's Diner located in the Outlets at San Clemente.

"No one should face a hunger crisis on top of the COVID-19 crisis, especially those who are most vulnerable. We are humbled to partner on this important project designed to address nutrition gaps by delivering meals to those in need" Harald Herrmann, CEO Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

A special launch event for the program is set for Oct. 14 at 1:00 PM at Ruby's Diner located in the San Clemente Outlets at 101 West Avenida Vista Hermosa, San Clemente.

"Ruby's is delighted to participate in such a meaningful program that helps those in need during these unprecedented times," said Steve Craig, President and CEO of Craig Realty Group and Ruby's franchise owner.

The program will be administered by 2-1-1 Orange County who will coordinate participant registration, food assembly and delivery.

"2-1-1 is grateful for the opportunity to administer this program on behalf of Supervisor Bartlett and look forward to helping those who qualify, sign up and get the support they need," said 2-1-1 Orange County President and CEO Karen Williams.

The program is funded through the federal CARES Act program. To qualify, district residents must not be receiving assistance from other state or federal program, such as CalFresh, Title III-C of the Older Americas Act (Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals), the Great Plates Delivered Program, and others.

Priority will be given to individuals experiencing food insecurity due to age and/or disability, economic status, lack of familial or community support, lack of access to available resources, and who have military service.

Participants must reside in District 5 cities (Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Irvine (portion of), Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and the unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Emerald Bay, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores Rancho Mission Viejo, Stonecliffe, and Wagon Wheel.)

Prospective participants will self-certify eligibility for the program. To check eligibility and to register, please visit https://fdngp.211oc.org or call 2-1-1. You can also text your zip code to 898211.

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett represents the Fifth Supervisorial District which includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Irvine (portion of), Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, as well as the unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Emerald Bay, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo, Stonecliffe and Wagon Wheel