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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Big Boy Restaurants and Area Boy Scouts Kick Off the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual “Operation Can Do” Food Drive on November 6**

(Warren, Mich.) — October 15, 2004 — Among emergency food providers and distribution agencies like the Hunger Action Coalition, it’s called being “food insecure” – but what it *really* means is many adults and children in Michigan are hungry. About one million people in Michigan are considered food insecure and food distribution agencies have reported a 15-20 percent increase in the number of people they serve compared to last year. To help combat this dire situation Big Boy Restaurants International LLC, WXYZ-TV, the Hunger Action Coalition and the Detroit Area Boy Scouts are teaming up for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual **Operation Can Do** food drive to feed the area’s hungry. On **Saturday, November 6**, local Boy Scouts will kick off Operation Can Do with the Scouting for Food event.

Scouting for Food begins November 6 when hundreds of local Boy Scouts go door-to-door leaving empty **Operation Can Do** collection bags at homes throughout metro Detroit. Residents are urged to fill the bags with non-perishable food in canned, boxed or plastic containers, which will go to needy Michigan families.

The following **Saturday, November 13**, the Boy Scouts will return to those homes, collecting the bags of non-perishable food donations left by residents. People donating food on the November 6 Scouting for Food event are encouraged to have their bags outside by 8 a.m. that morning.

**After November 13** the public can continue to contribute to Operation Can Do by dropping off non-perishable food donations to area **Big Boy Restaurants through December 31.**

To help meet the demand for emergency food last year, Big Boy Restaurants collected 265 tons of food donated by the public, which fed 1.5 million people in the metro Detroit area. Since Operation Can Do’s inception in 1978, close to **eight million pounds of food** have been donated at Big Boy Restaurants through this successful program. The need continues for thousands of Michigan families who depend on the food donated by a generous public during Operation Can Do.

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Big Boy Restaurants/Operation Can Do  
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“Through **Operation Can Do** and Scouting for Food, Big Boy Restaurants have collected an enormous amount of food for the disadvantaged,” said Tony Michaels, CEO of Big Boy Restaurants International LLC. “We wish the need for emergency food didn’t continue each year. But with the help of the public we can help to fight hunger and feed many Michigan families this holiday season.”

“Due to the economy and loss of jobs, Operation Can Do is important this year,” said Genevieve Clark, director of the Hunger Action Coalition. “Neighbors have to look out for neighbors. If we all pull together we can make this happen.”

All food donations collected at Big Boy Restaurants during **Operation Can Do** are given to the Hunger Action Coalition, which distributes the food to more than 400 faith-based, nonprofit and public agencies. Each organization receives a minimum of one pallet, approximately 40 boxes, to supplement their food programs.

Since frozen and perishable goods cannot be accepted due to shipping and storage restrictions, **Operation Can Do** asks that donations are limited to food items in original canned, boxed or plastic packages. For more information, contact Big Boy Restaurants at (586) 755-8125.

**Operation Can Do** is sponsored by Big Boy Restaurants International LLC, WXYZ-TV, the Hunger Action Coalition, Detroit Area Boy Scouts and with major support from Reinhart FoodService. **Operation Can Do** will continue through the entire holiday season, ending on New Year’s Eve.

**Editor’s Note:** The food collected by the Boy Scouts during Scouting for Food on November 13 will be transported to Metrolink Foodbank in Detroit, which stores the collected food until it is distributed by the Hunger Action Coalition.

The donated food will be distributed to area food providers on November 19-20, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. This distribution will only be for food agencies that have already scheduled an appointment. To apply for an appointment write a letter to the Hunger Action Coalition at 2727 Second Ave., Ste. 109, Detroit, MI 48201. For more information or to volunteer for the Hunger Action Coalition contact Genevieve Clark, director, at (313) 962-0677 or [hac-michigan@aol.com](mailto:hac-michigan@aol.com).

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