



OPERATION

Can Do!



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big Boy Restaurants, Detroit Area and Clinton Valley Councils of the Boy Scouts of America to Kick Off the 28th Annual Operation Can Do Food Drive November 5

(Warren, Mich.) — October 18, 2005 — According to the Hunger Action Coalition, many working families in Michigan face a tough choice every day: paying for food or utilities. As a result, nearly one million Michigan residents are hungry and considered food insecure. Within the last year, food distribution agencies have reported a large increase in the number of people served.

To combat this dire situation Big Boy Restaurants International LLC, WXYZ-TV, the Hunger Action Coalition and the Detroit Area and Clinton Valley Councils of the Boy Scouts of America are teaming up for the 28th annual **Operation Can Do** food drive to feed the area's hungry. On **Saturday, November 5**, local Boy Scouts will kick off Operation Can Do with the Scouting for Food event.

Scouting for Food begins November 5 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 12**, the Boy Scouts will return to those homes between 8 and 10 a.m. to collect the bags of non-perishable food donations left by residents. People donating food are encouraged to have their bags outside by 8 a.m. that morning.

After November 12, 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.**

-More-

**One Big Boy Drive, Warren, MI 48091-5628
(586) 759-6000**

To help meet the demand for emergency food last year, Big Boy Restaurants collected 215 tons of food donated by the public, which provided 1.2 million meals to 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.

"This year, in particular, the generous hearts of metro Detroiters have been on display," said Tony Michaels, CEO of Big Boy Restaurants International LLC. "Now more than ever we are asking the public to continue helping our neighbors who are in need," he added.

A portion of the 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. The rest of the food collected during Operation Can Do is given to food banks and emergency food providers in Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties.

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, and the Detroit Area and Clinton Valley Councils of the Boy Scouts with major support from Reinhart FoodService. **Operation Can Do** will continue through the entire holiday season, ending on New Year's Eve.

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