



Land Donation to Feed Homeless

Land from Kendall Farms, Fallbrook is to grow fresh produce for needy.

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The Temecula Murrieta Rescue Mission, a partnership between Rancho Community Church in Temecula, and the Orange County Rescue Mission, has gained a new ally in the fight against homelessness and hunger in the Southland.

Kendall Farms, a grower of organic flowers for wholesale located in Fallbrook, has donated two acres of certified organic land to be planted with organic produce that will serve homeless and impoverished families throughout the Inland Empire and Orange County.

Every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. volunteers are needed to help tend the land by planting seeds, pulling weeds and eventually harvesting the crop for distribution. The first crop includes organic potatoes, corn, zucchini, tomatoes, red onions, peppers and watermelon which will help feed families in crisis served by the Temecula Murrieta Rescue Mission and its partners.

Volunteers are laying drip irrigation line and preparing two acres of land donated by Kendall Farms, Fallbrook to begin growing fresh produce to feed the homeless and fight hunger in the Southland.

"This is a tremendous gift from Kendall Farms that will have a positive impact on the lives of so many families in crisis," says Jim Palmer, President of the Orange County Rescue Mission and the Temecula Murrieta Rescue Mission. "The recession has caused a dramatic increase in the amount of homeless and hungry in our community that need assistance in order to provide for their families."

"We are constantly looking for new sources to contribute the food we need to help those that need it most," adds Palmer. "This land will yield fresh produce that will help meet the basic needs of those in crisis now, and for years to come."



The Mission began distributing food boxes to hungry and homeless families on March 25, 2009. With support from Rancho Community Church, the Mission has distributed food boxes each week, providing 50,350 meals to 1,007 hungry families in just two months. May 20th, 2009 marked the first time the mission had to deny a family when the food box supply ran out, making the Kendall Farms gift an essential component to meeting the ever-growing need.

In business for more than 20 years, Kendall Farms nearly lost its entire perennial crop when the farm was devastated by the Rice Canyon fire in 2007.

"Kendall Farms is a member of this community and we are very aware of the daily struggle our friends and neighbors are having during this recession," says Troy Conner, General Manager of Kendall Farms and member of Rancho Community Church. "Providing healthy land capable of producing fresh food to help families get through these difficult times is something we are very proud and honored to do."

In addition to donating the acreage, Kendall Farms provided the techniques to prepare the land for commercial farming including tilling and fertilization of the soil, irrigation and consultation with commercial organic farmers in the region for guidance.

To make a donation or volunteer call (951) 526-1200 or visit www.RescueMissionTM.org.
