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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Local Governments Collect More than 18,000 Pounds of Food for ECHO Food Bank

AZTEC, NM—A friendly food drive competition between local governmental organizations has collected 18,231 pounds of food for the ECHO Food Bank, to be distributed to families in need in San Juan County.

The City of Aztec, City of Bloomfield, City of Farmington, and San Juan County all competed in the annual ECHO Food Drive Challenge. To keep the competition fair, the amount of food collected is converted into a per-employee weight. The City of Bloomfield was presented with the coveted Mr. Potato Head Trophy, reclaiming it after San Juan County took the title in 2022. Bloomfield employees collected 26.16 pounds of food per person.

The Food Drive Challenge brings in more food than any other food drive for ECHO Food Bank. Over the last 14 years, there has been almost 115 tons (229,597.69 pounds) of food collected by local government employees.

ECHO Food Bank is always accepting donations, especially items for holiday food boxes. In general, ECHO needs soups, stews, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, items that are complete meals/main dishes and canned meats, and in this season, holiday meal items. Donations may be dropped off at 401 S. Commercial Ave. in Farmington. More information about needed items is online at EchoInc.org.

City of Aztec- 371 pounds collected- 3.64 pounds per employee with 102 employees.

City of Bloomfield- 2,067.00 pounds collected- 26.16 pounds per employee with 79 employees.

City of Farmington- 1,973 pounds collected- 2.57 pounds per employee with 767 employees.

San Juan County- 13,820 pounds collected- 24.46 pounds per employee with 565 employees.

Overall, 2023 total- 18,231.5 pounds collected- 12.05 pounds per employee with 1,513 combined employees.