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For Immediate Release

Jewish Family Service and Whole Foods Del Mar Raise Over \$15,000

Proceeds will benefit the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry at JFS

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San Diego, CA -- Jewish Family Service (JFS) and Whole Foods Del Mar teamed up this November to raise vital funds for the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry. Through the extraordinary efforts of Whole Foods Del Mar staff members and the generosity of its customers, the campaign raised more than \$15,000.

Whole Foods customers were able to donate at the register or online while ordering their holiday meals. This year, Whole Foods Del Mar raised more than twice the original goal of \$7,000. With this donation, the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry at JFS can provide more than 70,000 meals to San Diegans facing hunger this holiday season.

“Time and time again, we find that collaborating with other organizations produces bigger results than we could ever achieve alone. This was such a positive and rewarding partnership with Whole Foods Del Mar,” said Michael Hopkins, CEO of JFS. “The support of the Whole Foods Del Mar staff and its customers means so much to us and the thousands of military families, older adults, refugees, single parents, homeless individuals, and families in crisis who are served by our food pantry each year.”

Feeding America San Diego’s “Hunger in America” study shows that of the 473,500 San Diego County residents who seek emergency food every year, 26% are under the age of 18, 64% live in households in which at least one member worked during the previous year, and 27% live in households that include at least one member who is serving or has served in the military. By providing more lean meats, low-fat dairy, and fresh fruits and vegetables, the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry helps individuals and families access the nutrition they need to be good students, healthy and productive workers, and engaged members of our San Diego community.

For more information, to donate, or to volunteer with the *Hand Up* Youth Food Pantry at JFS, please visit www.jfssd.org/handup.

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About Jewish Family Service

Since 1918, Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been a trusted community resource for individuals and families in times of need. Our wide range of integrated services *Move Families & Individuals Toward Self-Sufficiency*, *Support Aging With Dignity*, and *Foster Community Connection & Engagement* throughout San Diego County and the Coachella Valley. Many people turn to Jewish Family Service with a specific need, such as hunger. But what begins with one service often leads to a much larger scope of support, including counseling, education, job coaching, transportation, and more. Our message to every person who turns to Jewish Family Service in search of a better life is: WE'RE WITH YOU. To learn how JFS transforms lives in our community, visit www.jfssd.org.