ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE IS MARCH 3

“The desperate nature of hunger” and the effects of the downturn in our economy are now more acute than ever, Cynthia Chevalley told the audience at the February 13 SBCO General meeting.

Volunteers at the Food Bank in Mammoth have begun seeing a change in the children who visit the Food Bank with their parents, she said. Where most of the children once chatted, skipped, and played while waiting for their parents, they now seem quiet and dispirited. In addition, the once-monthly food boxes don’t seem to go as far as they once did; she described an embarrassed couple who came to the Food Bank, reluctant to ask for more food but who simply had no more food for the month. With the cold weather, some visitors linger in the thrift shop because it is just too cold at home. These are realities and challenges for the Tri-Community Food Bank, which is stretching hard to feed the nearly 1,000 persons each month who need their help. The 373 food boxes given out each month only supply about 3 days of food for approximately 985 people each month. Food is a primary need for children and their families, Cynthia said. Volunteers are always needed at the Food Bank, which is open from 9am to noon Monday through Thursday, and on Saturdays.

The Annual SaddleBrooke Community Outreach Food drive helps fill the Food Bank’s shelves for about 2 months, adding much needed food and goods. Cynthia also noted the help from SaddleBrooke Community Church and Bashas’, as well as numerous SaddleBrooke units and the gleaning program in Eloy.

Joan and Rich Roberts, co-chairs of the 2012 Food Drive, said that last year’s Food Drive produced about 23,000 lb of food and $4,000 in cash donations. Volunteers and donations are always needed, she said, and she urged everyone to come out to help from 8:30am to noon—help is needed to sort, load, and deliver the food and other goods to the Food Bank.

The bids were fast and furious at last year’s Treats and Talents Auction. This year’s Auction is set for March 21, at the SaddleBrooke Clubhouse, from 5 to 8pm.
2012-2013 Slate of Officers Announced

SBCO President Maggie DeBlock announced the following slate of officers for the 2012-2013 term. Voting will be held at the April 9 General meeting.

President: Maggie DeBlock
Executive Vice-President: Joan Roberts
Treasurer: Anne Everett
Assistant Treasurer: John Young
Education Co-Vice Presidents: Mike Moore and Steven Groth
Special Events: Co-VPs: Joe McGowan and Judy Williams
Kids’ Closet Co-VPs: Pat Ford and Paula Morgan
Membership Co-VPs: Ken Siarkiewicz and Willie Reich
Communications Co-VPs: Rick Cato and Doris Clark
Co-recording Secretaries: Judy Kany and Anne Everett
Corresponding Secretary: Joan Coyne
Past President: Nan Nasser
Golden Goose Representative: Ann Coziahr

Kids’ Closet Building is Underway
If you drop by Suite L, you’ll see a colorful drawing of the new Kids’ Closet building in Mammoth. Kids’ Closet Co-VPs Paula Morgan and Pat Ford can hardly wait for the new building, and noted that all is going well. The “Kick off Campaign for Kids’ Closet” was launched recently to help finish the interior of the building. Paula reported that Buck Thomas of B and T Construction, was one of the first to donate to the program, and presented SBCO with a check for $500. Grand opening of the new Closet is tentatively set for early May. We’ll keep you posted!

SaddleBrooke Community Outreach is a 501 (c)3 charitable organization.
Our mission is to make a positive impact on the lives of needy school-children in the neighboring communities through improve self-respect, better school attendance, and higher scholastic achievement.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT SBCO
Have you considered becoming a volunteer for Community Outreach? Even with the fantastic number of volunteers who are now giving their time at Kids’ Closet, in tutoring, education, and helping with special events and fundraising, SBCO can use your help.

Our board in Suite L lists some of the areas where we need help today. Take a look and remember that your unique talents and interests can make a real difference for the kids in communities surrounding SaddleBrooke.