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SBWL Organizes First ‘Food From The Bar’ Drive in Santa Barbara

By Marianne Stein and Angela Roach

Santa Barbara Women Lawyers (SBWL) was inspired to organize a ‘Food from the Bar’ Drive in Santa Barbara from other women lawyer organizations in California who had organized similar drives in the past. SBWL began organizing the Drive in April by contacting other local legal organizations to determine if they wanted to participate. The response was overwhelming. Nearly every legal

organization in Santa Barbara joined to co-sponsor ‘Food from the Bar.’ This included the following legal organizations or groups: Santa Barbara County Bar Association, Santa Barbara County Bar Foundation, Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Foundation, Santa Barbara Paralegals Association, Santa Barbara Barristers, Santa Barbara Legal Secretaries Association, Santa Barbara Trial Lawyers, Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County, Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara District Attorney, Santa Barbara Public Defender, and Santa Barbara County Counsel.

The first ‘Food from the Bar’ took place during the month of July. Funds and food donations were made to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. The Foodbank was founded in 1982 and has made a significant impact in our local community ever since. During 2010, the Foodbank distributed 10.5 million pounds of food to 164,000 people in Santa Barbara County. The Foodbank distributes food to over 200 non-profit programs, food pantries, senior centers, after-school programs and soup kitchens. The statistics showing the population the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County serves are startling. For example, 44% of those served by the Foodbank are children under the age of 18.

The local bar demonstrated how large an impact it has in Santa Barbara. The drive was a major success. At the start of the drive, SBWL set a goal to raise over \$5,000 for the Foodbank of Santa Barbara. Monetary donations were encouraged because of Foodbank partnerships. The Foodbank is able to obtain \$7 worth of food for every \$1 donated. ‘Food from the Bar’ raised a **total of \$6,657**, exceeding its goal by \$1,657! The donations came from legal organizations listed above including SBWL, SBWL Foundation, and Barristers, generous donations by individual members of the legal organizations listed above, individuals in our legal community, and from some of our judicial officers. In addition to raising \$6,657 in monetary donations, the