

March 8, 2011

**Asian Counseling and Referral Service's Official Statement
to KIRO TV's "Food Bank Volunteers Caught Stocking Up on Donations"**

Recently, KIRO TV shared video with us of volunteers who were taking extra food in significant quantities. We did an internal inquiry and found that all of the volunteers shown were clients eligible to take the food, and were taking it for larger families, or for seniors with disabilities and others who could not get to the food bank, or were taking surplus perishable or expired foods that others did not want and we could not store. We found no gross wrongdoing, but rather a desire not to allow food to go to waste by using unwanted and surplus perishable food. The KIRO TV story contained many inaccuracies; however, we looked upon this as a fresh opportunity to review our practices and improve operations, part of our regular protocol to serve our clients mindfully.

The ACRS Food Bank is a culturally diverse operation with culturally sensitive approaches which may be factually different than they appear to the casual observer.

We have reminded our volunteers about the procedures for handling unwanted and surplus perishable food, per our protocol of always serving our clients to the best of our ability. It would not be possible for us to serve nearly 5,000 clients and support over 100,000 client visits to the food bank annually without our food bank volunteers and the generous donors who support it. We will continue to ensure that food goes to the hungry people who need it.