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Falls Church City Troop 349 Collects a ¼ Ton of Donations for Scouting for Food 2010

Falls Church, Virginia, 11/13/2010 – Members of Falls Church City Boy Scout Troop 349 spent part of the past two Saturday's helping to make the annual Scouting For Food (SFF) event happen. This year the troop collected a total of 551 lbs of non-perishable food items and brought them to the Columbia Baptist Food Bank here in the city.

Senior Patrol Leader, Truman Custer remarked "This is probably one of the best events we do all year to help our community".

SFF is an annual nationwide event that takes place at the beginning of November. Both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are involved with this weeklong event, which takes place on two consecutive Saturdays. On the first Saturday the scouts head to pre-designated areas to hand out bags donated by Safeway with a description of what SFF is and how individual households can participate. On the following Saturday, these same scouts return to their areas to collect the bags containing non-perishable food items that have been left out for pick-up.

After being picked up the cans, bags, and boxes of donated items are combined and brought to area food banks for sorting and distribution. Over the course of about 4 hours this past Saturday, an army of cub and boy scouts and their parents coordinated the collection, delivery, sorting, and stocking of the Columbia Baptist food bank shelves. Items such as pasta, soup, mac & cheese, candy, cake mix, baked beans, dried rice, stuffing... etc are cataloged and sorted onto shelves for the staff of the food bank to then distribute to those families in need.

Troop 349 is one of 50 scout troops and packs in the district that help make this important holiday event happen. In Northern Virginia, the food that was collected this year was distributed to 7 area food banks and will find its way out into the community to help thousands of families during the holiday season. To all of those who donated, thank you, and to all of the Scouts in troop 349 who participated in SFF '10... you did a great job!

ABOUT TROOP 349: The Troop is open to any boy between the ages of 12 and 17, who has graduated from the fourth grade, and/or has received his arrow of light award. Boys desiring to join the troop are welcome at any time to attend a meeting and present themselves to the Scout Master for admission. Troop 349 meets every Tuesday evening at 7 PM between September and June at the American Legion Hall on Oak St. The troop web site contains more information about joining and what Boy Scouts is all about. Go to www.troop349.us and click on downloads to view the scout handbook and primer.

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Members of Troop 349 with some of the food donated to Scouting for Food 2010, L to R: Michael Keays, James Pala, SPL Truman Custer, Matthew Valley, Jack Ulses, Ian Griffin, Preston Custer, Tony Ulses. Front row L to R: Seamus Murphy, Timothy Gilmour, and Michael Andrew Keays

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