

**<<< FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE >>>**

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**Falls Church City's Boy Scout Troop 349 participated in Scouting for Food 2009**

**Falls Church, Virginia, 11/14/2009** – Members of Falls Church City Boy Scout Troop 349 spent part of the past two Saturday's distributing bags and picking up donated food items. The troop, along with Pack 657 and Troop 895, brought the donations to the Columbia Baptist Food Bank here in the city. The two Boy Scout troops and the Cub Scout pack collected a combined total of 6,353 lbs of non-perishable food items for this yearly effort

Scouting for Food (SFF) is an annual nationwide event that takes place over the course of one week at the beginning of November. In our district, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts fan out across the area on two consecutive Saturdays. On the first Saturday the scouts hand out bags donated by Safeway with a description of what SFF is about and how individuals can participate. On the following Saturday, these same scouts return to their areas and collect the bags of food that have been left out for pick-up.

After being picked up the single 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 scouts from 657 and their parents coordinated the 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 in need.

Troop 349 is part of the George Mason District of the BSA and is one of 50 scout troops and packs in it. In total this year, the district collected and processed 43,773 lbs of food. That food was distributed to 7 Northern Virginia 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 pack 657, troop 895 and troop 349 who participated in SFF '09... 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](http://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 2009, L to R: Neil Johnston, David Macalister, Noah Saberhagen, Truman Custer, Davis Hagigh, Ian Griffin, Matthew Valley, James Coppock, Jack Ulses, Preston Custer

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