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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONDUCT MASSIVE FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT SAMARITAN HOUSE AND SECOND HARVEST OF SILICON VALLEY

Students Set a Positive Example for Bay Area Schools

San Mateo, CA, November 1, 2019 - This year San Mateo High School will be conducting their annual holiday food and fund drive from November 15th through December 1st to benefit Samaritan House in San Mateo and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. The students' goal this year will be to collect over 100,000 pounds of food and to continue their tradition of being one of the largest food drives in the country.

In 2005, San Mateo High School students set a new school record and surpassed the school's previous Guinness World Record set in 1999.

"The students are amazing," says Sara Cowey, Leadership Teacher and Activities Director at San Mateo High School. "Many spend long hours in front of grocery stores collecting food from shoppers. They collect literally thousands of pounds of food in just two weeks with two purposes: to help those in need and to set a good example for others in our community."

“We are truly inspired by the students’ enthusiasm and commitment to make the food drive bigger and better each year. They film music videos, hold rallies, train other students and teachers on how to participate in the drive, and encourage friendly competition within the school. They’ve also built relationships with local grocers to secure spots in front of their stores. The planning and logistics of the drive alone are quite a feat. The end result is a massive food donation for families in need and a lot of cheer and good will in the community. We’re proud to call the San Mateo High School students, parents, and faculty a part of the Samaritan House family.” – Bart Charlow, CEO, Samaritan House

Community members who wish to donate may bring their canned food or monetary donations directly to San Mateo High School, located at 506 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo, weekdays from 7:45 am to 3:15 pm. Monetary donations are fully tax-deductible and checks should be made out to “Samaritan House.” Donations can also be made through the “Virtual Food Drive” at the Second Harvest Website – by way of the schools food drive website: smhscfd.com

During after-school hours and weekends, students will be collecting donations at local supermarkets throughout the Peninsula from Burlingame to Belmont. For more information on ways to donate in-person or online, contact San Mateo High School’s Community Service Commissioners at smhs.communityservice@gmail.com.

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**SAMARITAN HOUSE – NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR (Tax ID 23-7416272)
4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403**

Since 1974, Samaritan House has become San Mateo County’s leading non-profit that brings a new level of hope, dignity, and empowerment to people living in poverty as we fulfill immediate needs and guide people toward self-reliance. Recognized as a role model in the community, we are the largest truck-to-table food distribution agency in the county. Other free services we offer include shelter; free medical and dental clinics; clothes for children; personalized case management and much more. The entire community benefits from our steadfast mission to mobilize all available resources and work hand in hand to break the cycle of poverty.

www.samaritanhousesanmateo.org   

**SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL
506 North Delaware Street, San Mateo, CA 94401**

San Mateo High School is deeply involved in its community through many programs and educational services, including our Biotechnology Career Pathway, San Mateo

Adult Resources Technology (SMART) Center, San Mateo Performing Arts Center, The Jefferson Awards-Students in Action program, Volunteer Fairs held each semester and *The World's Largest Canned Food Drive*.

<http://www.sanmateohigh.org>
smhscfd.com