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Food bank finds a creative way to help fight hunger in Humboldt County

The Times-Standard

Posted: 02/22/2010 01:15:13 AM PST

Think you can turn a mountain of canned food into art?

Local businesses and community groups are invited to compete in Humboldt County's first ever canned-food sculpture-building contest.

Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County, and the Northcoast Region of the Network for a Healthy California are hosting Canstruction -- an event that challenges local businesses and organizations to form teams, which will then design and build sculptures using non-perishable food items.

The sculptures will be on display at the Bayshore Mall from March 6 to March 15. All the cans used will then be donated to Food for People. Food for People provides food assistance to more than 10,000 individuals each month, most of whom are children and seniors.

"Canstruction is a creative way to help those in our area facing food insecurity," said a press release from Food for People.

Businesses and organizations are still being asked to take part. Teams may either build a sculpture or sponsor a team. People interested in learning more or in forming a team can contact Food for People at 445-3166, ext. 314.

Teams will build their sculptures on March 6, and they will be unveiled at the Bayshore Mall at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded based on the sculpture's creativity, structural integrity and nutritional value. On March 15, when the sculptures are broken down and taken to Food for People, two additional awards will be given -- heaviest sculpture,

and people's choice as selected by visitors at the mall display and online at www.foodforpeople.org.

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"The economic downturn has forced many people to seek food assistance," said Anne Holcomb, executive director of Food for People, in the release. "Here in Humboldt County, nearly one of every five residents faces hunger. This means our friends and neighbors need help now more than ever before."

The Northcoast Region of the Network for a Healthy California and Food for People aim to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity.

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