

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**USDA Satellite Features Feed**

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**FEATURE – USDA OFFICIAL VISITS D.C. FOOD BANK**

INTRO: Obama Administration officials and other federal workers visited a Washington, D.C. food bank to highlight the importance of such institutions and of volunteering. The U-S-D-A's Bob Ellison has more. (1:43)

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS VISITED A WASHINGTON D-C FOOD BANK TO PROMOTE VOLUNTEERING AT AND DONATING TO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. AGRICULTURE DEPUTY SECRETARY KATHLEEN MERRIGAN SAID THE FOOD BANK VISIT POINTS OUT THAT MANY AMERICANS USE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO GET FOOD.

Kathleen Merrigan, Agriculture Deputy Secretary: One in five Americans gets food assistance every day from USDA programs. Hunger is still a major problem in this country and if we are going to meet the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by Twenty-Fifteen, there's a lot more to do.

MERRIGAN ALSO SAID THAT SUMMER IS THE HARDEST TIME OF THE YEAR FOR FOOD BANKS TO GET VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS TO CARRY ON THEIR WORK. SHE SAID GOVERNMENT HELP COMES IN HANDY FOR THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK TRYING TO MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

Merrigan: Some people are wondering, where is that stimulus money going? A lot of that stimulus money came right here to this building. Food for the hungry. We're doing a lot more with the stimulus bill that Congress passed and the President and Vice President are overseeing.

HAWAIIAN SHIRTS WERE DONNED TO SHOW THAT VOLUNTEERING CAN BE SUMMERTIME FUN. AND THE ALOHA SHIRTS SERVED AS AN EXAMPLE FOR HAWAII SENATOR DANIEL AKAKA.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii: Aloha is Hawaiian is love. And it unites, this love, hands with hands, people working together. Heart with heart, people feeling well together. Mind with mind, people thinking well together. Race with race, nation with nation and culture with culture and it unites.

IN WASHINGTON D-C FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUTLURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.