



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**  
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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

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**Stuff the Bus Donations Exceed Expectations**

*Previous collection record shattered*

**Leonardtown, MD** – Despite gloomy, dreary weather impacting the entire Southern Maryland region, St. Mary's County residents came out in droves on May 21 to drop off food donations during the annual Stuff the Bus food drive.

The event was held simultaneously at the Giant Supermarket in California, Food Lion in Charlotte Hall and McKay's in Leonardtown. Residents dropped off non-perishable food items such as canned fruits/vegetables, pasta sauces, dried beans, coffee, tea, bottle water, canned meats, baby food, crackers, peanut butter and many other items.

The goal for this year's food drive was 3,000 pounds. When everything was totaled up the final count stood at nearly two and a half tons (4,900 pounds). This far exceeded the previous record of nearly 2,900 pounds collected back in 2009. The total also includes 600 pounds donated by St. Mary's County Government employees.

"We want to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in this year's event for making it the most successful collection effort since the first event held back in December 2005," said George Erichsen, director of St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT). DPWT teamed up with the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services to sponsor the drive.

Food Lion stepped up with a corporate donation, adding \$1,000 worth of food to the collection.

Stuff the Bus is an annual event held to ensure local food pantries are well stocked with food supplies year round. Pantries also serve as an important source of food during the recovery phase of a disaster. Generous giving by St. Mary's County citizens has been a hallmark of the event through the years.

*Photos from Stuff the Bus can be found on the county's photo page at*

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stmaryscountygovernment/sets/>. *Media outlets may publish photos from the photo page with the MANDATORY COURTESY: "Photo courtesy St. Mary's County Public Information Office."*

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