

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2008

Contact: Abby Taylor-Silva
(831) 755-1480
abby@agagainsthunger.org

Local High School Students Terrin Eisemann and Bess Pezzini Inspire Classmates to Raise Funds for Ag Against Hunger

Salinas, CA – Terrin Eisemann of Notre Dame High School (Salinas) and Bess Pezzini of Santa Catalina (Monterey) teamed up in March to raise funds for Ag Against Hunger among their classmates. Notre Dame and Santa Catalina both enforce a uniformed dress code but allowed these altruistic students to offer a “free dress day” for any student who donated \$5 to Ag Against Hunger. Terrin and Bess presented the Ag Against Hunger board of directors with donations totaling \$1,694 from their efforts at their high schools as well as Junipero Serra School (Carmel) and Sanctuary Christian Fellowship (Salinas).

Bess Pezzini is a regular volunteer with Ag Against Hunger’s gleaning program and Terrin is both a volunteer to Ag Against Hunger and 2007 recipient of the “National Philanthropic Youth Award”. Both students have learned at an early age the importance of community involvement and philanthropy. Terrin’s interest in a career in law enforcement is fueled by her desire to help others. “I knew this was a great cause and I like to help people,” she said of her efforts on behalf of Ag Against Hunger. Bess was invigorated by the positive responses she received by her classmates. “I wanted to participate in this fundraiser because it’s a good local charity and it helps the hungry to receive healthy food when they need it. Even in high school we can do something to combat hunger,” said Pezzini.

A total of 123 Santa Catalina and 109 Notre Dame Students participated in this student-led fundraiser. Additionally, Terrin and Bess asked their middle-schools to get involved to inspire younger students to get involved as well. That outreach led to 190 participants from Junipero Serra School and 75 from Sanctuary Christian Fellowship.

Ag Against Hunger collects surplus produce from over 50 tri-county grower-shippers and distributes it to food banks throughout the West Coast. The produce is distributed in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties first, where it feeds over 75,000 low-income people each month through local food banks working with over 240 agencies. Find out more at www.agagainsthunger.org.

###