



Rice *plus* Project

Volunteers dedicated to helping Monterey-Santa Cruz County families in need

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Rice *plus* Project Profile www.RiceplusProject.org

Vision

Help to alleviate poverty in our community

Mission

Rice *plus* project is a humanitarian non profit organization¹ made up of volunteers that feeds, clothes and supports people who need help with the necessities of life

We help empower women by teaching English, good nutrition, and to develop business skills to achieve economic independence

Background

About fifteen years ago in our living room one fifty pound bag of rice was packed into gallon sized plastic bags to be distributed to families in need of food. At Christmas time that year we started packing more rice and added beans as well. Then the next year we wrapped many gifts for children too. A couple of years later we bought the beans, rice and 500 gifts for children through donations from friends. This project slowly expanded from once a year in December to a regular monthly project of 2500 to about 4000 lbs. of rice and beans. This food is directly distributed to needy families in Salinas and South County. During the winter months when the work in the fields is scarce, often times this food is the *only* source of food for some families. This past year alone, we packed and distributed in excess of 15 tons of rice (please refer to the figure for details)

Current Program and Activities

Once a month, we pick up 2500-4000lbs of rice, and other food items at Costco with several friends. We unload the rice and beans by means of a human chain into our living room. More volunteers form into teams opening the rice bags, filling them into grocery sized bags, some twisting ties, and some other putting 8-10 grocery bags into sacks. These sacks are brought out again in a human chain. The packed rice and beans is distributed to needy families.

Our project includes warm blankets, jackets in the winter months and baby clothes all year. During fall season, uniforms, shoes, school bags, socks, underwear, etc are distributed. We distribute canned goods, cereals, nut and dried fruits, peanut butter, and other nutritious food items.

¹ 501(c)(3) IRS Tax Exempt Non-profit Public Charitable Organization
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We also provide soap, shampoo, detergent, lots of toilet paper, and other necessities. Hand made receiving blankets and newborn clothing are donated to Natividad Mother/Infant unit.

Goals:

Our work over several years shows that there is a constant and urgent need for the basic necessities in our community. We plan to expand our activities to reach out to more people, develop English language skills, develop nutrition programs, and develop business skills programs in order to empower economic freedom to underprivileged people. These additional efforts focus on addressing the root cause of the basic issues

Project Work Plan:

The funds will be used to purchase rice, beans, canned goods, and other necessities as needed. During the winter months, funds will be used to buy blankets and warm clothes. In the fall, school uniforms, shoes, and other school supplies will be bought.

The people that are served include needy families, the field workers in the area, as far south as Greenfield, families in and around Salinas, North Monterey County and families of the children in the Alisal school district.

Project Evaluation:

The project will be evaluated by means of the following- number of families served, and amount of rice, beans, canned goods, uniforms, and blankets etc distributed to the families. The information gathered will be presented in a tabular form to visualize the out reach activities. These metrics will measure how the stated objectives are accomplished. An illustration is provided as to how rice and beans were distributed over the past year.

Graph showing rice and beans distributed during January through December 2008

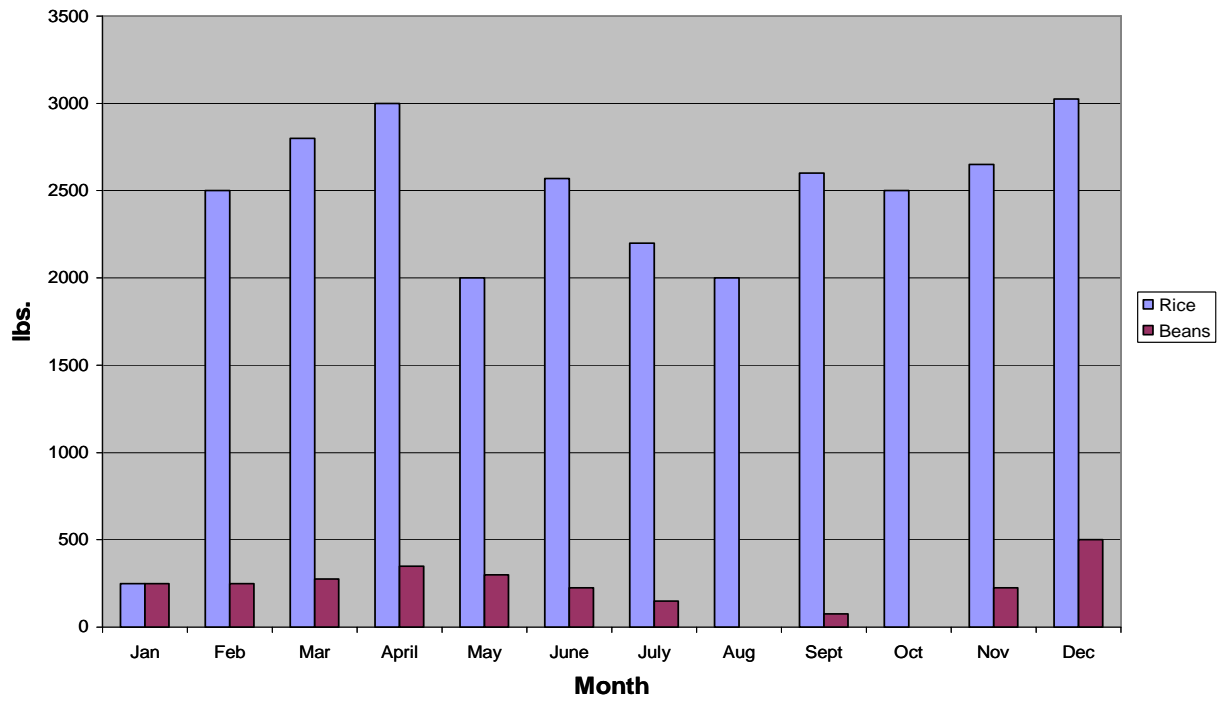


Rice plus Project - 2008

Summary:

Rice	28095	lbs
Beans	2600	lbs
Canned Vegetables	1274	Cans
Peanut Butter	126	Jars
TPs	1080	Rolls
Gifts/Toys	450	
Baby Sleepers	28	
Receiving Blankets	226	
Blankets	67	
Hats	145	
Ramen Soup	2	Cases
Almonds	93	lbs
Granola Bars	128	
Dried Fruits	35	lbs
Potatoes	580	lbs
Jackets/Sweaters	74	
Pasta	67	
Shoes	226	
Turkeys	36	
String Cheese	240	
Tortillas	2800	
Sweats	22	
Pants/Jeans	69	
Salsa	144	
Bread Loaves	60	
Bananas	52	lbs
Masa Flour	90	lbs
Candy	60	lbs
Macaroni-Cheese	3	Boxes

Rice-Bean Distribution for 2008



Organizational Structure:

Sandhya Kolar

Chair, Board of Directors
President, Rice *plus* Project
P. O. Box 1264
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Sandhya Kolar, the founder and president of the organization started over fifteen years ago, and under Rice *plus* Project name since 2002. The RPP enjoys 501(c) (3) tax exempt status. Sandhya has been recognized for her community outreach activities. She was named as one of the ten Outstanding Women of the Monterey County in 2004. American Red Cross (ARC) Monterey-San Benito Counties Chapter and Carmel Area Chapter honored her as the Good Samaritan Adult Hero at the 2006 American Red Cross Heroes Breakfast.

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