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## **GROWER-SHIPPER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHALLENGE BENEFITS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITIES**

Salinas, CA (December 21, 2011) – For the third consecutive year, the annual “Holiday Ag Challenge” organized and led by Grower-Shipper Association Chairman of the Board Sam McKinsey will benefit numerous local hunger relief charities with much-needed financial support. Several members of the Association have contributed \$24,000 to be distributed among several philanthropic organizations, including: Ag Against Hunger, Dorothy’s Place, Monterey County Food Bank, San Benito County Food Bank, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County.

In addition to the financial assistance given to local charities, ten percent of the monies received will be paid out as scholarships to local agricultural students in 2012.

Participating Grower-Shipper Association members included: Anthony Costa & Sons, Green Valley Farm Supply, Growers Express, J. Marchini Farms, Ocean Mist Farms, RC Farms, Rincon Farms, The Saqui Law Group, Scheid Vineyards and TriCal.

“This effort will undoubtedly make this a much happier holiday season for many in our community and perhaps even give a boost to some of the people we work alongside and so appreciate all year long. It will also underscore the generosity of our great industry,” said GSA Chairman Sam McKinsey.

For more information, please contact Grower-Shipper Association President Jim Bogart.