



Position Paper:

To better quantify food recovery potential from a successful roll out of the Federal Food Donation Act of 2008.

To: Rich Beutel

Congressional Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

As per our conference call discussion, we have accumulated data from recovery efforts in the sectors that we work. Since 1991 we have coordinated recovery efforts in music, (bands who tour) schools, (colleges and schools, both food and asset recovery), entertainment, (movie and television shoots) sports, (teams based in arenas and stadiums) and hotels (room and vanity assets, mainly non-food). These efforts have allowed our partner agencies across North America to spend less on food, toiletries, paper products and dorm room assets. It has significantly reduced the amount of these items being discarded into land fill. It has also allowed the for re-direction of their funding to attack the root causes of poverty. Agencies have been able to increase their staff, hire tutors, job training, social workers and make use of medical resources to reduce health, psychological and sociological issues found in their clientele. In the aggregate, poverty is reduced. After our call, my staff sent me updated spreadsheets on our current efforts. We have chosen the school and sports sectors to analyze.

Sector Synopsis

Through personal research and surveys, we have found that all food preparation has built in overage factor of five to eight percent. As catering is an inexact science, we have predicated the mission of our think tank on ways to take advantage of this conclusion. It has allowed us to assume that there will always be food and other assets to recover at any venue where food is being served. Rock and Wrap It Up! concentrates on finding agencies in the areas immediate surrounding those venues, vetting them based on our standards and criteria and then manage the logistics to have successful recovery efforts. By vetting all partner agencies, we assure our donors that they will be protected by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Laws. (1996) Partnering agencies record the amounts of what they recover on spreadsheets which Rock and Wrap it Up! supplies. All spreadsheets are kept on Google Docs so the agencies do not have to mail or fax any documents.

School Sector

The average school that donates through the Rock and Wrap It Up! School Program generates about 93 pounds per month of food that is prepared but not served or sold. Using the USDA guide, we have determined that this is the equivalent of 62 meals per month per school that are consistently available for donation and consumption.

Most of the schools in our program have an average of 300 students of which 10-15% are on subsidized lunch plans. This equates to 30 to 45 meals per day being prepared. Operating under the assumption that there are 20 school days per month, we deduce that anywhere between 600 and 900 meals are prepared each month for these students. This translates to 6.8-10.4% overage each month. Our researched has found that student absences are the single largest factor for this overage. We also know that since 1995, schools are directed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer choices; hence, more leftovers. The absentee rate in any cohort of school-aged children is 5-10%. This number is undoubtedly larger in some schools. These statistics have more meaning when combined with the aforementioned factors regarding why there will always be leftover to recover in schools. They also underline that this overage is by no means an indication

of poor judgment or incompetence by food-preparation staff; this is simply the result of following regulations and working with the knowledge that catering is an inexact science. The school sector is a not for profit model.

Sports Sector

We have found that the same overage percentage of 5-8% that exists in our schools sector to also apply with food recovery efforts through the Sports Wrap! program. Rock and Wrap It Up! currently has seventy sporting franchises donating to us. Our partners include teams in the NBA, NFL, MLB and the entire NHL. We have chosen to use our data from our baseball partnerships to analyze the contributions made in sports.

In a typical 81 home game baseball season, 5508 meals are recovered from each team. We have calculated that 25,000 items are recovered during a typical baseball season. With the average item weighing 5.5 ounces, this amounts to 8333 pounds. The average sports event generates a per game total of 102 pounds of food prepared--but not sold--for an 81 game season. This generates 68 meals (102 divided by 1.5 pounds per meal) per game that is recovered by our anti-poverty agencies. The concessionaires at all stadiums are for profit and they sell about 10,000 meals per evening. With 68 meals left over, they work with a 6.8% margin of waste. This waste percentage is a direct savings of food for the agency receiving the donation, meaning that the amount of food that needs to be purchased by the agency itself decreases. Little goes into land fill which can be used to feed the hungry

Conclusions

Rock and Wrap It Up! wants to highlight the amount of food preparation overages in the school and sports sectors. We can expect the same 5-8% overage in federal buildings and military food preparation. Though it would be surprising to hear that it is higher than this, we do not expect it would be lower. These assumptions are what we used when we introduced the Federal Food Donation Act to Congress in 2007, in hopes of getting all federal buildings, military bases, and National Parks on board with food recovery. By sheer numbers, the overage translates to hundreds of thousands of meals each day to feed our nations' hungry. We have 43 million Americans who continue to be food insecure. The positive effort for Rock and Wrap It Up! has been the marketing of the Federal Food Donation Act to other sectors to encourage further cooperation in the adoption of our successful tactics and strategies to reduce landfill and feed our nation's hungry. If feedback is needed for the Congressional Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, we are prepared to assist in the quantification of federal food donations by establishing spreadsheets for each donating entity and the food-recovering agency. This process is already a practice of Rock and Wrap It Up! partners as well as part of our inclusion in the E.P.A. Waste Wise program. We believe that an environmentally sound planet doesn't mean it is a healthy planet. It is only a healthy planet if the people are healthy.

Rock and Wrap it Up! is a 501 C 3 charity

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We reduce the planet's poverty footprint by reducing society's carbon footprint.