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NEWS RELEASE

Food For Fines: Pay Overdue Library Fees by Donating Food

Food collected to be donated to organizations that serve the hungry

EL PASO, Texas - Between now and January 18, the Food For Fines Program of the El Paso Public Library is allowing patrons to pay overdue fees by donating canned and non-perishable food to the MLK Canned Food Drive.

The start of the new year is a great time for visitors to check out a book from any 12 neighborhood library branches or Bookmobile and pay off any late fees. The Public Library will waive \$1 worth of fines per donated food item.

The food collected will then be sorted and distributed to organizations that serve the hungry in honor of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a lifelong supporter of human rights. All items will be distributed directly to eight organizations that feed the hungry such as the Opportunity Center for the Homeless and the Salvation Army.

By bringing pantry goods to the library through the Food for Fines program, visitors can pay fines without further opening their wallets and get the benefit of helping those who need food.

It is estimated that 1 in 3 children in El Paso struggles with hunger every day, which makes it difficult for them to stay engaged and focused on activities important to development such as studying.

The food collected as part of the Food for Fines program, as well as that collected through the MLK Canned Food Drive, will be used to replenish depleted pantries of organizations that serve the less fortunate.

For more information on the Food For Fines Program, call the El Paso Public Library at 212-3201 or visit www.elpasolibrary.org.

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