



Media Release

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Governor Ted Kulongoski presents Pacific Natural Foods with hunger relief award

Tualatin, OR – **Pacific® Natural Foods** – a leading natural and organic soup manufacturer – was presented the **Mahonia Food Industry Award for Hunger Relief** by Gov. Ted Kulongoski at the Governor’s Ceremonial Office last week at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore. The annual honor is presented during Oregon Harvest Week/National Food Bank Week to recognize a member of Oregon’s food industry for its extraordinary and long-term commitment to alleviate hunger.

Chuck Eggert, CEO and Co-founder of Pacific Natural Foods, was on hand to receive the honor from the Governor. He said receiving the award is a major honor for Pacific Natural Foods. Also on hand from Pacific Natural Foods to receive the award were: Kaye Barnes, Jon Gehrs, Rosendo Barboza and Louanna Eggert.

“Supporting programs like Oregon Food Bank is a significant part of what defines our mission at Pacific Natural Foods,” Eggert said. “Our company and employees believe that no one should go hungry in Oregon.”

The Governor presents the Mahonia Food Industry Award annually to a member of the food industry (growers, processors, wholesalers, distributors or retailers) that has demonstrated outstanding, long-term engagement, commitment, value and leadership in the fight against hunger. Specifically, Pacific Natural Foods supports Oregon Food Bank through food donations, planned production, and its employees volunteering their time.

Bob Morris, Food Resource Developer at Oregon Food Bank, noted the food industry – everything from farmers to retailers – provides more than 60 percent of the food the organization receives.

“Pacific Natural Foods cooperates with us to turn inconvenient donations – picture 1,000-pound bins of frozen carrots – into high quality soup,” Morris stated. “I’ve spoken to people from food banks around the country and have never heard of a program like this one; at least nothing close to this size. Without the Eggerts and Pacific Natural Foods and the few people like them, we wouldn’t have a chance of keeping up with demand.”

Founded in 1987, Pacific Natural Foods is a recognized leader in natural foods and its mission is to be the most respected brand in natural products. The company’s *Certified to the Source®* products are sold nationwide in mainstream grocery and natural food stores. For more information, call (503) 692-9666, or visit www.pacificfoods.com. Oregon Food Bank offers an emergency food box to 200,000 people on average each month in Oregon and Clark County, Wash. Additionally, soup kitchen and shelters serve more than four million emergency meals annually. More information on Oregon Food Bank can be found at www.oregonfoodbank.org.

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