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**For Immediate Release**

## **The New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger Updates Public on World Food Day, Friday, October 15**

*Santa Fe, Oct. 13, 2004* – One year after the first-ever Governor’s Hunger Summit, the New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger will meet on Friday, October 15 to update the public on what has been accomplished over the past year to fight hunger and food insecurity and improve nutrition in New Mexico. Since last year’s hunger summit, the task force has been meeting every month to weigh their progress in these efforts.

The meeting on Friday takes place on the commemoration of World Food Day, which is typically October 16. World Food Day, according to its website (<http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/cate.html>), is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. It is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The first World Food Day was in 1981. In the United States, the endeavor is sponsored by 450 national, private voluntary organizations.

The half-day event in Albuquerque will feature the reading of a proclamation issued by Governor Richardson, an annual report from the task force and a video teleconference with Dr. Werner Kiene of the United Nations World Food Program. Kiene is a native of Austria and has a distinguished career in international development, especially in Asia and Africa. There will also be a panel discussion on obesity and hunger.

“Last year, we committed ourselves to creating a plan of action for reducing hunger in New Mexico, improving health and nutrition awareness and finding ways to better coordinate access to food assistance programs,” said Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde. “I believe the task force’s report will show that meaningful progress is being made not only in helping to make food programs more accessible, but to combat obesity, which has become a dominant health threat in the country.”

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**The World Food Day Proclamation reading and News Conference begins at 8:45 a.m.,  
Friday, October 15 at the Children, Youth and Families Department’s Family Services  
Building, 3401 Pan American Freeway, NE, in Albuquerque.**