

<<Back



Hundreds of Hungry Families Gather in Mendota

March 27, 2009 11:29 PM PDT



By Ariana Duarte and Winston Whitehurst

Across the country, communities are struggling to find work...

But few places are suffering as much as Mendota...

"It's pretty bad. No one's working. No one's working," said Anahi Milian, City of Mendota.

The city now has a more than 40% unemployment rate, and with most of its residents tied to agriculture, the recession and drought have taken their toll.

"Because of the Ag problems that we have of lack of water out here... There's people unemployed right now," said Joseph Amador, City of Mendota.

Alejandro Lopez is a truck driver, who carries loads of produce from Fresno to Los Angeles, but with no water and few crops, he too, is having a tough time making ends meet.

"Right now we're struggling, all of us, you know... to get by," said Lopez.

Alejandro was among the more than 500 Mendota residents who showed up at the city's day care center for a food drive put on by the Fresno County EOC.

Mothers, fathers, and young children waited in line for several hours for the chance to take home one box of food.

Organizers say while they're grateful for the help provided by the food drive, what the community really needs is a long-term solution and support from the state.

"Hopefully they'll allow the farmers to start pumping water into their fields so there will be work for these people," said Amador.

To Donate to the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commision:

Call: (559) 263-1000



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2009 WorldNow and KMPH. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

□