



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK

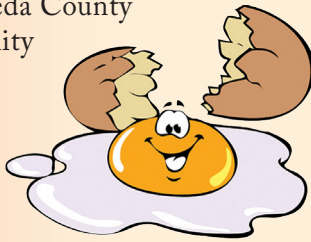


# Hunger Advocacy News

Fall 2009

## Breaking Bread Over the Issues

The Alameda County Community Food Bank is gearing up for its 2009 Legislative Breakfast on Nov. 20. For



the past three years, the Legislative Breakfast has connected members of our community with state and federal lawmakers. Volunteers and clients — those at the grassroots level of the Food Bank's mission — lead presentations regarding the need for anti-hunger policies to their own legislators. It is a motivating event for both legislators and advocates.

"The Legislative Breakfast helps leaders put a face on hunger and humanizes issues such as budget cuts," said Edlyn Countee, a onetime client and longtime Food Bank volunteer and advocate. "At the same time, it helps advocates see those issues from another point of view."

**Hunger Advocacy News is a Food Bank quarterly publication containing pertinent anti-hunger legislation and advocacy work.**

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## No Summer Lunch in Fremont

*An editorial by Betsy Edwards, Food Bank Advocacy Manager*

As the legislative season goes into its dormant period in Sacramento, the Food Bank turns its attention to Washington D.C. On Capitol Hill, legislators are discussing child food programs. Every five years, Congress reauthorizes such programs. The process goes relatively unnoticed for the vast majority of Americans, but has sweeping effects on millions of families. For advocates, it is a time of opportunity.

This year, children's food programs have a new ally: the Slow Food movement — the global, grassroots campaign that links the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment. In progressive communities like Berkeley, Slow Food and school meals have become intertwined. That's a paradigm shift from mere sustenance to nutrition, not unlike the one the Food Bank has undergone during executive director Suzan Bateson's tenure.

Now it's up to the new alliance of anti-hunger advocates, school organizations and the Slow Food folks to convince federal legislators to widen access to programs such as the Summer Lunch Program. As it now stands, schools in districts like Fremont are largely unable to provide free summer lunches because of a "50 percent" requirement that stipulates that at least half of the students in any school hosting a Summer Lunch Program must qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the school year. Only two of the 44 schools within the Fremont Unified School District meet that eligibility requirement — despite the fact that the two zip codes making the most requests for Summer Lunch referrals from the Food Bank's Helpline this summer were both from Fremont. The bottom line: more than 200 children in Fremont requesting a Summer Lunch referral in 2009 were turned away.

If Congress reduced the eligibility criterion to 40% there would be four more Fremont schools that could open a Summer Lunch site in 2010. Virtually every school district would benefit.

Be an advocate for change! Call your Congressperson at the Capitol Switchboard — (202) 224-3121. Tell them you believe increasing children's access to nutrition programs should be one of their top priorities. For more information contact Betsy Edwards at (510) 635-3663 ext. 307 or [bedwards@accfb.org](mailto:bedwards@accfb.org).

## Food Bank 101

The Alameda County Community Food Bank is home to dozens of school field trips and service learning projects throughout the school year. Students often enjoy bagging a portion of the 8 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables that the Food Bank distributes every year. Now there's a movement afoot to explain to students why places like food banks exist — and what role they serve in our society.

The Food Bank has partnered with community members and the Alameda County Office of Education to develop a hunger education curriculum to create a more meaningful experience for students. The goal: to encourage students to get to the root causes of poverty and hunger — and challenge their stereotypes about the individuals and families who receive our assistance.

For more information contact:  
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## Your State Legislators

*Since the California Legislature is currently not in session, now is a great time to reach your representatives in their district offices. Please contact the Food Bank if you would like help setting up meetings.*

### Senate

**Senator Loni Hancock** (*D-Oakland, Berkeley, Livermore*)  
Phone: District (510) 286-1333 | Capital (916) 651-4009  
Address: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2202, Oakland, CA 94612  
Website: <http://dist09.casen.govoffice.com/>

**Senator Ellen Corbett** (*D-San Leandro, Fremont*)  
Phone: District (510) 794-3900 | Capital (916) 651-4010  
Address: 39155 Liberty Street, Suite F610, Fremont, CA 94538  
Website: <http://dist10.casen.govoffice.com/>

### Assembly

**Assemblymember Nancy Skinner** (*D-Berkeley, Emeryville*)  
Phone: District (510) 286-1400 | Capital (916) 319-2014  
Address: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201, Oakland, CA 94612  
Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a14/>

**Assemblymember Sandré Swanson** (*D-Oakland, Alameda, Piedmont*)  
Phone: District (510) 286-1670 | Capital (916) 319-2016  
Address: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2204, Oakland, CA 94612  
Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a16/>

**Assemblymember Mary Hayashi** (*D-San Leandro, Hayward, Dublin*)  
Phone: District (510) 583-8818 | Capital (916) 319-2018  
Address: 22320 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 540, Hayward, CA 94541  
Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a18/>

**Assemblymember Alberto Torrico** (*D-Fremont, Newark, Union City*)  
Phone: District (510) 440-9030 | Capital (916) 319-2020  
Address: 39510 Paseo Padre Parkway, Suite 280, Fremont, CA 94538  
Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a20/mainpage.aspx>

**Assemblymember Joan Buchanan** (*D-Livermore*)  
Phone: District (925) 328-1515 | Capital (916) 319-2015  
Address: 2694 Bishop Drive, Suite 275, San Ramon, CA 94583  
Website: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a15/>

### Last-gasp Legislative Victory

Food Bank advocates salvaged a single victory from the six bills we supported during the 2009 legislative session. On Oct. 11, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 719 into law, giving youths who “age out” of the foster care system at 18 access to one year of food stamps, regardless of their assets. The bill, authored by Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), affects only about 1,500 people every year — but was a cause for celebration at the end of an otherwise discouraging legislative year.

**California's Advocates Against Hunger • Fall Schedule**

**November 11 • December 9**

**6 — 7 p.m.**

**UC-Berkeley Newman Center • 2700 Dwight Way (at College Ave), Berkeley 94704**

*Dinner will be provided*