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**It's on! Alameda County Community Food Bank (Oakland) and Greater Cleveland Food Bank challenge fans of Warriors and Cavs to channel passions to support local hunger relief**

*Organizations face off in the Food Bank Finals Challenge, raising money through Virtual Food Drives to support local efforts*

**OAKLAND, Calif. and CLEVELAND, Ohio—June 2, 2015**— Fans of the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers have plenty to cheer for in the coming weeks as their teams face off in the NBA finals. In the spirit of competition, the Feeding America-affiliated food banks serving the two team's respective areas – Oakland-based Alameda County Community Food Bank and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank – have challenged each other to a friendly fundraising competition to support a great cause. Through "Virtual Food Drives" accessible through each Food Bank's webpage, the food banks are hoping to channel the passions of their local team's fan bases to raise critical funds for local families struggling with hunger.

Each Food Bank has set a goal of \$5,000 for the challenge; however, there is no limit – the fan base that raises the most funds for its food bank by the end of the series will be declared winner, while the executive director of the food bank that raised less money has promised to don the opposing team's apparel and post a congratulatory video on Facebook.

"Alameda County Community Food Bank is well supported by the Golden State Warriors and this is our chance to support them back publically," said Suzan Bateson, executive director of Alameda County Community Food Bank. "We would like to challenge you to a virtual food drive. Just like the Warriors, our Food Bank's strength is in numbers. We think that our fans are going to raise more money than the fans of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank."

Countered Greater Cleveland Food Bank President and CEO, Kristin Warzocha: "In Northeast Ohio, nothing is given. Everything is earned. You work for what you have. LeBron James accepted the challenge and came home. Our team has worked hard to get to the finals and we know our fans will work hard to help us raise more money. Challenge accepted."

"As Warriors and Cavs fans cheer loudly in support of our respective teams during the NBA Finals, I am excited to join the Alameda County Community Food Bank and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in a



friendly competition designed to bring awareness to the struggles faced by low-income residents in our respective cities,” said Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. “All season long, MVP caliber players like Stephen Curry and LeBron James have risen to the occasion when their teams needed them most. I am confident Bay Area residents and Warriors fans, alike, are going to come through in a big way for the 1 in 5 vulnerable Alameda County residents who rely on the Food Bank for their meals each day.”

Both Cleveland and Oakland share proud, blue-collar roots and passionate sports fans to match. Unfortunately, however, the two cities share something else in common: they each have extremely high rates of food insecurity. **Alameda County Community Food Bank serves 1 in 5 of its county residents**, while Greater Cleveland Food Bank serves 1 in 6 residents in six counties throughout northeast Ohio. **Collectively, the two food banks serve 885,000 people annually – enough to fill Oracle Arena (Warriors) and Quicken Loans Arena (Cavs) combined 22 times over.**

- To donate to Alameda County Community Food Bank (Warriors), please visit: [www.accfb.org/FoodBankFinals](http://www.accfb.org/FoodBankFinals)
- To donate to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (Cavaliers), please visit: [www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/FoodBankFinals](http://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/FoodBankFinals)

Every dollar raised will remain local to provide healthy food to families in need living within each Food Bank’s respective service areas. **For every \$1 donated, Alameda County Community Food Bank can provide \$6 worth of food.** For the same donation, Greater Cleveland Food Bank provides 4 meals.

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#### **About Alameda County Community Food Bank**

Since 1985, Alameda County Community Food Bank has been at the forefront of hunger relief efforts in the Bay Area. This year, the Food Bank will distribute the equivalent of 25 million meals. More than half of the food distributed was farm-fresh produce. The Food Bank serves 1 in 5 Alameda County residents by distributing food through a network of 240 food pantries, soup kitchens, and other community organizations, as well as direct-distribution programs including Children’s Backpack and Mobile Pantry. For eight consecutive years, Alameda County Community Food Bank has received Charity Navigator’s top rating — Four Stars — ranking the organization among the **top 1 percent of charities nationwide**. Learn more at [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org).

#### **About Greater Cleveland Food Bank**

The Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, providing 45.6 million meals in 2014 to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties. Our mission is to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. We do this through both food distribution and SNAP outreach efforts. The best and easiest way to help is to go online: visit us at [www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org](http://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org).