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Strength in Numbers: Warriors fans propel Alameda County Community Food Bank to #FoodBankFinals victory!

Passion for the Golden State Warriors raises the equivalent of 56,700 meals for Alameda County residents struggling with hunger

OAKLAND, Calif.—June 30, 2015—With the Golden State Warriors earning their first NBA Championship in 40 years and the last pieces of parade confetti now cleaned up, Warriors fans have one more win to celebrate heading into the offseason: a victory for Alameda County Community Food Bank in the Food Bank Finals Challenge! With the final checks now tallied, the **Food Bank raised \$25,200** through the challenge – a comfortable victory over the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and, more importantly, enough to provide **56,700 meals** to the 1 in 5 Alameda County residents that turn to the Food Bank.

As promised, Greater Cleveland Food Bank Executive Director Kristin Warzocha posted a congratulatory video to Facebook on Friday, June 26 – wearing a bright yellow “Strength in Numbers” t-shirt given to fans at the Warrior’s Western Conference title clinching game.

“Congratulations to our colleagues in Cleveland on a successful challenge, all-around,” said Suzan Bateson, Executive Director of Alameda County Community Food Bank. “While both food banks were channeling the passions of their local NBA fans, the Food Bank Finals was really about helping hungry children, adults and seniors than it was the game on the floor. Regardless of which food bank raised the most money, the true winners were the two communities, which demonstrated to sports fans how rallying around your teams – and food banks – can lead to positive change.”

Alameda County Community Food Bank’s efforts were bolstered by Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, who chose to officially support this effort in lieu of a traditional bet with Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. Additionally, nearly 200 individuals and corporations made contributions to support Alameda County Community Food Bank in the Challenge, with notable efforts including:

- A gift of \$2,500 from the **Bank of Marin** – the single-largest gift made to the challenge
- 37,000 pounds of food donated by Bay Area-based Del Monte Foods, which made an equal donation to Greater Cleveland Food Bank

After quickly reaching the initial marker of \$5,000, the Food Bank boldly raised its fundraising goal to \$30,000 in honor of NBA regular season MVP, Steph Curry (whose jersey number is 30). Though that goal wasn’t reached before the end of the Finals, the Food Bank will continue accepting donations throughout the offseason. Fans who’d like to donate in honor of the Warriors championship can visit www.accfb.org/FoodBankFinals and contribute through the Challenge Virtual Food Drive. Each \$1 donated to the Food Bank provides \$6 worth of food to our community’s most vulnerable residents.

Alameda County Community Food Bank serves 1 in 5 of its county residents – enough to sell out 15 Warriors games at Oracle Arena.



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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.