



# HUNGER ADVOCACY NEWS

## #IfOnlyYouKnew: Hunger ACTION Month

### VISIT

[www.accfb.org/IfOnlyYouKnew](http://www.accfb.org/IfOnlyYouKnew)

### SHARE



#IfOnlyYouKnew

#NowYouKnow



Andrea

Food Bank client & advocate

September was Hunger Action Month, a nationwide initiative to raise awareness and spur action in the fight against hunger. In previous years, we've encouraged fun activities like "Wear Orange Wednesdays" or "Food Drive Fridays." This year, however, we expanded our strategy and took a **bolder approach** to help our neighbors in need.

In September, the Food Bank launched #IfOnlyYouKnew, an ongoing campaign to educate our legislators and community about the struggles of the 1.3 million low-income seniors and people with disabilities, pushed into poverty because of our state government's failure to restore Supplemental Security Income (SSI/SSP) benefits.

Each week, we shared firsthand accounts from Food Bank clients who receive SSI/SSP. Those like Andrea, a Food Bank client and volunteer,

who is forced to rely on our member agency pantries in order to get by — all while caring for her 82-year-old mother. Like 54,000 others in Alameda County who receive SSI/SSP, Andrea struggles to afford life's basic necessities such as soap or toothpaste ... *let alone nutritious food.*

### WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

If our neighbors and legislators knew about the struggles of SSI/SSP recipients, and the root cause — outdated, unfair policies — they'd do something about it!

More, #IfOnlyYouKnew aligns with the goal of our strategic plan: to provide 90 million meals to our community by 2018. In fact, if the California legislature restored SSI/SSP benefits *to just the federal poverty level*, our County's most vulnerable residents would have an additional 23 million meals.

### BEYOND SEPTEMBER

Hunger Action Month was just the *beginning!* We still need your help:

- **Share our community members' voices.** Visit [www.accfb.org/IfOnlyYouKnew](http://www.accfb.org/IfOnlyYouKnew) to hear stories of those affected by SSI/SSP cuts. Please share these on Facebook or Twitter with the **hashtags** '#IfOnlyYouKnew' and '#NowYouKnow'.
- **Sign the statewide petition** asking our policymakers to improve SSI/SSP in the 2015-16 legislative session. The petition link can be found on the sidebar of [www.accfb.org/advocacy](http://www.accfb.org/advocacy).
- Sign up for the **Speak Up Project**, the Food Bank's first ever advocacy institute. (Learn more on page 2).



## Your government

### U.S. House of Representatives

**Barbara Lee** (*Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont*)  
 D.C. office: (202) 225-2661  
 District office: (510) 763-0370

**Mike Honda** (*Fremont, Newark*)  
 D.C. office: (202) 225-2631  
 District office: (408) 436-2720

**Eric Swalwell** (*Alameda, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Union City*)  
 D.C. office: (202) 225-5065  
 District office: (510) 494-1388

### U.S. Senate

**Barbara Boxer**  
 D.C. office: (202) 224-3553  
 District office: (510) 286-8537

**Dianne Feinstein**  
 D.C. office: (202) 224-3841  
 District office: (415) 393-0707

### California Governor

**Jerry Brown**  
 Phone: (916) 445-2841

### State Senate

**Loni Hancock** (*Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 651-4009  
 Oakland office: (510) 286-1333

**Bob Wieckowski** (*San Leandro, Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Pleasanton, Newark*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 651-4010  
 San Leandro office: (510) 577-2310  
 Fremont office: (510) 794-3900

**Steve Glazer** (*Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 651-4007  
 Local office: (925) 942-6082

### State Assembly

**Bill Quirk** (*Castro Valley, Hayward, San Lorenzo*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 319-2020  
 Local office: (510) 583-8818

**Catharine Baker** (*Livermore, Pleasanton*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 319-2016  
 Local office: (925) 328-1515

**Tony Thurmond** (*Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 319-2015  
 Local office: (510) 286-1400

**Rob Bonta** (*Alameda, Oakland, San Leandro*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 319-2018  
 Local office: (510) 286-1670

**Kansen Chu** (*Fremont*)  
 Sacramento office: (916) 319-2025  
 Local office: (510) 440-9030

# 'SUP – The Speak Up Project

## The Food Bank's First Ever Advocacy Institute

Have you ever wondered how California's budget is created? What fancy terms such as 'federal poverty level', 'rainy day fund', or 'child nutrition reauthorization' actually mean? Have you ever stepped inside the Capitol building in Sacramento, or sat across the table from an elected official?

This fall, we invite you to join The Speak Up Project, an exciting adventure to answer all of these questions – and plenty more!

### WHY SHOULD I JOIN 'SUP'?

California's new budget, finalized in June, was a disappointment for anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocates. Governor Brown failed to restore SSI/SSP funding, lift the maximum family grant rule, and improve the school breakfast program. Meanwhile, California remains one of the nation's

most expensive places to live, as well as the state with the highest poverty rate.

However, Food Bank and statewide advocates have enjoyed other victories that we believe will lead to lasting change. We need your help building the momentum at this critical time.

This year, we witnessed more advocates than ever before joining us for hearing after hearing, meeting after meeting. Together, we led some of the most well-represented budget

hearings on SSI in years; we gained the support of more elected officials who care about restoring SSI and other social safety net programs; and, we enjoyed one of the most powerful and well-attended Hunger Action Days in the history of our Food Bank!

Are you convinced yet?! Learn more and register for 'SUP, today: <http://www.accfb.org/advocacy>

Join THE SPEAK UP PROJECT, a series of six free workshops beginning in October, to prepare you to become a LEADER in the ANTI-HUNGER movement during the 2016 legislative year — and long after!

## FROM AN ADVOCATE WHO SPEAKS

'SUP gives you the tools and knowledge to advocate with confidence. You'll emerge an expert on:

- Current political issues and upcoming legislation
- California's legislative and budget process
- How to tell your story to legislators
- How to get out the vote

## TO AN ADVOCATE WHO LEADS

