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## **Alameda County Community Food Bank Receives \$50,000 Walmart Foundation Grant to Build Retail Donation Capacity**

***Grant will fund equipment designed to handle perishable products, facilitating increased distribution of fresh, nutritious food***

Oakland, Calif. (September 4, 2015) – Alameda County Community Food Bank today announced a \$50,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund retail donation infrastructure that will ultimately help secure and distribute more nutritious food for families in need. The grant will go directly to support investments in equipment – including commercial-grade coolers and freezers, thermometers and scales – to increase Food Bank member agencies’ capacity to store and distribute perishable products.

These items will allow the Food Bank’s member agencies participating in its Grocery Rescue Program to accept increased donations with the goal of distributing nearly 780,000 additional pounds of food during the grant period – the equivalent of nearly 650,000 more meals for individuals and families in need.

“The Walmart Foundation has been a tremendous partner in helping us serve our clients the healthiest food options available,” said Sue Coberg, Grocery Rescue Program Coordinator for Alameda County Community Food Bank. “This grant will enable Alameda County Community Food Bank and our member agencies to expand capacity, increase perishable donations, and better ensure children, adults and seniors in our neighborhoods have a greater choice of nutritious foods.”

Alameda County Community Food Bank secures fresh, perishable food from retailers through its [Grocery Rescue Program](#), which pairs local grocers with nearby pantries, kitchens and other agencies serving food bank clients. All nine Alameda County-based Walmart locations regularly donate food to local agencies through Alameda County Community Food Bank’s Grocery Rescue Program. **In the last year, the Food Bank and its agencies rescued, in total, more than 3 million pounds of healthy food from**



**local grocers that would have otherwise been unnecessarily sent to landfills.** The food rescued was valued at more than **\$5 million** and provided the equivalent of more than **2.5 million meals**.

The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping build the capacity of food banks to rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a sustainable, cost-effective way. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to Feeding America and its nationwide member network of 200 food banks. This work aligns with Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s commitment to create a more sustainable food system, with a focus on improving affordability and lowering the “true cost” of food for both customers and the environment, increasing access, making healthier eating easier, and improving the safety and transparency of the food chain. It includes a goal of providing 4 billion meals to those in need in the U.S. over the next five years.

Since 2009, the Walmart Foundation has invested in more than 170 refrigerated vehicles so that Feeding America member food banks and their partner agencies can provide more food to people struggling with hunger. This year, the Walmart Foundation expanded the scope of the grant to offer a broader variety of equipment options that will meet the needs of food banks and agencies.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, about 49 million people in the United States – including 16 million children – are food insecure, which means at some point during the year, they won’t know where their next meal will come from. In Alameda County, 1 in 5 residents turn to the Food Bank for assistance – far outpacing the national ratio of 1 in 7.

#### **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 28 million meals. More than half of the food distributed is 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)

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