

COMMUNITY HARVEST

SPRING 2017



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK



MOBILIZING TO END HUNGER

Imagine your family is running low on food. Bills are piling up—along with worries. Pay day is still a week away. Then you get a call from your child's school: You can pick up a free bag of groceries tomorrow.

Now imagine the relief.

The food we provide means something important for everyone. Better nutrition. Financial stability. Energy at work or school.

And yet, food is just the beginning.

To end hunger we must also address poverty. And the depth of what that looks like will probably surprise you.

WEAVING A SAFETY NET

Our community is familiar with our food programs. But did you know our efforts also involve working with public partners and coalitions to change the systems that create poverty and inequity?

This often means working with elected officials to make sure government does its part to protect important programs. Or working with Social Services to strengthen CalFresh (food stamps).



Mobile Pantry coordinator, Betty Ly (right), with two-year-old Emily and her mom

However, it also includes working with schools to improve free or affordable school meal programs. And with health partners to increase low-income families' access to nutritious food.

It's all related.

Extending so deeply into our community takes a lot of work. But as an integral part of our county's safety net for 32 years, we understand just how interconnected our many programs and partners are.

When our partners succeed, our entire community benefits.

MORE THAN GROCERIES

Two-year-old Emily's mom recently visited one of our Mobile Pantries for the first time at a local school. There, she

picked up eggs, oatmeal, and oranges.

Emily's mom only learned about the Mobile Pantry because it partnered with a nearby childhood development program in order to provide more nutritious food for low-income families in the neighborhood.

When you fuel the Food Bank with your contributions, your energy, or your voice, you support the vision of a community where no one has to make impossible choices between fresh produce and rent, medicine and milk, groceries and school supplies.

Your investment not only fills a bag of groceries today, but supports food for all, for tomorrow and beyond.

INSIDE

FIVE STEPS TO GET INVOLVED IN ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY
Pages 4 & 5

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

- Ted Monk, Chair**
Sodexo School Services
- Dawn Willoughby, Vice Chair**
The Clorox Company
- Beth Strachan, Secretary**
Metropolitan Group
- Sydney Firestone, Treasurer**
Deloitte FAS LLP (retired)

AGENCY NETWORK CHAIR

- Sara Webber**
Berkeley Food Pantry

MEMBERS

- Tarang Amin, Past Chair**
e.l.f. Cosmetics
- Jennifer Cabalquinto**
Golden State Warriors
- Joel Dickson**
Pacific, Gas and Electric Company
- Doug Elefant**
City National Bank
- Jon Fieldman**
e.l.f. Cosmetics
- Krista Lucchesi**
Mercy Brown Bag
- Jan Markwart**
Horizon Services
- Teena Massingill**
Safeway, Inc.
- Kenneth Porter**
Greater New Beginnings
- Chuck Reinhard**
Ernst and Young LLP



ALAMEDA COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**

P.O. Box 2599
Oakland, CA 94614
Tel: (510) 635-3663
www.accfb.org

FROM THE DESK OF SUZAN BATESON

UNITING OUR VOICES

*I am excited to share my platform in this newsletter with our new **Director of Policy and Partnerships**, Stephen Knight. Stephen is a Bay Area native with a background in advocating for critical issues including immigration, housing, and the environment. I'm thrilled he's now working on hunger.*



Suzan Bateson,
Executive Director



Stephen Knight,
Director of Policy and
Partnerships

economic downturn and kept countless families from falling victim to hunger and even homelessness.

Programs like these are a necessary part of our society's fabric. But fact is, these programs—constantly under attack—are only as strong as the voices that work to preserve and improve them.

That's why we need you to stand with us.

UNITE AND ACT

An amazing thing happened on January 20, inauguration day.

On what would have otherwise been a typical Friday, 200 people joined our 95 staff members and half a dozen legislators' offices for an uplifting Day of Unity and Action.

What started as a spontaneous way to reaffirm our values, quickly turned into a rousing day of community engagement and volunteering. From seasoned advocates to advocacy newbies, this instilled in us tremendous confidence in our community's eagerness to stay engaged with our mission.

This is the type of day we need – 365 days a year.

Our community and economy must be inclusive of everyone. Every child, adult and senior deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential and live vibrant, productive lives.

Join us.

We know from speaking with thousands of supporters that you share our belief that **food is a basic human right.**

This is the principle upon which all our work is founded. But our work only continues because of you and your passion for a hunger-free community.

This passion is found in our 18,000 volunteers, or at our 240 partner agencies, for instance.

However, we've always said that we can't end hunger by distributing food alone. This is why the passion radiating from our corps of **grassroots community advocates** is so critical.

STANDING TOGETHER

At this moment in our nation's history, thoughtful advocacy and citizen engagement has never been more important – to us or the 116,000 children, adults, and seniors we serve every month.

Our safety net is critical to the health and prosperity of our entire community. During the Great Recession, programs like CalFresh (food stamps) responded to the



FOOD BANK HAPPENINGS



HUNGER ON CAMPUS

Did you know that 1 in 5 students across both the UC and Cal State systems are facing food insecurity? Did you know, also, that we're there for them?

Over the last year we have worked with CSU-East Bay, UC Berkeley and Laney College to open on-campus food pantries, while partnering on hunger and poverty programming.

Food Bank clients—including students—often pay for housing, utilities and other essential bills (like tuition), but at the cost of food. That's why we're deepening our partnerships with local colleges and universities. When students have the nutrition they need, they can focus on achieving their education and futures.



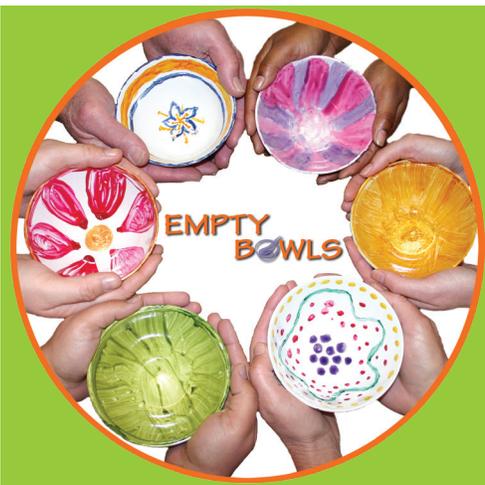
FRESH OFF THE PRESSES

Congrats to our own Liz Gomez who recently won a well-deserved "Freshy Award" from the California Food Policy Advocates! For 14 years, Liz, with her incredible outreach team, has strengthened the CalFresh program (which used to be called food stamps) across Alameda County by developing new outreach strategies and tools emulated by food banks nationwide to help thousands of households access fresh, healthy food.



HALL OF FAME!

And finally, a congrats to our Executive Director Suzan Bateson. Just before we went to print, it was announced that Suzan—an inspiration to all of us at the Food Bank—was named to Alameda County's 2017 Women's Hall of Fame class! The WHOF, which recognizes the "remarkable range of achievements" of local women, is honoring Suzan for her transformational leadership in hunger-relief locally and nationwide.



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY
MAY 18
at 6 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly evening of art, nourishment and advocacy at **Alameda County Community Food Bank**.

Enjoy a delicious soup dinner, bid in the silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and experiences, and take home a hand-painted bowl.

Tickets available early April. Check your mailbox and inbox.

For information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Kathryn Weber: kweber@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 328.

ADVOCACY 101

Five Steps to Get Involved in Anti-Hunger Advocacy



When you look around our offices, a group of desks are often conspicuously empty. That's because our **Advocacy Team** is always on the road working with elected officials, local schools, anti-hunger advocates, and getting involved in other grassroots efforts to eradicate the ways our society creates poverty and inequity. They wouldn't be named to Feeding America's Advocacy Hall of Fame four years in a row by just sitting here!

Guess what? They need your help. You may have joined us as a contributor, volunteer, or supporter before, but now's the time to get involved as an advocate. Here are five simple—and impactful—ways to join in our advocacy efforts against hunger and its root causes.

1 Sign up for our advocacy email list

You'll receive updates about legislation we're advocating for, or programs we're trying to protect. Each email provides simple instructions for taking action. (Sign up at accfb.org/advocacy.)

2 Hop on the bus for Hunger Action Day

Bring your comfiest shoes, your voice, and your energy to Sacramento! Every May, hundreds of advocates from across the state come together to meet with State Senate and Assembly members, urging them to support legislation that helps low-income Californians. By far the biggest contingent is ours! Keep your eyes peeled next month for an RSVP link on our website.

justice

dignity

advocacy

hope

action

4 Join the SpeakUp Project

Our SpeakUP Project is an ongoing series of events that give you the skills and legislative savvy to advocate with confidence. From illuminating how California's legislative process works, to exploring how to tell your story to legislators, our events provide the perfect opportunity to get your feet wet in grassroots advocacy and start taking action.

3 Call your elected officials!

Don't be intimidated! On January 20, inauguration day, we hosted a panel discussion with staff from elected officials' offices. As the representatives on the front lines answering your calls, they encouraged your phone calls as the most effective way to make your voice heard.

5 Meet up with Community Advocates Against Hunger

Are you interested in joining a group of advocates who fight against hunger and its root causes? If you're looking to join this mighty group and become more deeply involved in our work, this is the spot for you! CAAH meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. For times and more details, contact Shanti Prasad at spasad@accfb.org.

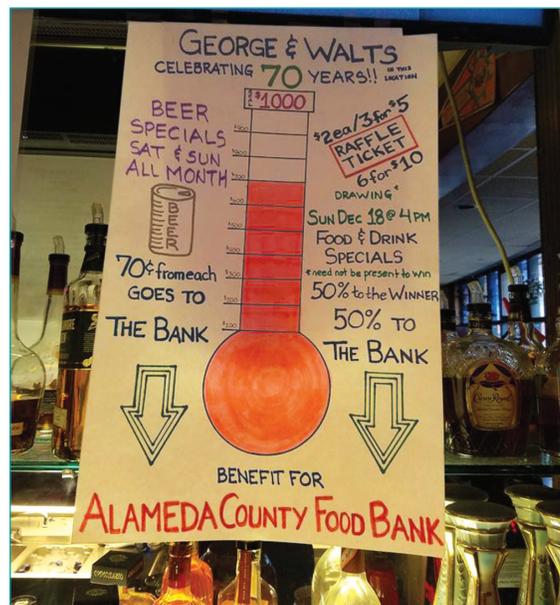
HUNGER HEROES

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Barb Stelzriede's family has owned George and Walt's bar in Oakland for four generations. About 12 years ago, she noticed that patrons were dropping and leaving pennies on the ground as they rummaged through their pockets for quarters to play pool. Instead of tossing them in the cash register, Barb started collecting them for the food bank.

"People want to help, but sometimes they just don't know how," she said. To this day, she keeps a giant change container on the bar for donations and encourages people to collect pennies and change. "I had a guy bring in a drawer of pennies for us!"

She took her support even further last December when she turned George and Walt's 70th anniversary celebration into a fundraiser, selling raffle tickets and specialty drinks. It's proof a little does go a long way: they raised enough for 22,000 meals.



WORKDAY: GIVING & DOING



Workday employees sort California grown kiwis in our Community Engagement Center

In a contest they've dubbed "cangineering," every year Workday employees construct elaborate can structures, donating the food and proceeds to local Food Banks including ACCFB. (This year's winners included Spongebob and an Orca whale.) On top of these feats of cangineering, Workday volunteers have volunteered 1,177 hours since 2013, and the Workday Foundation stretches that impact even further by providing funds based on all those volunteer hours!

"FOOD IS WHAT WE DO, AND IT'S HOW WE GIVE."

The special holiday cocktail may have been called the "Ebenezer Scrooge," but Oakland diner Hopscotch's holiday was anything but Scrooge-esque. Between proceeds of the "Scrooge"—which supported our work—and a special fundraising page the diner set up through our "Share Your Holiday" campaign, Hopscotch raised enough this season to provide 2,800 meals!



Hopscotch's Saren O'Grady, Jenny Schwarz, and Chelsea Silber

Have an idea for a great fundraiser?
[Visit accfb.org/fundraise.](http://accfb.org/fundraise)



JOIN THE PROTEIN MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

Your gift will be used to buy:

- ✓ *peanut butter*
- ✓ *canned tuna*
- ✓ *fresh meat*
- ✓ *eggs*
- ✓ *milk*
- ✓ *cheese*
- ✓ *yogurt*



Donate by March 31 and your gift will be matched up to \$40,000 to provide protein-rich foods to families in our community.

Be sure to check the Protein Matching Gift Challenge box on the return envelope between pages 4 & 5 or donate online at donate.accfb.org/protein

FUNDRAISE FOR THE FOOD BANK

From Birthdays to Bar Mitzvahs. Corporate team building to competitions among friends. We make it easy—and impactful—to fundraise with your friends, family and colleagues. With two simple options, you can't go wrong ... but which one is best for you? Find out...



SHARE YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION

Great for individuals of all ages to get their friends and family involved.

Donate your birthday; fundraise for your marathon; honor a loved one's memory or accomplishment ... or get creative!

Get started:
accfb.org/fundraise

BOTH

Easy!

- ✓ Gets others involved in our mission
- ✓ Stays local to provide healthy food
- ✓ Track your totals in real time
- ✓ **Great ROI:** we'll provide \$6 of food for every \$1 donated



VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Best for groups—corporate or otherwise—and a great way to enhance traditional food drives.

It's like a food drive, but in cyberspace! Virtually "shop" to help us purchase our most-needed items.

Get started:
vfd-accfb.org

FROM FARM TO TABLES

HOW OUR TEAM TRANSFORMS TRUCKLOADS OF FOOD INTO GROCERIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Nearly 600,000 meals worth of food will leave our warehouse this week. Over the next year, 34 million pounds will come through our facility. This only happens thanks to the brilliance of our Operations Team which is hard at work well before most people are even awake. It's a complicated web of receiving, inventory, shipping – and our team's one of the best in the business. Meet some of the team that, literally, gets the food from the farms to tables.

LOUIS SWEET
Shipping and Receiving
Coordinator

Q: What does an average day look like for you?

A: All the food that comes through the doors, I receive it. That means putting everything coming in on the chart board, printing out all the labels, and checking that all our paperwork matches what truck drivers actually have on the trucks.

Q: What's the most challenging part of your job?

A: When it gets really crowded on the floor, you just have to stay focused on what needs to get received. I slow down to avoid making mistakes, and make sure we know everything we're getting.



Zorawar, Rich and Louis

ZORAWAR SINGH BAINS
Warehouse Associate

Q: How do you start your morning?

A: I pick up my pull sheets and start pulling orders for our agencies from our shelves. I also help in our volunteer area, or in receiving.

Q: What's the most challenging part of your work?

A: Finding spots to store all our inventory! It's not too hard though – other people on the team will help find space.

Q: How do you support others?

A: We have to work as a team – everybody is going to need help at some point. We're like a family, if one person has too much to do, our whole work can slow down, so we have to help.

RICH FERREIRA
Truck Driver/Warehouse
Associate

Q: Describe the Food Bank in three words.

A: Progressive. Intuitive. Efficient.

Q: What's the most challenging part of your job?

A: The traffic. A lot of times it feels like Los Angeles. There are really only so many routes you can take, and you have to know the back routes – which I do!

Q: Why do you believe in the Food Bank's mission?

A: Wherever I go in the country, I'm proud to say Oakland is my hometown. I came to work at the Food Bank to support my hometown, and to give back to the place where I was born and raised.

I WANT TO HELP PROVIDE FOOD FOR FAMILIES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other: \$ _____

I commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____ (my first gift is enclosed)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to:
Alameda County Community Food Bank (or "ACCFB")
P.O. Box 2599
Oakland, CA 94614

Please charge my gift to my:

Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ Sec. # _____

Signature _____

Donate online at www.accfb.org



Your donation is tax-deductible as permitted by law. The Food Bank will send you a receipt.

NLSPR17