



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Until everyone's fed

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

FALL 2018

Your generosity in action

Landscape of Hunger and Poverty in Alameda County



\$92,267

YEARLY INCOME REQUIRED TO COVER
BASIC NEEDS FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR

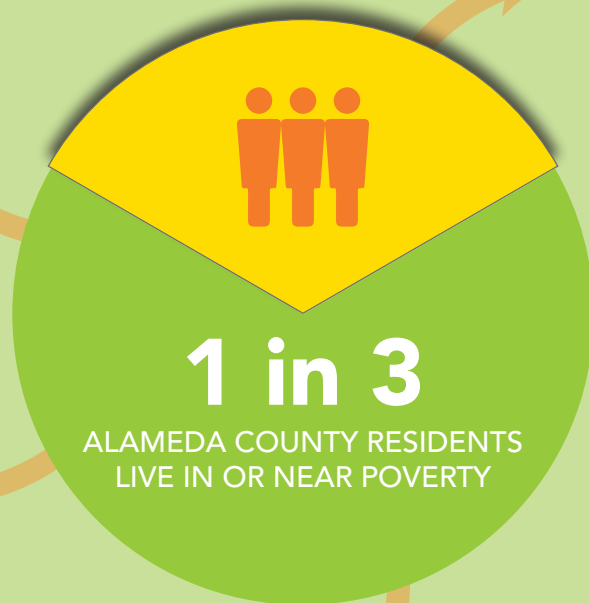
Meanwhile...

\$32,013

MAXIMUM INCOME
FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR
TO BE CONSIDERED
LIVING IN POVERTY

\$49,200

MAXIMUM GROSS
INCOME TO QUALIFY FOR
CALFRESH (FOOD STAMPS)
FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR



43%

CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR
FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE
LUNCH



50%

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES
SPEND HALF OF THEIR
INCOME ON HOUSING



59%

OF CALFRESH (FOOD STAMPS)
PARTICIPANTS ARE CHILDREN

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Students to Students: Creating Inclusive Culture



Paw Si, Hser Ku, and Paw Ley Wah are students at Oakland International High School, a Food Bank partner that provides college prep for immigrant students. Their three families are refugees from war-torn Burma.

Together, the two young women and young man participate in the Food Bank's nutrition programming and volunteer in the school pantry. "We started helping because we're part of the new roots in the community," they said. **"We like to see how happy people are when they get food when they don't have money."**

The three youth are part of a student advisory group working with ACCFB to better integrate the food pantry within the school's culture. One of the barriers to accessing food can be stigma, but having students involved creates a different atmosphere.

"Social status is really important in the teenage years and outing yourself as needing food assistance can be hard," said Jenny Lowe, ACCFB's

Manager of Nutrition, Wellness, & Food Initiatives. "Including peers in our program's decision-making process makes students feel more comfortable voicing their needs."

The student advisory group is sending out surveys to learn about families' dietary preferences and how to create greater access to the food we distribute. Since it's an international community, there are diverse cuisines that help immigrant families feel more at home.

For Paw Si, Hser Ku, and Paw Ley Wah, they are looking ahead. "Helping other people as much as we can allows us to understand and get close to our community," they said. **"Having food helps for the future."**

We are grateful for these students, their teachers, and administrators for their dedication to expanding food access in their school community. Thanks to the support of friends like you, we will continue to find additional opportunities like these to reach even more neighbors.



"Helping other people as much as we can allows us to understand and get close to our community."

Students at Oakland International High School learn about sugar content in drinks during a workshop

ADVANCING THE POLICY FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

A Big Win for California's Underserved



Many working people struggle their whole lives only to face a penniless retirement. Domestic, farm, and restaurant workers are just a few who are not only paid low wages, but are often ineligible for Social Security. **These workers are disproportionately women, people of color, and immigrants.**

SSI maxes out at \$991 per month for an individual

For them, as well as people with disabilities, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides minimal cash assistance. SSI maxes out at \$991 per month for an individual—\$20 above the federal poverty level. What's worse is that until recently, SSI recipients were not eligible for CalFresh (SNAP, or food stamps).

In 1974, California passed a law that required SSI recipients to “cashout” food benefits at only \$10 per month, which could provide more than a week's worth of groceries at that time. In 44 years, that amount never increased.

After a decade of policy and advocacy work by the Food Bank, our partners, and SSI recipients, Governor Brown finally overturned the food cashout program in June. This new eligibility for CalFresh **could translate to more than 30 million meals for Alameda County's 50,000 SSI recipients**, many of whom shared their personal stories in front of their elected leaders.

By next year, this victory means SSI and State Disability Insurance recipients can apply to receive up to \$194 in monthly benefits.

“Overturning this outdated policy is going to relieve a lot of stress for thousands of people and underscores why advocacy is a critical part of the Food Bank's efforts,” said Stephen Knight, Food Bank Policy Director.

Thank you for your unyielding commitment to the Food Bank's work to create greater equity. With your support, we will expand the policy fight to ensure fair and just policies that support everyone.

To understand how this victory impacts the people we serve, read Ortencia's story on the next page.

Our brave Food Bank advocates lend their voices at an SSI hearing at the State Capitol in Sacramento



A Victory Worth Fighting For: Meet Ortencia



Sometimes the biggest victories come later in life. Ortencia is 85 and was a vital part of the Food Bank's winning efforts to allow Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients to apply for CalFresh (SNAP, or food stamps).

Ortencia taught kindergarten for 27 years. She retired on SSI and a tiny pension with a total monthly income of \$1,248.

"When I was little, my mother would give me a dollar, and I'd get a bag of groceries," said Ortencia. "But today, I have \$100 for the month and still come up short. If it wasn't for the food I get at St. Mary's Center, I'd be going hungry."

The Food Bank provides member agency St. Mary's with food for its senior lunch program as well as fresh fruits, vegetables, and pantry staples for seniors to bring home.



Ortencia speaking to fellow senior citizens at Saint Mary's Center in Oakland

ineligible for CalFresh (food stamps) as an SSI recipient. "Every year, my expenses go up and up, but my check stays the same," said Ortencia.

However, things will improve as the Food Bank and people like Ortencia convinced elected leaders to allow SSI recipients to apply for CalFresh.

"I feel really proud that this is not only going to help me but help a lot of other people," said Ortencia. "I can't even imagine what it will be like to have more money for food. This really makes me root for hope."

Congratulations, Ortencia, and to the many brave SSI recipients who made this victory happen. And thank you, Food Bank supporters. You fuel our advocacy work and our visions of a brighter future.

"I can't even imagine what it will be like to have more money for food. This really makes me root for hope."

Ortencia is diabetic, and the food she receives is like medicine. "When I eat better, I feel better," she said.

In addition to stretching her \$1,248 for rent, utilities, medication, and food, Ortencia has been

We Can't End Hunger Without Ending Poverty

We work with all levels of government for a just and equitable community.

We speak loudest when we speak together. Join us at accfb.org/advocacy.



TOGETHER WE CAN END HUNGER AND POVERTY

Paving the Way for Hope: Meet Nancy



Our donors are just as passionate as we are about fighting food insecurity. And they take action in many different ways.

Nancy Lenvin has done it all from volunteering in our warehouse to celebrating her 70th birthday by asking guests for Food Bank donations.

Always looking for new ways to give, Nancy discovered she could direct her IRA distributions to the Food Bank tax-free.

“Instead of having to withdraw the funds and then write a check, I could direct it straight to the Food Bank.”

Shortly after turning 70, Nancy’s accountant informed her that she was legally required to start withdrawing money from her IRA account (called the Required Minimum Distribution, or RMD) and those funds would be taxed. However, since Nancy was in a position where she didn’t need the additional income, she thought, “Well, maybe I can donate it.”

Nancy’s accountant advised her that if she transferred her RMD directly to a nonprofit, she



Nancy Lenvin (right) with Executive Director Suzan Bateson at the Food Bank

wouldn’t need to pay taxes on the withdrawals.

“I was thrilled,” said Nancy. “Instead of having to withdraw the funds and then write a check, I could direct it straight to the Food Bank.”

The process was simple, clear, and Nancy’s contributions have made a huge impact on the lives of the children, adults, and seniors who turn to us for help.

Thank you, Nancy, and all our donors who go the extra mile to support our community.

To learn more about giving through an IRA, visit accfb.org/more-ways-to-give.

Make Your Legacy Her Future

When you include Alameda County Community Food Bank in your estate plans, you are making an impact on the lives of our neighbors. Whether you are considering a simple bequest, designating a beneficiary for retirement assets, or setting up a trust, we can help you explore options.

To learn more or to join our Will To End Hunger Legacy Society, contact Anjali Englund at (510) 635-3663 ext. 379 or aenglund@accfb.org.



INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

Getting “Lean” with Kaiser Permanente



Volunteers are at the core of the Food Bank’s operations, and not only sorting produce in the warehouse. We have many volunteers who lend us their specialized skills.

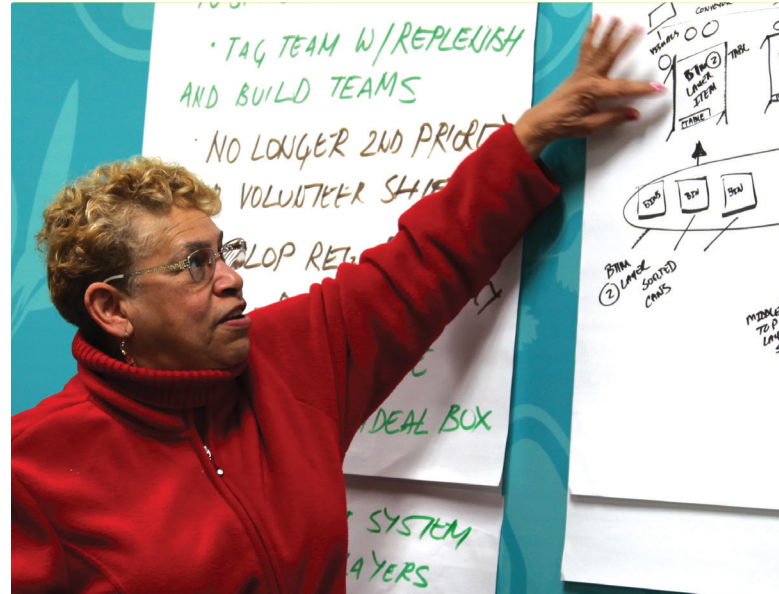
Grace Tow-Obertik, a performance improvement lead from Kaiser Permanente, is helping us get more food into the community by streamlining our sorting processes.

“My motivation for volunteering is to contribute to creating a healthy community,” said Grace. “I am able to leverage my background to have a greater impact and to create real systems change with performance improvement.”

Grace recently led an effort to take a closer look at our food drive sorting process to help identify points that could be streamlined. Together, the Kaiser Permanente volunteers and our operations team are designing plans to increase productivity and efficiency.

“We’re saving thousands of dollars by leveraging Kaiser Permanente’s expertise, and also because we can be even more efficient. For every \$1 that we save, we can provide \$7 worth of food to our community,” said Erick Lovdahl, Food Bank Director of Operations.

Kaiser Permanente employees donate hundreds of hours at the Food Bank because they share our mission to improve the well-being of our community. “It’s a good feeling knowing that our volunteer work translates to tens of thousands more meals for families who can’t afford to eat,”



Food Bank volunteer Judy Grant at a training led by Kaiser Permanente

said Grace. “Nutritious food is a cornerstone of good health.”

Skills-based volunteers have played an increasingly important role—from research projects to multimedia support to translation support—in the Food Bank’s efforts to end hunger. “Community is our middle name for a reason,” said Erick. “Lending your unique expertise is a great way to help us take care of our community.”

Join Judy and learn how
you can help at ACCFB
accfb.org/volunteer



Security
in the form of
fresh produce