



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK**

Until everyone's fed



**DONOR**

**IMPACT REPORT**

FALL 2019

*Your generosity in action*

## Making Progress So that *Everyone* is Included



Suzan Bateson,  
Executive Director

This is an uncertain time for our community. In 2019, we should be well beyond policies and rhetoric that marginalize people of color, immigrants, and countless other historically

underrepresented communities.

And yet, here we are. Some days feel like a step backwards from all we've fought for. (Just as this newsletter was going to print, the White House announced new "Public Charge" rules aimed at immigrants who benefit from CalFresh.)

**Studies show that hunger disproportionately affects people of color. In Alameda County, 7 in 10 community members who are living in poverty are people of color.** The evidence that hunger and racism are linked is irrefutable. We can't end hunger without addressing this issue head-on for the well-being of all.

To that end, I sent a note to our staff and community earlier this year about ACCFB's work to fight racism.

As outrageous as it is that many influential people

and institutions seem intent on making the problem worse, I take comfort—and I hope you do too—that, **together, we are making progress.**

Two of our biggest policy wins ever will mean millions of meals generated through programs that mostly support people of color. Our agency partners are tailoring their distributions to better meet cultural preferences. We're engaging in research and advocacy actions that are leading to long-term solutions.

**... 7 in 10 community members who are living in poverty are people of color. The evidence that hunger and racism are linked is irrefutable.**

And, there's **you**: partners, volunteers, supporters, food program participants, and advocates who engage, encourage, and foster innovation as our needs, and our community's needs, change.

Our work at ACCFB is a marathon, not a sprint. It's a race we know we'll never finish because we're always improving and working to become a more inclusive and belonging Alameda County Community Food Bank.

We'd love for you to learn with us.

*You can donate stock  
or securities*



Donating appreciated stock is one of the easiest ways to give more to causes like ours. **There are excellent tax advantages, and your contribution will have a lasting impact in our community.**

Call Kathy McPhee at 1-510-635-3663 ext. 336 for more information.

THANKS TO YOU, CARE IS EXPANDED FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE

## Increasing Efforts for the SSI Expansion



On a typical day, our Food Bank fields an average of 20 calls from neighbors applying for CalFresh (food stamps). But **in the past three months, we have received more than 2,000 calls—about 100 every day.**

The reason for the spike? This past June, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients—low-income seniors, blind, or disabled individuals—were given access to CalFresh for the very first time. It was a hard-fought victory following a decade of policy and advocacy work by our Food Bank and our partners. As a result, 8,300 SSI recipients in Alameda County are already benefitting from the expansion.

With your support, we have been hard at work spreading the word and helping clients enroll. ACCFB is the call center for Alameda County CalFresh applications and volume has significantly spiked since the expansion.

To accommodate clients' needs, we hired additional staff to expand language services and opened Saturday appointments. And, we're out in the community. Our team has helped people apply for CalFresh at more than 100 enrollment events and we've trained 150 community agency representatives to help people sign up.

We also have service providers going to homeless encampments to offer clients transportation to attend a clinic at the Food Bank. This provides a more streamlined and expedited application process to meet their needs.

But, we know our work is not done and more people can benefit from this historic expansion.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients were given access to CalFresh for the very first time ... As a result, 8,300 SSI recipients are now benefitting.**

That's why we're hosting bi-weekly meetings with Alameda County Social Services to provide agencies support and messaging. Through these meetings, we realized the need to spread the word about CalFresh benefits in action, such as showing what \$15 and \$110 worth of groceries look like through a YouTube video or flier.

The CalFresh expansion is only beneficial if people know about it and sign up. **Thanks to you, we're able to expand our services and meet the community need.**



**Our HelpReach team assists families and individuals apply for CalFresh and access emergency food on the same day**

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY EVEN *BETTER*

## Knowing Who's at Risk ... and How to Better Serve Them



We ask ourselves big questions every day:

Who are we serving? Who are we missing?

What's the most effective way to get food to people who need it?

We're constantly striving to be and do better for our entire community. In doubling down on our belief that food is a basic human right, **we're pursuing groundbreaking solutions to end hunger and improve the lives of more people than ever before.**

And with your support, we're making real progress thanks to some major, inventive partnerships.

Our evolution requires an in-depth look at our community to find answers to our big questions. Through our partnership with the Urban Institute, a social and economic think tank, we're getting the most comprehensive look we've ever had into our county and the causes of the issues we're working to solve.

This collaboration is already informing how we utilize and prioritize our resources over the next

three to five years. We're gaining insight into how low- and middle-income households (\$35k-\$75k) are affected by rent and housing burdens, which put a strain on budgets and impact our neighbors' ability to purchase healthy food. We're seeing new opportunities in areas like the Tri-Valley and Tri-Cities to develop distributions during "non-traditional" times like evenings and weekends.

This is where our new partnership with Spring Impact, a nonprofit social impact organization, comes in. Together, with your support, we'll soon be **designing, testing, and implementing fresh ideas and innovative distribution methods.** This is one way we're improving the lives of more people—by better serving the clients we already know and reaching neighbors who have never accessed our services.

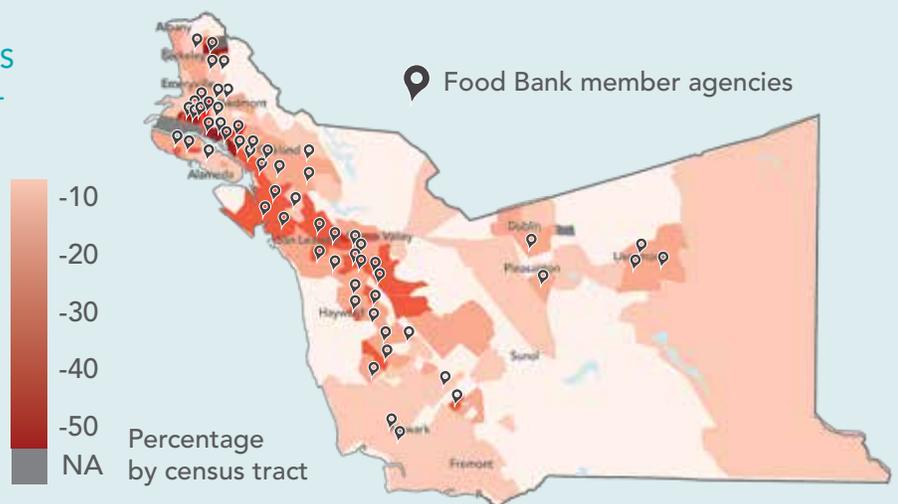
We know solving hunger takes more than distributing food. We must innovate in order to transform and improve upon our work. That's where we're going, thanks to your partnership.

### FOOD INSECURITY ACROSS ALAMEDA COUNTY:

Proportions of census tract populations that have very low, low, or marginal household food security

**330,000** ALAMEDA COUNTY RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE VERY LOW, LOW, OR MARGINAL FOOD SECURITY

**1 in 3** OAKLAND RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE LOW OR MARGINAL FOOD SECURITY



## YOUR GENEROSITY INSPIRES OTHERS AND PROVIDES HOPE

### Going Above and Beyond: Meet Karen



Karen Long has been a Food Bank supporter for more than a decade, and she's passionate about ending hunger in Alameda County.

Through volunteering in our warehouse, answering calls on our Helpline, and donating regularly, Karen has found many ways to put her passion to work.

"[Volunteering on the helpline] has been really positive. People appreciate getting help and getting food. And I feel like I've done something specific to help people," said Karen.

And, she continues to find new ways to support our community.

After Karen turned 70 ½, she learned that she was required to withdraw money from her IRA account under the rule for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), and those funds would be taxed.

Deciding she didn't need the additional income, Karen wanted to donate her RMD. She was thrilled to learn that she could easily transfer her RMD to nonprofits and wouldn't need to pay taxes on those withdrawals.

She split her RMD donation between ACCFB and the Oakland Library, organizations that are most important to her.

"It's nice to be able to do more than volunteer because I know resources are limited and there's

**"It's nice to be able to do more than just volunteering because I know resources are limited and there's so much need in the community."**



**Karen during a Helpline shift, where she connects clients to same day emergency food**

so much need in the community," she said.

Karen hears stories of that need every Monday when she's volunteering on our Helpline and directing neighbors to partner agencies where

they can pick up food. She said that while it feels good connecting people with groceries, it's comforting to know she also helps provide healthy meals.

**Thank you, Karen, for all you do to support a hunger-free Alameda County.**

To learn more about giving through an IRA, visit [accfb.org/give/more-ways-to-give](https://accfb.org/give/more-ways-to-give) or call Anjali Englund at 1-510-875-7845.

## YOU REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

# Pioneers of Recovering Food and Reducing Waste



Food banks are the original pioneers of the modern food recovery movement. And ACCFB is no exception, leading the way for these efforts in California through our Food Recovery Program (FRP) to collect food surplus from retailers, divert these resources to fill neighbors' needs, and reduce waste.

Since 2012, your support has helped us develop partnerships with retailers and local donors to collect wholesome food and then distribute it through our agency partners.

"This partnership helps us responsibly and effectively help thousands of people in our community while keeping food safety at the forefront, feeding others and infusing lives with health and happiness," said Becca Whitman, Senior Manager, Community Relations at Raley's, one of FRP's partners. "It takes all of us to alleviate hunger."

**Thanks to your support, FRP has rescued 22 million pounds of excess food worth an estimated \$7 million to date.** That amounts to



**Noe, our Food Recovery Program truck driver, recovers food all over Alameda County**

nearly four million meals every year for neighbors throughout Alameda County.

And, FRP's value extends far beyond redistributing food. **Comprehensive and sophisticated food recovery operations like ours also have a major environmental impact.** By diverting large-scale landfill waste and preparing for new state climate change regulations, FRP has reduced harmful greenhouse gas emissions by 4,000 units this year alone. And, we've purchased a hybrid vehicle for food recovery pickups to help reach even more partners.

"FRP is just one more way we're deepening our commitment to improve the lives of neighbors in our community," said Kat Larrowe, ACCFB's Food Recovery Program Manager. "We're just getting started as we engage with new donors and develop even more innovative ways to collect and distribute food surplus."



**End hunger,  
one plate at a time**

The California DMV is pre-selling specialty license plates that help fund California Association of Food Banks members—including our Food Bank.

**Get your plate at  
[californiaimagine.com](http://californiaimagine.com)**

## YOU'RE HELPING US UNDERSTAND CLIENTS' NEEDS

# Improving Our Services Through Technology



When Twyla visits Grace Baptist Church's food distribution, she simply scans her client card before picking up her groceries. Gone are the days of filling out paperwork each time she visits.

"Check-in is so much smoother," she said.

Twyla's card is part of our *Client Voice* initiative, a project designed to give the Food Bank and our network of partner agencies **clearer insight into who is facing hunger by responsibly collecting information from those we serve.**

It is an important step toward better understanding our clients and their needs in order to improve and expand our services.

With your support, we launched *Client Voice* at nine of our partner agencies starting in the fall of 2018.

**These insights are critical to improving our programs so we can better serve our county**

"The program has been really great and is much more efficient," said Edna Brown, a volunteer at the church.

Edna said she's already seen *Client Voice* influencing the community she serves. The data allows her to purchase more culturally appropriate food. The check-in process is easier for disabled clients. And, through software provided by our



Food Bank client Twyla shows her client card at Grace Baptist Church's food distribution

Food Bank, Grace Baptist's processes are updated and streamlined.

In a county as diverse as Alameda County, *Client Voice* is an important tool that will give our Food Bank a more accurate client count, that will allow us to examine shifts in demographics, and will enable us to evaluate the impact of federal and state policies. These insights are critical to improving our programs so we can better serve our county—and neighbors like Twyla.

*Thanks to Feeding America, Sunlight Giving, Stupski Foundation, the Frederick J. Isaac Philanthropic Fund of the SF-based Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, and Simon Solutions for supporting this program.*



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