



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK**

Until everyone's fed



**DONOR  
IMPACT REPORT**

FALL 2020

*Your generosity in action*

## Flourishing of “Community” in a Pandemic



Suzan Bateson,  
Executive Director

The Bay Area’s shelter-in-place order was still days away when the first signs of a community in crisis appeared: dozens of visitors to our facility, daily, in search of food. Often for the first time.

This is something that previously happened sporadically. (We primarily provide food through partners like food pantries.) So by March 13, we knew we were entering an unprecedented time.

We’re a different organization — and a different community — than we were in March. And yet, I’m hopeful about our future.

It’s been challenging — a pandemic, economic collapse, continued systemic racism — and we’re going to struggle together for a long time. However, *with you* we have accomplished a lot, and that’s where I find my daily dose of optimism.

You’ve helped us innovate and overhaul the way we work. You’ve joined us as inclusivity has become more of a practice. (“Practice,” because we’re always learning.) And we now know what we

can accomplish together. **We have a clearer view of what it takes to solve hunger.**

Emergency relief is at our core and we stand ready to help our community through disasters or recessions like the one we are wading into.

While we never imagined a convergence like this, our neighbors called and you ensured we were ready.

This will not be our last challenge together. That’s why Alameda County Community Food Bank exists.

**“We’re a different organization – and a different community – than we were in March. And yet, I’m hopeful about our future.”**

How we exist, though, is bigger. We exist within and because of you — our COMMUNITY — and it’s you that makes us hopeful. Not just your outpouring of support, but how you’ve joined us in committing to better understanding, learning, and growing.

We have a long way to go. We must work together. I know we will.



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.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE HELPING OUR NETWORK GROW

## Agency Partners Step Up to Meet the Need



At the heart of our Food Bank is a network of more than 350 member agencies and distribution partners. They are on the frontlines every day working hard to provide critical meals to neighbors across the County.

Our partners have done extraordinary work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic to meet the rising need for food assistance.

"The need has been growing," said Candi Thornton, Executive Director of **Arsola's House** — one of our partner agencies.

Candi made quick adjustments in order to keep her pantry open, stay safe, and serve the increasing need.

"We knew we had to put something in place for people falling on hard times," added Candi.

In addition to their regular distribution in East Oakland, we helped Arsola's secure a location for a drive-through distribution, which quickly saw the number of cars increase each week. With additional food from us, as well as government support, Arsola's has tripled the amount of food it distributes and is still seeing demand grow.

Even before the pandemic, 1 in 5 Alameda County residents was experiencing hunger. Our daily emergency food helpline call volume increased 1,000% in late March and remains double what it was before the COVID-19 crisis. We refer these callers to our partner agencies to pick up groceries or a hot meal.

More than 290 of our partners are still operating and the vast majority have seen a huge spike in demand. All are going above and beyond to serve the community.



**Director Lola Hardy of Acts of Grace Food Pantry at Grace Baptist Church**

**Mercy Brown Bag** spearheaded the **Oakland at Risk** initiative, which pairs volunteers with high-risk households to deliver groceries and check in on them. And we partnered with **Tri-City Volunteers** to launch a drive-through distribution to serve more than 500 families weekly. Just to name a few.

We're also securing funding to support agency growth. For instance, Bayer Fund, the philanthropic arm of life sciences company Bayer, awarded ACCFB and **Berkeley Food Network** (BFN) a \$600,000 grant. Half of the grant will help BFN expand its infrastructure and purchase food.

We've also made capacity grants available to agencies that needed additional infrastructure to expand their services, including **Grace Baptist Church**, which was able to secure two upright freezers.

"They give us more space and have made a wonderful difference for our food distribution. They're so convenient," said Lola Hardy, director of the pantry.

During an ongoing crisis with so few bright spots, the compassion, commitment, and hard work of our partner agencies is nothing short of inspiring.

## YOU'RE KEEPING CHILDREN NOURISHED

# Partnering With Schools to Support Families



On a sunny morning in early May, Joe walked out of a school pantry — arms full of groceries for his family.

Joe is a construction worker and father to two teenagers. Since the pandemic hit, however, work has been unreliable and his paychecks have to stretch further.

“It’s been a struggle for everyone,” he said. “Every little bit helps.”

Like many, Joe turned to a food pantry at a local school.

Summer is always a concerning time for families, as many children don’t have access to free and reduced price meals at school. So, when schools closed months early due to COVID-19, we knew helping families with children would be one of our most important efforts.

And, with your support, we quickly scaled our response.

In early March — with schools on the cusp of closing — Stephen and Ayesha Curry, through their Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation, reached out to help us provide 1 million meals through a partnership with Oakland Unified School District. The Oakland A’s also joined in to boost our emergency response efforts.

“We want to make sure that we rally around everyone and make sure these kids are not worried about where their next meal is coming from,” Ayesha Curry said.

The first deliveries of food to Oakland schools happened the week of March 16 and we’ve



Stephen and Ayesha Curry paid a surprise, socially distanced visit to the Food Bank

been growing ever since. We’re now working with 12 school districts county-wide to distribute emergency food bags for children and their families.

Each bag contains nutritious staples including whole grains and canned protein, and comes with bags of fresh fruits and vegetables. Since schools closed — and into the summer — we have provided more than 1.5 million meals through school partnerships.

With classes starting remotely this year, these partnerships — and your critical support — mean neighbors like Joe can focus on what matters most: family, education, and staying healthy.

“The pantry helps a lot because it means we get to eat,” Joe said.

## FROM OUR RESEARCH TEAM

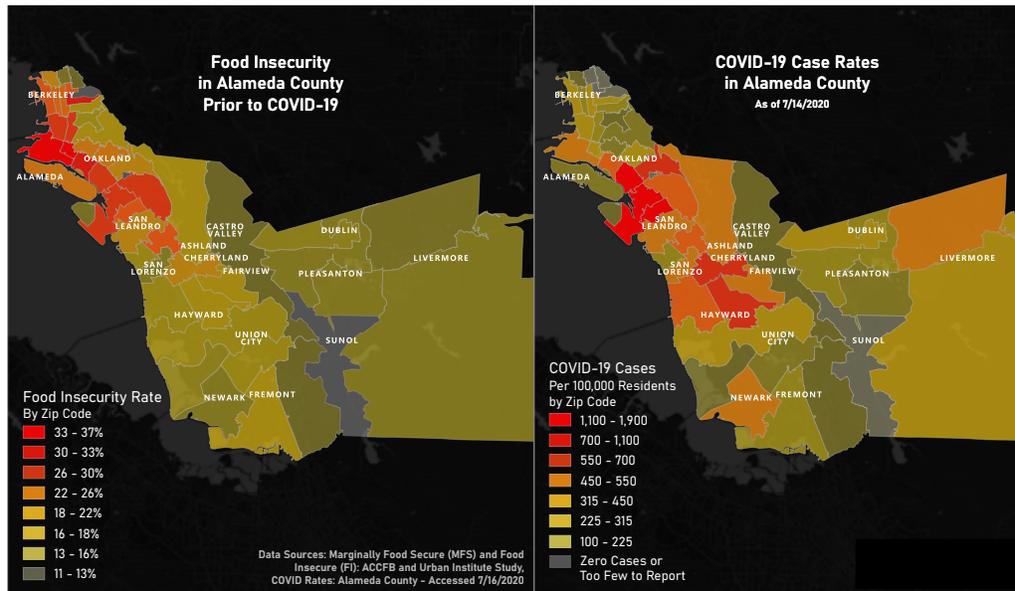
# Addressing COVID's Impact on Communities of Color



Look closely at these two maps. One highlights food insecurity in the county; the other shows COVID-19 cases.

As data on the virus emerges, there are striking — yet unsurprising — similarities.

Notably, diverse, culturally rich areas that are home to the largest Communities of Color have some of the most overlap between food insecurity and COVID-19 rates.



For the multitude of challenges the pandemic has caused, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a multitude of challenges and shines a light on something we already knew: the intersection of race, health, and food insecurity.

Before coronavirus took hold, 1 in 5 county residents was already experiencing or at real risk of hunger. Communities depending on ACCCB, we knew, would be the most impacted by the spread of coronavirus.

**In Alameda County, 7 in 10 community members who are living in poverty are People of Color.**

Just as Communities of Color are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, they are also disproportionately affected and are at greater risk of being seriously impacted by COVID-19. This further underscores the importance of centering racial equity in response and recovery efforts, and in our ongoing strategic initiatives.

The facts are clear: a history of systemic racism policies have put Communities of Color at a higher risk for hunger and COVID-19. More than half of

Alameda County's COVID-19 cases as of July 19 were Latinx people despite being less than 22% of the population. While there have been more total deaths among people identifying as Hispanic/Latino, the mortality rate is the highest in the African American community.

By acknowledging these intersections, we can better prioritize and direct resources where they are needed most. From our first drive-through food distributions in East Oakland and Hayward (next page), to home delivery for COVID-19 positive individuals, to the expansion of our CalFresh (formerly known as food stamps) application assistance — we'll continue to be there for those of us who need support.

In this unprecedented crisis, the road feels very long. Our community must be inclusive of everyone and we must regularly renew our commitment to ensuring a more equitable Alameda County.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE REACHING MORE NEIGHBORS THAN EVER

## Creatively Meeting the Growing Need



Before COVID-19 took hold, we served 1 in 5 Alameda County residents. But as schools and businesses closed — that number was sure to rise quickly.

Calls to our Helpline more than doubled, our agency partners saw an increase in clients, and people showed up to our warehouse in need of groceries.

"It was a telling moment when we realized we needed to readjust in real time," said Bruce Elliot, Chief Operations Officer. "We are seeing an unprecedented surge in demand."

With COVID-related need spiking overnight to near untenable levels — and safety concerns creating distribution challenges — we quickly set up a contactless drive-through in Oakland with the help of Alameda County.

People pull up their cars, pop their trunks, and volunteers place groceries inside. The line is long, but it moves fast and we can distribute food to three cars per minute.

The first distribution in March served 28 cars. That quickly grew to 1,000 cars a day.

We opened three additional drive-through distributions throughout the County — in Hayward, Pleasanton, and Fremont — to help meet the growing need. Each operates in partnership with either County officials, city government, or other local nonprofit agencies.

"It does make a difference," said Carla as masked volunteers put groceries in her car. "For some people, going to the store and spending \$40 to \$50 isn't a big deal, but when you live paycheck to paycheck — you can't always do that."

By July, the four drive-through distributions were collectively serving more than 20,000 of our neighbors every week.

"We're able to give them a box of food that's going to last their family a week. That's one less worry that they have. They can focus on getting to that next step," said Bruce.



# COVID-19 Crisis Response

Much about us and our community has changed in five months. Here is a glimpse of our swift crisis response efforts — made possible by your support.



**1,000%**  
INCREASE IN HELPLINE  
CALL VOLUME 10 DAYS  
INTO CRISIS



**50+%**  
INCREASE IN CALFRESH  
APPLICATIONS



**4.7 MILLION**  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED IN JUNE  
(our highest ever)

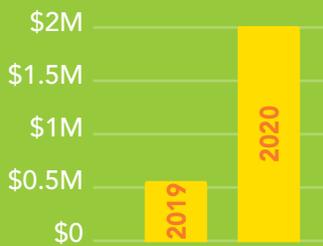


**4**  
DRIVE-THROUGH  
DISTRIBUTION SITES



**12**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PARTNERSHIPS

## FOOD COST: APRIL – JUNE



COST OF FOOD INCREASED 3X  
OVER LAST YEAR

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION – 2020



Join us for our first-ever virtual



BRINGING US *together* AT HOME

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Auction preview begins at 5 p.m.)

**Register at [accfb.org/savor](https://accfb.org/savor)**

Contact Mary Canales at 1-510-635-3663 ext. 328 or [events@accfb.org](mailto:events@accfb.org)  
for more information.

TOGETHER, WE'LL ENSURE *everyone* HAS A PLACE AT THE TABLE



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FOOD BANK**

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING**  
**AMERICA**

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