



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

FALL 2021

Emerging stronger, together

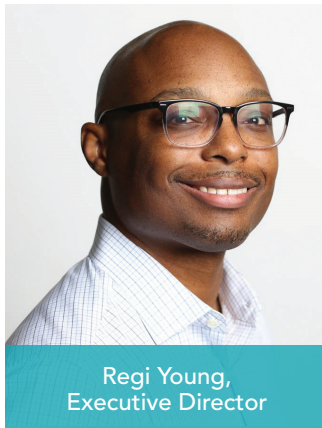
Q&A WITH OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our “responsibility to the community we serve”

ACCFB is excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Regi Young! Regi joins us from our friends at Houston Food Bank, where he was Chief Strategy Officer. We took some time to learn more about Regi to share with you. Please join us in welcoming Regi to our community. (Note: This interview has been edited for space. Regi had a lot more to share which we hope you'll read at accfb.org.)

Welcome, Regi! Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Inglewood, Ca. and grew up in Houston. My family is all over the country, including the East Bay. I'm a foodie that loves movies, playing sports and digging for vinyl when traveling. My wife and I have a four-year-old daughter that aspires to be a gymnast.



Regi Young,
Executive Director

What attracted you to ACCFB?

I've been in the Feeding America network for 11 years. ACCFB is known nationally to be creative, innovative, and community-centric, which are all attributes that I value. ACCFB is in a unique position to demonstrate the impact food banks can have on addressing the root causes of poverty.

How would you compare Houston and ACCFB?

Both organizations are well respected, and in culturally and ethnically diverse regions. Both are rethinking what it means to be a food bank and its responsibility to the community they serve. And both are supported by phenomenal communities that truly align with their missions and values. The main difference is service areas: HFB's is spread over 18 counties!

What have you taken away from the experience of the pandemic response?

This has been a consistent reminder of the endemic inequities in our society and their negative impact on the most vulnerable populations. These

inequities must remain in plain sight so that they can no longer be ignored.

Can you share your vision for this work?

This is a pivotal moment. For too long, food banks approached food insecurity in isolation of community stakeholders. Today, those lines are being blurred by organizations like ACCFB that understand food alone will

never resolve the issue. Families often have many other unmet needs such as housing, healthcare, and employment that if not addressed, makes it unlikely that they will become food secure. We must focus on addressing the root causes of food insecurity, and strengthen relationships with our community, partners, and other sectors to leverage our collective resources, expertise, and influence to support the goals of the people we work with and for.

Last question: what's a favorite food-related memory?

My grandmother made the best biscuits in the South. During college, two of my classmates came with me to visit my grandparents and within the hour my entire family arrived because they knew she would be making biscuits. Today, my classmates are still telling the story of that weekend!

Thank you, Regi! Welcome to Alameda County — we all look forward to getting to know you more!

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'RE CREATING A MORE JUST COMMUNITY

A Plan to end Hunger, Racism, and Injustice



ACCFB addresses our community's immediate needs by providing *tens of thousands* of nourishing meals...every day. This effort has arguably never been more important. Simultaneously, we have a laser-focused view of a future where hunger is fully eradicated.

"Eradicate," derived from Latin, means "to pull up by the root." When you pull something up from the root, it's *never coming back*.

Hunger is a systemic issue, and for us to ensure it's eradicated, **we must first challenge ourselves, our partners, and our government institutions to examine who experiences hunger — and who doesn't.**

We are convinced that a "hunger-free" community requires dismantling the systems at hunger's root — like **racism** and **poverty** — to then reimagine and build a better normal. It's an enormous task, but we have a plan — rooted in justice, equity, inclusion, and community power — which is outlined in our current policy agenda, our most far-reaching yet.

In addition to providing nearly 50 million meals, this year alone we are working to:

- **Promote the Justice for Black Farmers Act** to end discrimination within the USDA and protect Black farmers from losing their land.
- Make **CalFresh** more accessible for seniors and people living with disabilities.
- Protect voting rights and expand access to the ballot box through the **For The People Act** and the **John Lewis Voter Rights Act**.



Community advocates demand justice at the State Capitol in Sacramento

- Raise the **minimum wage**, support **affordable housing**, promote **universal basic income** ... and so on.
- ... All on top of ***already achieving*** a **state budget which provides free school meals to all K-12 students** in California's public schools. (Read that again: *hunger has been eradicated from our public school system!*)

That list of legislative priorities looks remarkably different than it did just a couple years ago. That's because we've been putting our mission to "passionately pursue a hunger-free community" under a microscope — and examining questions like why hunger exists, what it will take to eradicate it, and what role a food bank like ours plays in its eradication.

It's aspirational. But we know it's achievable with an aggressive effort to eradicate hunger ... while planting the seeds for a nourished community built on democratization, equity, and inclusion.

Join us.

To read our entire policy agenda and get involved in our advocacy efforts, please visit accfb.org/advocacy.

FROM OUR OPERATIONS TEAM

Building the Warehouse of the Future



32.5 million ... 39.4 million ... 58 million.

Yes, those numbers represent the pounds of food we distributed in each of the last three years. And if the projections of our research team are any indication, we need to be prepared for more.

From earthquakes to wildfires, government shutdowns to unthinkable pandemics, food banks play a critical role as emergency responders. Our ability to provide a vastly increased amount of emergency food over the last 18 months has required an efficient operations infrastructure. We plan for this but, still, our warehouse has been put to the test like never before.

Richard Pittman is an Inventory Specialist, and every week is responsible for keeping tabs on each and every item in our warehouse. "The pandemic is something you never imagined happening," he said. "It was overwhelming finding ways to store and move all that additional food. But we stuck together, put in a lot of overtime, and worked through it."

The stress the pandemic put on our system made crystal clear something we've known for a while: **we need to revamp our warehouse and create a "Warehouse of the Future."** And thanks to the



unprecedented generosity of our Food Bank family, that's just what Richard and the entire 32-member operations team — which was honored by Feeding America this summer for its pandemic-relief efforts — are in the process of getting.

With the help of an efficiency expert, ACCFB is undertaking a complete renovation of our warehouse — an expansion within our own footprint, so to speak — to be more user-friendly to both our warehouse workers and our agency partners who come to pick up food. We're adding coolers and

rack space so we can provide not only more fresh food, but more food from a diversity of cultures. If ever needed, our warehouse will be able to efficiently store up to 40 percent more food — and **allow us to distribute it faster**. It is effectively the most substantial update to our facility since opening the one-acre Community Engagement Center more than a decade ago.

Richard is hopeful. "I'm digging the plans for these changes," he said. "As someone who grew up in poverty where food was not promised, I'm grateful that I can work here, see all the food moving out, and know that we're helping people who are struggling."

THANKS TO YOU, OUR PARTNERS ARE MEETING INCREASING DEMAND

Re-Investing in a Stronger Alameda County



Because of your outpouring of support, the Food Bank has been able to reinvest \$2 million back into the community during the pandemic to serve an unprecedented number of our neighbors.

The Food Bank's warehouse is the hub of a complex network of 420+ community partner agencies. Mighty at heart, most of these partners are small, volunteer-run, and operate on shoestring budgets. When the pandemic hit, we knew we needed to invest in more than just food: **We needed to invest in our partners' ability to provide that food.**

The pandemic recovery will take years. We may never see need fall below pre-pandemic levels. So, while you — our family of supporters — fueled the biggest emergency response operation in our history, we've been assessing the capacity of this network to serve long-term need. As such, you've helped fund grants to more than 100 partners across the county to assist with everything from additional food storage to new trucks to full-scale renovations of entire buildings.

"We were able to renovate a two-floor community welcome center, add refrigeration, and offer fresh, healthy food," said **Jason Bautista of Oakland's Shiloh Mercy House**. "It's allowed us to build a multi-generational community that goes beyond just a meal. It's about neighbors helping neighbors and creating a large extended family." Shiloh nearly tripled its distribution during the pandemic and is anticipating continued growth.

Newark's Tri-Cities Community Development



ACCFB's Marcos Trujillo with Lola Hardy of Grace Baptist Church, Oakland.

Center has also seen substantial growth. A grant was used to purchase a large truck, helping them expand services by 50 percent. "Our pantries are Wednesday nights and Saturdays. This way we're capturing that crowd when they are off work. It's a hard-to-reach population, and we're making it happen, thanks to the Food Bank," said **Ed Wright of Tri-Cities Community Development Center**.

One of ACCFB's longest running partners, Grace Baptist Church, had long outgrown its space — while still serving increasing need. "The grant allowed us to renovate an old church building from top to bottom," said **Lola Hardy, Grace Baptist's Executive Director**. "Now we can store and refrigerate more food, and we can run our pantry four times a week for people who have nowhere to go, especially at the end of the month when paychecks and aid run out. Now we can really step up and make a difference."

Thanks to your support, we are helping these partners beyond the pandemic response and well into the future.

By the Numbers: Fiscal Year 2021



48 MILLION
MEALS WORTH OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED

49% INCREASE
OVER FISCAL YEAR 2020



22.5 MILLION
POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE
SERVED

5.5 MILLION
POUNDS MORE THAN
LAST YEAR



422 PARTNERS
DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

73 NEW
DISTRIBUTION SITES ACROSS
ALAMEDA COUNTY



8.3 MILLION
MEALS SECURED THROUGH
CALFRESH OUTREACH

\$42 MILLION
LOCAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS
ATTRIBUTED TO CALFRESH OUTREACH



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. Please speak with your financial advisor.

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

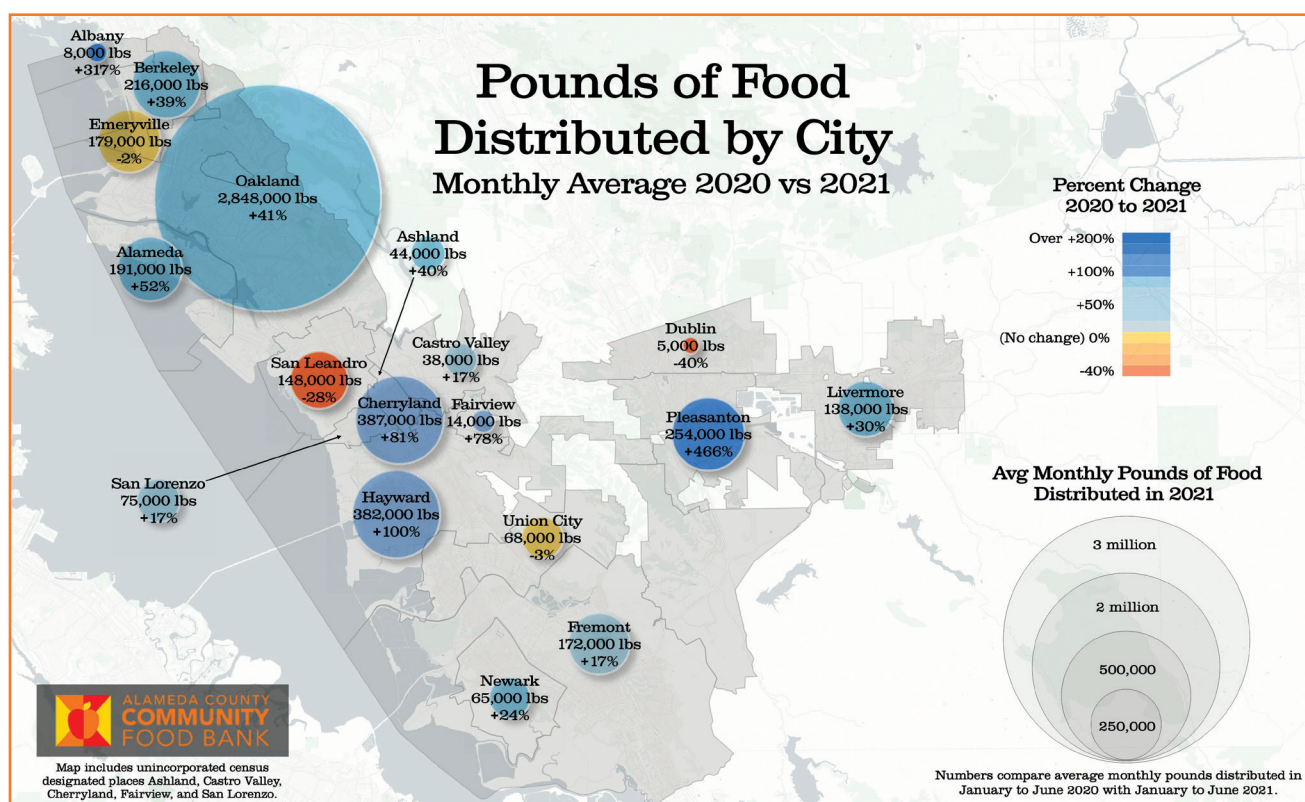
FROM OUR RESEARCH TEAM

Mind the Gap(s)



Prior to the pandemic — when Alameda County’s unemployment rate was under 3 percent — 1 in 5 county residents was already experiencing some level of food insecurity. Even with substantial economic recovery earlier this year, the County’s unemployment rate this July was 6.5 percent. This is among the many reasons we expect our role in the pandemic recovery will still be occurring years from now.

With your support, we are always looking for ways to better meet the needs of the community. Our research team — and the data they produce and analyze — is increasingly a critical part of those decisions. The map below — examining year-over-year changes in average monthly food distribution in Alameda County’s cities and unincorporated areas — represents just a taste of the data we look at regularly to inform our strategy:



Our goal isn’t only to provide more food when needed — it’s also to make sure we are distributing it equitably.

That’s why we’re developing a tool to map our service area, analyze need, and consider race, ethnicity, language, and other issues that factor into food access. Using geographic software matched

with demographic information and a variety of data related to food insecurity, we will have a much better view of the holes we need to fill across the county. This may result in more capacity grants for agencies (see page 4), or maybe new partners in underserved areas. In any case, it’ll mean more equitable distribution of food — and more efficient use of our resources. *Thanks to your support.*



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