



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK



IMPACT REPORT

SPRING 2022

Emerging stronger, together

EVOLVING WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Imagining a World to Come



It's been two years since the start of the pandemic as we know it.

I've been at ACCFB for almost 4 years and, like all my co-workers, have been tasked with adapting through this pandemic — wondering every so often where the time has gone.

Recently, our Executive Director, Regi Young, addressed our staff. "It's hard to imagine," he said, "a world that doesn't exist yet." With 2022 still new, it felt like the right time to reflect on how different we've become.

Some change has been dramatic; some subtle. But Regi wasn't talking about where we'd been — rather, where we're headed.

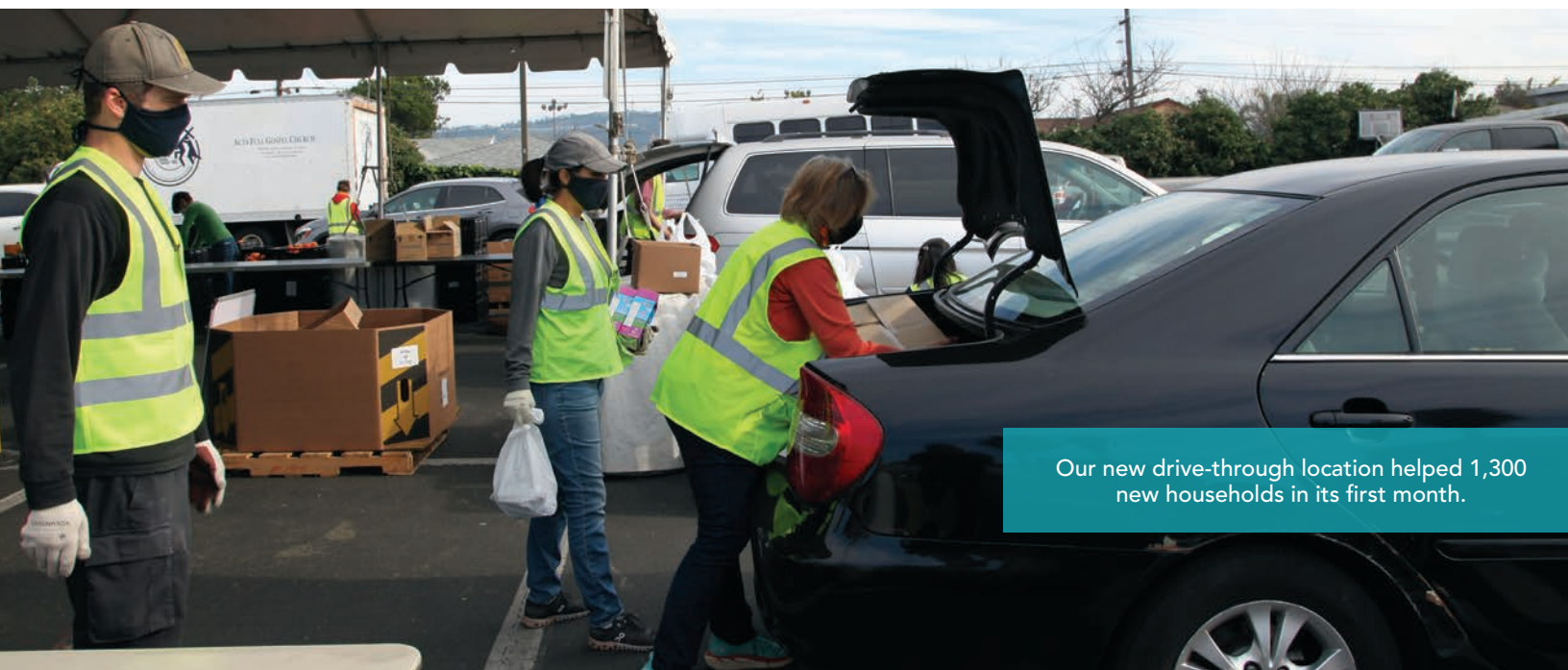


Leigh Illion,
Director of Leadership Gifts

"Growth" only begins to describe the effects of this pandemic on our work. **We have evolved.**

Our emergency response programs have settled in as permanent fixtures of our operations. And it dawned on me: we can begin to imagine how our future will look. Here are a few ways 2022 is looking different:

- **Drive-through distributions:** In January we moved our Oakport Drive-Through distribution, which provided 6 million meals last year, to Acts Full Gospel church in the heart of East Oakland. In its first full month, "ACCFB on 69th" welcomed over 4,000 new participants.



Our new drive-through location helped 1,300 new households in its first month.

- **Tri-Valley expansion:** We're identifying a partner in the Tri-Valley to serve as our second redistribution organization (RDO). Like our first RDO partner, Berkeley Food Network, the Tri-Valley partner will help us reach deeper into communities with unmet needs.
- **Home delivery:** Once a pandemic-response service, we've since added two delivery vans to continue to provide a safe and convenient way to access food to homebound people in our community.
- **Warehouse renovation:** To meet the demand, we're renovating our warehouse (a 4,500 sq. ft. cooler and doubled shelving is just *part*) to ensure we can store more fresh produce and respond even faster in future emergencies. This growth only happens with your support.

These are just some of our big operational changes (see next page for exciting policy work!). It takes all of us — and the resources, relationships, skills, and expertise we each have — to achieve this change. Our struggles and successes are interlinked and taking action in solidarity is essential.

Thank you for helping us build the food bank of the future.



Our Inventory Specialist, Richard "Big Rich" Pittman, stands under our new, taller racks. "Even I fit under them," he says excitedly — noting that, importantly, it helps him pick orders for partner agencies much quicker.



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.

For more information, visit accfb.org/stock or call Kathy McPhee at 1-510-635-3663 ext. 336

FROM OUR ADVOCACY TEAM

Advocating for a Hunger-Free Future



Eradicating hunger in our county won't be accomplished in a few easy-to-follow steps. The Food Bank's impact extends beyond distributing nutritious food to our community and must include advocacy for policy changes to *prevent* hunger. To make real change we must remember two things: We are not alone in this fight, and we must always center the voices of people closest to the issue.

At the core of our work is an annual **Policy Agenda** that guides our legislative priorities and grassroots advocacy throughout the year.

Our goal for 2022 is to have the boldest and most inclusive policy agenda in more than 20 years of anti-hunger advocacy.

We started the process of building this agenda by centering the voices of leaders in the community. We want our Policy Agenda to uplift the perspectives of people working on the front lines against hunger. We met with partner organizations in the four zip codes with the highest rates of food insecurity and asked: "What are the most pressing needs in your community, and what changes might have the greatest impact on addressing those needs?"

The answers were consistent: **Housing, healthcare, and immigration** rose to the top, followed by **living-wage employment, community safety, and childcare**. *Hunger is the byproduct of these issues — creating and lengthening the food distribution lines we're working to shorten and eliminate.*

Hunger doesn't operate in a vacuum so we can't address it in isolation.

The roots of hunger run deep and entangle a range of inseparable issues which are further entrenched by systems of white supremacy and the widening income gap. If we work together to eliminate barriers to housing, healthcare, and other basic needs, people won't have to choose between a visit to the doctor, rent, or groceries. *This is the foundation to our 2022 Policy Agenda.*

2022 Legislative Priorities

1.  HOUSING
2.  IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
3.  DEMOCRACY
4.  TAX POLICY

...YES, THEY ALL RELATE TO HUNGER

Uprooting hunger won't be easy. But our work is so deeply connected — across sectors, identities, and lived experience. We have hope that, together, we can make lasting change.

Join us by becoming an advocate and stay up-to-date with our policy work at accfb.org/advocacy.

FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharing the Passion and Action



I was born in Oakland to a Chinese immigrant mother and a father born during the Great Depression. For a family of six with one income, I was fortunate we never went hungry. A frugal lifestyle, time invested in a backyard garden, and government cheese given to us by our neighbors all played a role.

Growing up, seeing unsheltered people was so expected, I admit I became desensitized. The hunger narrative only seemed linked to this population. It was not until I was a teen that I knew friends who only had meals at school, often skipped meals, or asked the convenience store for leftovers from the several-days-old hot dog bar. As I learned, people facing food insecurity are all a part of our robust community: college students, fully employed workers, seniors, families, and children.

Through my employer, PwC, I participated in a fundraising event for the Food Bank. Little did I know the impact it would have on me. I was impressed — and embarrassed — by how little I knew. The event refreshed my knowledge of modern food bank operations: An ecosystem with the food bank in the middle surrounded by fresh fruit and vegetables, nutrition education, a



Jane Allen, Partner at PwC, joined ACCFB's Board of Directors in 2021

sophisticated supply chain, and legislative advocacy to target root causes.

I'm proud to have joined ACCFB's Board of Directors, and to share in the passion and action on this basic human need for OUR community. Proud, also, that every Board meeting includes a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion session, to better understand the direct correlation between racism and food insecurity.

If we didn't "see" food insecurity before in people "just like us," I worry it's even easier to miss in today's virtual lifestyles. In the Bay Area we have some of the top schools, and highest revenue employers in the world, yet food insecurity continues on a frightening trajectory. That's why I'm continually amazed and impressed by ACCFB's relentless work to be the **Food Bank of the Future**. But there's much more to do.

There's so much controversy in the world, I am lucky to be able to channel my energy in a productive way — for our local communities. I invite you to refresh your knowledge of our modern food bank services, and to contribute time, money, or advocacy as you're able. It truly makes a difference for our community.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR AGENCY NETWORK

Supporting Changemakers in Our Community



A lot has changed over the course of the pandemic and our network of partner organizations is no exception. Since March of 2020, our network has grown from 364 members to over 420 front-line organizations that are working tirelessly to keep our community fed.

Organizations like the Muslim Community Center of the East Bay (MCC) in Pleasanton.

Every other Saturday morning, the back lot of MCC is bustling with activity as dozens of volunteers assemble bags of food, load cars, and deliver much needed food and diapers to families across our community.

In the early days of lockdown, Sister Aminah, who runs the program, was going to discount stores to fill her Prius with food for their now-weekly home deliveries to families experiencing hunger. She had to convince store staff that she wasn't hoarding food for herself. As demand surged from 3 families a week to 30, the broom closet that housed their food pantry was no longer large enough. Community members stepped in to help make home deliveries and a regular volunteer suggested reaching out to ACCFB for support. Within weeks, MCC was one of our many new Emergency Response partners — and was filling up a rental truck full of food at our warehouse.

By the fall of 2020, MCC became a full-fledged partner member of our network, which came with access to additional food and deliveries to their facility in Pleasanton. They also took on operating a drive-through distribution two days a week to



In addition to working as the Food Bank's Marketing and Communications Manager, Alexa Senter volunteers as a home-delivery driver with MCC

keep up with local demand.

Last summer another crisis hit: Kabul, Afghanistan was retaken by the Taliban and tens of thousands fled. Alameda County is home to the largest communities of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the country, so many of the people we saw in footage from the Kabul airport are now rebuilding their lives in the East Bay with the help of MCC.

The refugee crisis, just like the pandemic, hit our community hard and the impact will be here for years to come. We will continue supporting front-line organizations like MCC, whether it's by helping source diapers (in addition to food) or providing a capacity grant for a van to support their food and refugee resettlement programs. By expanding our network, we empower and uplift the changemakers on the ground leading the way.

2021 By the Numbers



58 MILLION

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

71% INCREASE

FROM 2019 (BEFORE THE PANDEMIC)



\$317,330

SPENT ON PURCHASING PRODUCE
FROM LOCAL BLACK AND BROWN
FARMERS



423 PARTNERS

DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

29 NEW

DISTRIBUTION SITES ACROSS
ALAMEDA COUNTY



5.5 MILLION

MEALS SECURED THROUGH
CALFRESH OUTREACH

\$27.5 MILLION

LOCAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS
ATTRIBUTED TO CALFRESH OUTREACH



6.3 MILLION

POUNDS OF FOOD SAVED BY OUR
FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

THE EQUIVALENT OF REMOVING
ANNUAL EMISSIONS FROM

1,516 PASSENGER VEHICLES



90,000 HOURS

TOTAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

150+

LOCAL GROUPS VOLUNTEERED
THEIR TIME



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