

COMMUNITY HARVEST

HELLO SPRING 2024!

INSIDE

- Hunger Heroes!
- Food Recovery!
- Get Ready to Vote!
- ... and more!

**"When I help people,
they help me too."**

- Terry

FROM THE DESK OF REGI YOUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Our Community, Our Commitment

Dear Friend,

Food Bank supporters like you are a locomotive of impact moving us forward on our mission. Donors and volunteers fuel our train, and advocates speed it up, taking it from steam engine to electric bullet train. This is why each of you reading this newsletter is so important to our work.

Regardless of how you came into the Food Bank world, I encourage you to grow your role. If you give, can you volunteer? If you volunteer, can you advocate? And if you advocate, can you give?

Food banking is hard work. So, in my day-to-day work, I often think about the following questions to keep me going. I wonder if these questions will resonate with you too:

- Do I believe food security is a basic human right?
- Do I have a role in eradicating hunger?
- What would be the impact if I contributed more?
- What would happen to our community if I do nothing?

Alone, each of us has limited impact — including the Food Bank. However, we are all stronger together, working collectively across nonprofits, government, and corporations — with the invaluable support of donors, volunteers, and advocates like you. Will you join the Food Bank by deepening your commitment and impact? Only together can we drive that train forward to eradicate hunger in Alameda County.

RY

I think often about our friends in the C510 Bike Club (pictured) who, for the last decade, have asked these questions as they incorporate hunger relief into their own passions.

ON THE COVER - MEET TERRY

Terry is both a Food Bank client and volunteer at ACCFB's network partner, Alameda Food Bank (page 7). Terry's the unofficial mayor of Alameda Food Bank: He knows everyone's name and makes people feel happy. "After my neighbor took me here to get food, I wanted to give back, so I started volunteering three times a week," said Terry. "I am happy here. When I help people, they help me too. I don't mind that it's hard work. And now I just can't stop!"



HUNGER HEROES

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THESE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO'VE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR HUNGER-RELIEF!

ALA COSTA

Ala Costa Centers is a nonprofit serving the disabled community with programs supporting youth through adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ala Costa participants make a huge impact in our community. They have been among ACCFB's most dedicated volunteer groups in recent years, joining us in our warehouse every Wednesday since September 2022. Since then, Ala Costa volunteers have helped prepare more than 6,000 meals worth of food! "It's good to do something for the community," said Diego Amado, an Ala Costa volunteer. "I've made friends here and know everyone by name."



ALA COSTA
STAFF
MEMBER
KATIA WITH
DIEGO

DELTA DENTAL

Delta Dental is one of the Food Bank's most engaged corporate partners. The company provides 16 hours of paid volunteer time per employee, and their bright green shirts are a regular sight in the Community Engagement Center. The company also provides grants to the Food Bank and matches employee donations up to \$1000! "When our employees contribute to our community, we strengthen every link in the chain, enriching our staff, our company's internal ecosystem, and the lives of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity," says Kevin Ryan, Delta Dental Community Care Foundation and Corporate Social Responsibility Director. "This reinforces the notion that we are all part of a community of people."




DELTA DENTAL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT CENTER

LINDA M.

When Covid hit, Linda Milanese saw how people were struggling and decided to do something about it. She loves weaving and wanted to make use of her hobby during lockdown. She bought a small loom and began making colorful potholders to sell. Linda has been donating 100% of the proceeds to ACCFB.

"The potholders have been a family affair," said Linda whose daughter, son-in-law, and grandson Matteo have all played a role in her cottage industry. "Recently, I sold \$800 worth at the farmer's market. It's a small difference, but all of those small things add up for the Food Bank if everyone contributes."



LINDA AND HER GRANDSON
MATTEO. 100% OF THE
POTHOLDER PROCEEDS GO TO
THE FOOD BANK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

READ MORE ABOUT ALA COSTA, DELTA DENTAL, AND LINDA AT [ACCFB.ORG/BLOG](https://accfb.org/blog)

SIX FIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT Food Recovery WITH Xochi, Sustainability Program Manager



For the record, state your name and what you do here at ACCFB

Hey ya'all! I'm Xochi and I'm the Sustainability Program Manager at ACCFB. I, along with my team, oversee our Food Recovery Program ("FRP") which takes extra food leftover at grocery stores and other businesses and makes sure it gets to agency partners (food pantries, etc.) to give to the community.



Sounds like a big deal. How much food are we talking about?

Last year our program recovered over 10 million pounds of food. We were very excited to reach 8 digits for the first time!

A lot of people don't know about FRP. Why does ACCFB have a program like this?

It's important for two big reasons. It helps our partners get healthy food out to the community and also has an environmental impact. Over 40% of the food produced ends up in landfill and is a huge contributor to climate change, which both affects our agricultural systems and has a huge impact on the communities we serve.



Bit of a curveball here: What's the strangest food you've ever recovered?

I once needed to find a home for preserved duck eggs. Turns out they're safe to eat 100 years after their expiration date! (EDITORS NOTE: Yes, these are the same thing as "Century Eggs")



If you could be doing something other than Food Banking, what would it be?

I'm happy where I'm at. My dream job involves getting resources to people. Being in community with people. Building relationships. And just a tinge of data analysis and program management — all of which I get to do now!

Thanks, Xochi! One last question: What's the best way for our readers to support this work?

Look into volunteer efforts near you. Our agencies can always use an extra pair of hands to help pick up food. You can also donate money to keep our program afloat.

Read more about Xochi and our Food Recovery efforts at acfb.org/blog



LOOK!

"Heads" Up!

Keep an eye out for Headlands Brewing's new beer as part of the Earth to Beer campaign. \$1 from every 4-pack sold will be donated to ACCFB!



FOOD BANK HAPPENINGS

Since 2010, we've honored the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. through our Day of Service. This year, 200 volunteers helped us prepare 33,000 meals worth of food for the community — including Zeta Phi Beta (pictured).



ACCFB's 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

"The reality is that one in four people struggle with food insecurity, and in Alameda County it's likely that you know these folks." - Regi



Savor the Season



Savor the Season

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024

On October 1st, 600 guests joined us at Wente Vineyards in Livermore to celebrate our 21st annual Savor the Season event. It was a vibrant afternoon to raise awareness and bring our community together to create a healthier, more equitable Alameda County.

ACCFB's Regi Young joined Assemblymember Buffy Wicks and Cal's Hilary Hoynes in December for a discussion hosted by our network partner, Berkeley Food Network. They discussed the realities of hunger in Berkeley and Albany, and the policy efforts needed to address it.



Assemblymember Buffy Wicks and ACCFB Executive Director Regi Young

HELP US NOURISH OUR COMMUNITY YEAR-ROUND

"Everything is so expensive. If we didn't have the food bank, we wouldn't have enough food to eat."
Maximina,
Union City

Become a monthly donor by April 30 and have your recurring gift **matched for 12 months**, up to \$50,000!

As a sustaining donor, you make it possible for us to quickly respond when the unexpected happens — like a global pandemic.

Sign up online at accfb.org/Monthly.



Ready, Set... VOTE!

Surprise! If you're just tuning in, 2024 is an election year. Like, a BIG election year. In fact, by the time you are reading this newsletter, voters in California will have already cast their ballots to select the candidates for the Presidential election on November 5 (write that down!).

Every — yes every — election is a pivotal step in our journey toward a hunger-free community, and years like this are especially impactful. We are here to help you get ready for the general election on November 5 (you wrote it down, right?). Check out these three super easy tips from ACCFB's Advocacy Team to make sure your voice is heard this year:

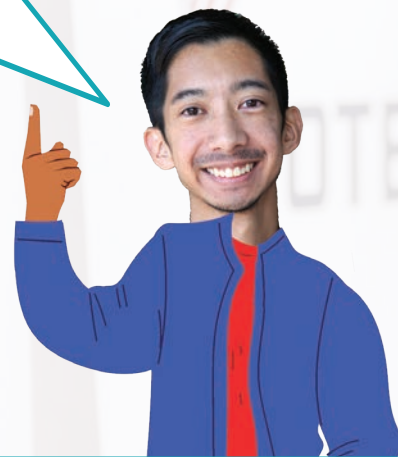
GET TO KNOW YOUR BALLOT. Voting is a lot more than picking the president. There are state and local races, and lots of ballot measures that will have a real impact on our community and mission. Take time to understand who-and what-is on your ballot.

REGISTER. When was the last time you checked and, if needed, updated your registration information (party preference, address, etc.)? If you can't remember, do it now!

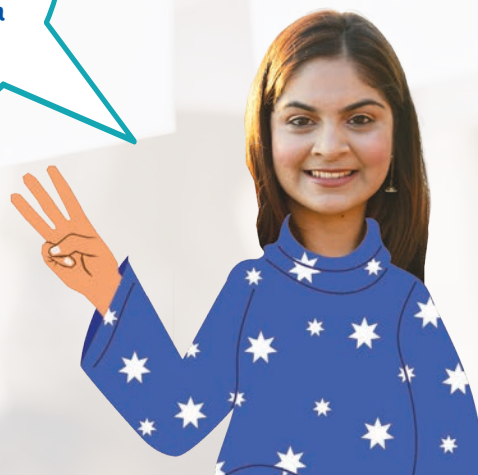
MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE. November 5 will be here before you know it! Are you voting by mail, drop off, or in person? Do you know how you'll vote? Make a plan and don't miss any deadlines.



Jocelyn, Community Organizer



Ezer, Senior Policy Advocate



Aliza, Policy & Partnerships Director

KEY DATES

- Ballots mailed - Oct. 7
 - Registration Deadline - Oct. 21
 - General Election - Nov. 5
- (If you're mailing in your ballot it must also be postmarked no later than Nov. 5)



Feeling overwhelmed? Don't worry, we've got you! Visit accfb.org/vote for all the information you need to make the most of your vote on (all together now) November 5!

WE'RE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK...



...THEY'RE ALAMEDA FOOD BANK

It's a common confusion. There's Alameda County Community Food Bank (us) which is the central hub of hunger relief serving the entire county. And there's Alameda Food Bank — a dedicated part of our network of 400-or-so agencies — which is a critical partner serving the City of Alameda.

...If only we had a nickel for every time one of our volunteers called us from AFB!

Founded in 1977, the **Alameda** Food Bank served more than 3,100 households last year, and averaged nearly 320 people visiting their distribution each day — a 35 percent increase from the year before. Terry, the client and AFB volunteer who you met on the cover, stressed that supermarket and farmer food donations are not enough to meet the needs. They depend on us — **Alameda County Community** Food Bank — to feed the community. That means they depend on YOU, our community, as well.

On the day we visited AFB, a dozen clients waited under a shaded tent before going inside to pick up food. They remarked how they liked not having to wait in line, and that the music and posters about produce made for a welcoming environment. Inside, clients picked up items like fresh vegetables, canned goods, cooking oil, coffee, and meat. Meanwhile volunteers welcomed clients, re-stocked shelves, and distributed the most popular items.

Like so many of our partner agencies, the Alameda Food Bank could not operate without volunteers like Terry, who also depends on the Food Bank to feed his family. He emigrated from Hong Kong with his three teenage children. Though he was an accountant for 30 years, it's been hard to find a job here. Because of his unique lived experience, Terry really understands the importance of creating a welcoming environment when he volunteers three times a week.

"The Food Bank is important because some people need the food just because something happened to them. They can't work; they have no earnings and no savings," said Terry.

Visit Alameda Food Bank at alamedafoodbank.org



Need food?
1-510-635-3663

¿Necesita comida?
需要食物嗎?
Nhu cần thực phẩm?

foodnow.net
comidaahora.net

Make your own ACCFB donation can!



Fundraise for the Food Bank! Cut this label, with lid, and wrap it around a (used and cleaned) standard soup can.

You can drop your donations at the Food Bank or send a check to:

Alameda County Community Food Bank
 (or "ACCFB")
 Attn: Development Department
 P.O. Box 2599
 Oakland, CA 94614

Be sure to take a selfie with your donation can and send it to info@accfb.org. We may feature you on our social media channels!



Our community loves...

Boxed mac & cheese

Canned entrees (chili, ravioli, etc.)

Canned meat and tuna

Low-sodium canned soups



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TAPE OR GLUE HERE



DONATE ONLINE: ACCFB.ORG
 ☎ 510-635-3663

