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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Needed to Help Ensure Sonoma County Children in Need Get a Summer Lunch

Santa Rosa, CA - (May 13, 2016) - The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) is looking for over 100 volunteers to help ensure Sonoma County's at-risk children get a healthy meal this summer. From June 6th through August 5th, more than 30,000 children in need of food will receive a healthy lunch and exposure to enrichment activities through the REFB's Summer Lunch Program.

Now in its 13th year, the REFB will team up with the Santa Rosa City School's Central Kitchen to ensure that children, who rely on free or reduced-price lunches during the school year, won't miss a meal during summer break. This year there are over 40 program sites, many of which will include a physical, educational and nutritional activity component.

"We are so grateful to have this amazing collaboration with the school kitchen to feed children in our community through the summer months. Summer is a challenging time for many low-income working families struggling to feed their kids when school is out. The Summer Lunch Program ensures children in Sonoma County have access to a healthy meal." shares Itzul Gutierrez, REFB Senior Program Manager.

In addition to a nutritious lunch, the program incorporates enrichment activities that encourage active minds and reduce learning loss during the summer break. Program highlights will include visits from the Bookmobile - Sonoma County's roaming library, hands on activities about growing and preparing food, food nutrition, wildlife habitat, and environmental stewardship.

Volunteers Needed:

Over 100 volunteers are needed to help with serving and delivering lunches, and assisting with educational activities. If you are looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community and would like more information, please contact Maira Reynosa, REFB Community Programs Coordinator at 707.723.7900 ext. 121 or email mreynosa@refb.org.

To learn more about the REFB and ways to get involved in hunger-relief efforts locally, visit www.refb.org.

About Redwood Empire Food Bank

The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. Since 1987, the REFB has fed hungry people, currently serving 82,000 children, families and seniors each month in Sonoma County, while striving to end hunger in our community. The REFB collaborates with local and regional partners to obtain and distribute 15 million pounds of food annually, the equivalent of 33,000 meals every day. It is also the primary resource for hunger relief agencies in Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Visit www.refb.org or call 707-523-7900 to learn more.