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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Redwood Empire Food Bank Receives 13<sup>th</sup> Consecutive 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating**

**Santa Rosa, CA - (September 14, 2016) -** For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) has received the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, a nationally respected independent charity watchdog organization, which evaluates charities based on financial health, accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator describes the 4-star rating as an “exceptional” rating, the highest badge given by the organization.

“Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that The Redwood Empire Food Bank exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work,” wrote Charity Navigator President and CEO, Michael Thatcher in his announcement letter.

Charity Navigator rates more than 1.5 million nonprofit charities in the United States, providing donors the information they need to make confident philanthropic decisions. Less than 1% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 13 consecutive 4-star ratings, highlighting the REFB’s commitment to financial transparency and accountability in the fight against hunger.

“The cost of food, the cost of transportation, the cost of insurance, the cost of utilities, and the cost of hiring talented hunger-relief workers, has steadily increased over the years. The REFB has made a concerted effort, in light of the challenging economic conditions, to do everything possible to drive as many resources as possible to our mission to end hunger in our community. The 4-star rating from Charity Navigator reflects our effort to keep costs down and service high,” said Redwood Empire Food Bank CEO, David Goodman.

**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 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. Through more than 200 of our own direct service distributions and partnerships with 189 other hunger-relief organizations, we form a network of over 450 weekly and monthly distribution sites serving low-income residents in Sonoma, Lake, Del Norte, Mendocino and Humboldt counties. Visit [www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org) or call 707-523-7900 to learn more.