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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM PETALUMA POULTRY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AT-RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SONOMA COUNTY

Santa Rosa, CA - December 20, 2016 - The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) has received a \$10,000 grant from Petaluma Poultry to help improve the nutritional intake of at-risk children in Sonoma County through the Megan Furth Harvest Pantry (MFHP). The Petaluma Poultry grant is funded by its Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation.



(L-R) Petaluma Poultry Complex Director Matt Junkel, HR Director Terry Price, Plant Manager Daniel Morales, and Vice President Mike Leventini present a \$10,000 grant to the Redwood Empire Food Bank's Director of Development Hillary Jarcik, Grant and Content Writer Evie Facendini, Grants Coordinator Jill Barron, and CEO David Goodman last week in support of the REFB's Megan Furth Harvest Pantry.

Every week, at nine high-need locations throughout Sonoma County, the MFHP helps reduce the incidence of hunger, childhood anemia and obesity by pairing fresh produce rich in iron and vitamin C and healthy staple foods with nutrition education lessons for families with children under the age of six. The pairing provides low-income parents the tools needed to properly nourish their growing children and make informed, healthy lifestyle choices to support a foundation of health and well-being for their entire families.

“The Megan Furth Harvest Pantry serves fresh fruit and vegetables to hundreds of children throughout Sonoma County every week,” said Allison Goodwin, Director of Programs at the REFB. “The generous funding from Petaluma Poultry provides low-income families with healthy staple foods and vital nutrition education at a distribution site in their local community, removing many of the barriers that stand between families and health, and ensuring that children can grow up active and strong.”

The grant will help support the overall costs of MFHP, making a critical impact in the lives of participating families who struggle with hunger and face the challenge of providing adequate nutrition to their young children.

“Petaluma Poultry has supported the Redwood Empire Food Bank for years, and our financial support is a continuation of our commitment to help them solve hunger in our community,” said Matt Junkel, Complex Director for Petaluma Poultry. “The Megan Furth Harvest Pantry program does amazing things to better the nutrition of at-risk children and their families. We are honored to be able to invest in this successful effort and to help assure that our neighbors in Sonoma County have this wonderful resource available.”

With the generous support of Petaluma Poultry, the MFHP will continue to expand access to nourishing produce and protein-rich staple foods to alleviate hunger and reduce the risk of anemia and obesity in young children in our community.

About *Petaluma Poultry*

For more than 40 years, Petaluma Poultry has provided fresh chicken to the West Coast, with hatchery, feed mill, farming and packing operations throughout and around Sonoma County, California. We were a pioneer in the organic movement; our ROSIE[®] organic chicken was the first brand to carry the USDA Organic seal. We also offer ROCKY[®] and ROCKY JR[®] free-range chickens, raised on all-vegetarian diet and never administered antibiotics. We're proud to be a member of the Non-GMO Project, working to assure the sustained availability of non-GMO options. To learn more, visit www.petalumapoultry.com.

About the 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 provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger, 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 more than 34,000 meals every day. Through more than 200 of our own direct service distributions and partnerships with 177 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 or call 707-523-7900 to learn more.

