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**THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK RECEIVES MORGAN STANLEY GRANT
TO EXPAND PROGRAM DELIVERING NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
*\$50,000 Grant Will Fund the REFB's School Pantry Program***

Santa Rosa, CA — July 11, 2017— The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) has received a \$50,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation to fund its School Pantry program, a child hunger initiative that helps ensure low-income families have a readily accessible source of nutritious food to prepare well balanced meals at home. This generous funding will allow the REFB to expand the School Pantry program to a new program site, located at Roseland Elementary, and help sustain eight existing sites in Sonoma County.

“We are thrilled to receive this critical grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation in support of our efforts to deliver more healthy food to children and families in the Roseland neighborhood of Santa Rosa,” said David Goodman, Chief Executive Officer of the Redwood Empire Food Bank. “Morgan Stanley and its employees provide vital support to the REFB with generous contributions like this, and their many hours volunteering to help nourish our neighbors facing hunger.”

The REFB's School Pantry program provides an average of 870 participating families, including 100 new families at Roseland Elementary, up to 25 pounds of nutrient-dense fresh produce, healthy staple foods and fresh protein each week.

“We are honored to be able to help the Redwood Empire Food Bank in its important fight against child hunger,” said Morgan Stanley Complex Manager, George Shick. “Our employees volunteer regularly with the REFB so we are delighted to extend our support through this grant and provide even more children with the foods they need to learn, grow and thrive.”

The Foundation awarded a total of \$750,000 in grants this month to food banks across the country. Through its partnership with Feeding America, a nationwide network of 200 food banks, the Foundation has given more than \$21 million to help launch, expand and sustain critical childhood feeding programs.

“Grants like this from Morgan Stanley make a vital difference in our efforts to provide children with the nutritious meals they need every day,” said Andy Wilson, Chief Development Officer at Feeding America. “More than 13 million children in the United States live at risk of hunger. Together, we can solve hunger and ensure that children have the fuel they need to grow healthy and strong.”

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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 35,000 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.