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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK SENDS UNIQUE RESOURCE TO TEXAS IN SUPPORT OF HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF.**

**Santa Rosa, CA - (September 8, 2017)** - The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) is sending Kitchen Collective Chef, Don Nolan, to the Houston Food Bank on Monday to assist in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

The REFB's Kitchen Collective is a one-of-a-kind program, where Chef Don and a team of volunteers transform donated food into heat and eat meals, serving over 4,000 of our Sonoma County neighbors facing hunger each month. His arrival in Houston will offer specific and much needed support as millions of pounds of donated food is arriving daily and meals are urgently required for the thousands of people still displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

"This is what we do every day for our Sonoma County neighbors as a hunger relief organization," said David Goodman, Chief Executive Officer of the Redwood Empire Food Bank. "Sometimes our neighborhood grows larger, and in the case of devastating emergencies like Hurricane Harvey, with the Houston Food Bank seeing an enormous increase in the amount of hungry people, our focus must also grow."

As the largest hunger-relief organization in North Coastal California, where 82,000 people are facing the pain of food insecurity, the REFB is positioned to respond to emergencies. Hunger persists in Sonoma County on a daily basis, but in certain life-events, like a devastating earthquake, people are displaced who never thought they would need the services of a food bank. Whether caused by an ongoing life circumstance, a natural disaster like the 2016 Lake County fire or the devastation brought by Hurricane Harvey in Southeast Texas, the REFB is in the business of emergency response and ready to help.

"Thousands of people are facing hunger in Texas, and the REFB has a unique resource to offer," Goodman added. "I think Sonoma County should be proud to have a food bank with the capacity to assist other parts of the country."

While the day-to-day duties of Chef Don have not yet been assigned in Houston, the REFB invites our local community to follow along on our Facebook page for updates on his efforts and the collective response to this devastating hurricane.

# **THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK SENDS UNIQUE RESOURCE TO TEXAS IN SUPPORT OF HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF.**

Supporting your local food bank is an investment in your local community and strengthens the nationwide network of emergency responders. Donate to the Redwood Empire Food Bank today to help your neighbors facing hunger in Sonoma County and to support an infrastructure vital to emergency preparedness.

Visit [www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org) or call 707-523-7900 to learn more.

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