



Media Contact: Rachelle Mesheau
Director of Marketing & Communications
707-523-7900 ext. 113 | rmesheau@refb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nation's Largest Single-Day Food Drive Returns May 9 to Support Sonoma County Families

SANTA ROSA, CA (April 30, 2026): The Redwood Empire Food Bank is calling on the community to take part in one of the nation's most impactful days of giving. On Saturday, May 9, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will host the 34th annual Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive—the largest single-day food drive in the United States.

Each year, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations directly from residents along their postal routes. These donations stay local, helping food banks like the Redwood Empire Food Bank provide critical support to neighbors facing hunger across Sonoma County.

Letter carriers are uniquely connected to the communities they serve and often witness firsthand the reality of food insecurity. Nationally, more than 47 million Americans struggle to put food on the table, including more than 14 million children and 7.4 million seniors. Locally, the Redwood Empire Food Bank serves more than 135,000 food insecure individuals.

The timing of this drive is especially important. Food banks often see a decline in donations after the winter holidays, while demand continues to rise. As summer approaches and school meal programs pause, many families face increased hardship.

Participating is simple: residents can leave a bag of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox on Saturday, May 9, and their letter carrier will collect it during their regular route. Suggested donations include canned proteins, peanut butter, pasta, rice, and other shelf-stable items.

3990 Brickway Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | T: 707-523-7900 | F: 707-523-7901 | refb.org

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“Stamp Out Hunger is a powerful example of how small acts of kindness can add up to a big impact,” said Rachele Mesheau, Director of Marketing and Communications at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. “At a time when many families are struggling and donations are typically lower, this food drive helps ensure our community members have access to the food they need.”

Since its inception in 1993, the Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive has collected more than 1.94 billion pounds of food nationwide, demonstrating the extraordinary generosity of communities across the country.

Residents are encouraged to confirm participation in their area by visiting nalc.org/food-drive or contacting their local post office.

Together, we can help Stamp Out Hunger—one mailbox at a time.

About the Redwood Empire Food Bank

Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—serving more than 135,000 children, families, and seniors in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties. With over 300 monthly direct service distributions and 130 local partnerships, we ensure that anyone experiencing hunger has access to healthy groceries every week of the year.

Visit refb.org to learn more.