



Media Contact: Rachele Mesheau
Marketing and Public Relations Manager
(707) 523-7900 x 113 | rmesheau@refb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Redwood Empire Food Bank offers free drive-through meals for children again this summer

Santa Rosa, CA – June 7, 2021 – From June 7th through August 6th, the Redwood Empire Food Bank will offer free and healthy breakfast and lunch to children 18 and under across Sonoma County through their Summer Lunch program.

When schools break for the summer months, thousands of growing children from low-income families in our community lose access to free and reduced-cost school lunches. Summer Lunch fills the meal gap by delivering healthy meals to at-risk children throughout Sonoma County.

“We are grateful for our partnership with Santa Rosa City Schools Kitchen to continue providing meals to children over the summer while school is out,” said Maria Fuentes, Every Child, Every Day Manager at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. “It’s free and all children are welcome even if they don’t attend that school district.”

Last year, the Summer Lunch program transitioned to grab-and-go breakfast and lunch, and offered care packages of groceries for the family that could be taken home to prepare and eat. With this change, the Redwood Empire Food Bank was able to serve 94% more meals to families in need than in previous years—a rewarding feat considering the increase in participants brought on by the pandemic. This model will continue this year to ensure the safety of recipients, volunteers, and staff.

There will be 38 Summer Lunch sites this year, a 32% increase compared to the summer of 2020. In addition, the Redwood Empire Food Bank will offer W⁵ Project registration for participants at the sites, allowing families to pick up a week’s worth of groceries without their children present. W⁵ is a client participation project. Participants are invited to complete a profile once, receive a W⁵ club card, and have access to all Redwood Empire Food Bank distributions with the swipe of their card.

To find your nearest location, click [here](#), or call 2-1-1. For immediate assistance or more information about the Summer Lunch Program you can call the Redwood Empire Food Bank directly at (707) 523-7903.

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

A Member of Feeding America | This institution is an equal opportunity provider



About the Redwood Empire Food Bank

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving Northern California. Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—serving more than 100,000 children, families and seniors in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties. With over 300 direct service distributions, and 170 partnerships with other hunger-relief organizations, all residents facing food insecurity have access to more than 470 weekly and monthly distribution sites across the five counties.

Visit refb.org or call (707) 523-7903 to learn more.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

A Member of Feeding America | This institution is an equal opportunity provider