



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Redwood Empire Food Bank launches COVID-friendly “Summer Lunch” program feeding Sonoma County children

Santa Rosa, CA – May 29, 2020 – From June 1st through August 7th, the Redwood Empire Food Bank will offer free and healthy breakfast and lunch to children 18 and under across Sonoma County.

Nearly 1,000 Sonoma County children risk experiencing hunger over the summer months. Without enough food or proper nutrition, children face a variety of setbacks. The Summer Lunch Program sites give children a structured source of food to recharge body and mind during this critical time.

“While schools are closed, The Redwood Empire Food Bank is partnering with school kitchens to provide meals for students at varying sites across the county,” said Itzul Gutierrez, Hunger Relief Worker at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. “Families with children ages 0-18 can pick up meals from any of the schools, even if the child doesn’t attend that school.”

With the threat of coronavirus infection, this year’s Summer Lunch Program will have varying operations with some sites offering grab-and-go breakfast, lunch and care packages of groceries for the family that can be taken home to prepare and eat.

To find your nearest location, visit refb.org/summer-lunch-2020/, 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) 523-7900.

About Redwood Empire Food Bank

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—currently serving 82,000 children, families and seniors in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake County. The Redwood Empire Food Bank collaborates with local and regional partners to obtain and distribute the equivalent of more than 40,000 meals every day. Through more than 200 of our own direct service distributions and partnerships with 170 other hunger-relief organizations, we form a network of over 450 weekly and monthly distribution sites serving all residents facing food insecurity.

3990 Brickway Blvd | Santa Rosa | CA | 95403 Phone: 707.523.7900 Fax: 707.523.7901 www.refb.org

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