



Updated: August 11, 2021

**2021 Media Talking Points: In 2020, the Redwood Empire Food Bank served more than double the number of individuals compared to 2019. Those numbers have become the new normal in 2021.**

- More than 25,000 households visit us monthly for food assistance.
- We're distributing enough groceries for over 1.3 million meals monthly.
- We're continuing to supply food through a contactless drive-through system, offering boxes containing 37% produce, 11% protein, 20% dairy and 32% shelf staples.

**Why we're here is simple; people are hungry. We can help them. And we do. However, what we do, and how we do it, is surprisingly complicated.**

We rely on the support of:

- **10,000** dedicated **volunteers**
- **1,100 food boxes prepared** daily **by the California National Guard**
- **83** passionate **staff** members
- **21,515** monetary donors
- **812** corporate, foundation and organization donors
- **72** awarded grants
- **153** major food donors

**What can you do to help the Redwood Empire Food Bank continue on its mission of ending hunger in our community?**

- **We are in dire need of food, funds, and volunteers.** It's not one or the other — we need all of it. Every dollar, every minute, and every food donation makes a difference.
  - **We need volunteers.** Throughout the year, the Redwood Empire Food Bank relies on more than 10,000 volunteers.
    - We are taking all necessary precautions and following CDC guidelines to ensure that staff, volunteers, food, and participants remain safe so our distributions can continue.
    - We have turned the majority of our distribution sites into drive-thrus to accommodate safe social distancing practices. As a result, we are having volunteers distribute food boxes for participants to grab and go.
  - **We need food.** Food donations help keep our warehouse shelves stocked with non-perishable staple groceries for distribution through Redwood Empire Food Bank programs and partner organizations.



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- Our most needed items include Tuna and Canned Meat, Peanut Butter, Canned Soups, Stews, and Chili, Rice and Dry Beans, Cereal, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, High Protein Granola Bars, Trail Mix or Nut.
- **We need money.** When you donate to the Redwood Empire Food Bank, your money helps us purchase food, pay our staff, fuel our trucks and keep our lights on. Without money, we wouldn't be able to operate and distribute food to those in need. **For every \$1 received, we're able to provide \$4 worth of healthy food.**

### **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.

**Please visit [refb.org](https://refb.org) for more information.**

To stay current on where and when to get food: [please click here](#).

To stay current on volunteer opportunities: [please click here](#).

To make a donation: [please click here](#).

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