

# 2022 Community Impact Report

**Working Together to End Hunger**





# Our mission is to End Hunger in Our Community.

Driving to work during a recent storm, my thoughts turned to our staff and volunteers in the field who were already busy setting up the day's food distributions across our community, paying no attention to the harsh weather. I was overcome with a peculiar mix of pride and regret: proud of being able to work alongside such exceptionally dedicated and kind people, yet regretful that I was not with them on the frontline, experiencing the gratification that comes with being of service to others.

At the core, what drives all of us is the awareness that the people we help are enduring much more than the discomfort of the elements. Rather, they are facing hunger, and the accompanying emotions of fear, shame, and hopelessness.

The past year has been challenging. Just as our community was breaking free from the dissonant grip of the Coronavirus, the faltering economy impacted households everywhere. Given the strain that people had already been experiencing, the economic downturn was the final burden that caused many to finally seek help. Fortunately, the Redwood Empire Food Bank's staff and volunteers were there to help anyone who found themselves in need.

It is hard to imagine that for over 117,000 people across Sonoma County, the dinner table has food from the Redwood Empire Food Bank. And, we want you to know that the only way the food reached those homes was with your generous support.

On behalf of everyone—Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the people we serve—thank you for helping improve the lives of others.

With gratitude,

David Goodman  
Hunger Relief Worker & CEO



**\$55,700,000**  
Of food distributed

**21,000,000**  
Meal equivalent



**10,378**  
Dedicated volunteers

**13,251**  
Food & fund donors



What we do is simple.

How we do it is complicated.

**4,200**  
Opportunities  
to get food

**117,273**  
People served



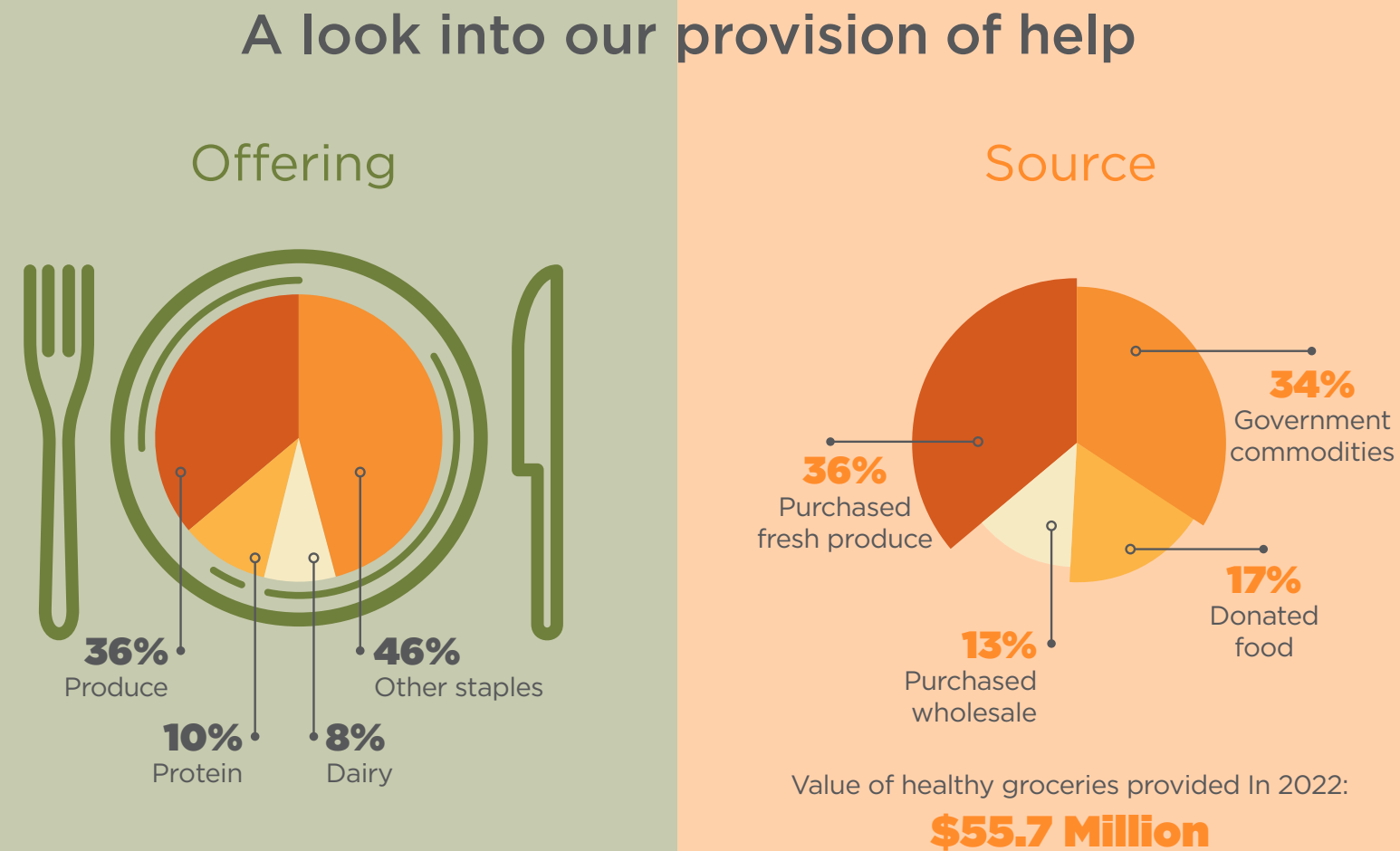
**150**  
Human service  
organizations

**82**  
Hard-working staff



# Our Provision of Help

The Redwood Empire Food Bank provides a strong nutritional safety net for anyone at risk of hunger, offering fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy protein, and essential staple foods that help to create a sustainable community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



# Our Programs and the People We Serve

In 2022, the Redwood Empire Food Bank offered 4,200 opportunities to get food, which equates to **350 direct service distributions each month**. We strive to end hunger in our community by having a robust and responsive food system in place for anyone in need.

To accomplish this, we administer numerous programs under three strategic initiatives:

- **Every Child, Every Day:** including multiple programs specifically aimed at ending childhood hunger by filling gaps in school-based nutrition assistance;
- **Senior Security:** providing our elderly neighbors with the nutritional stability they need to lead healthy, independent lives; and
- **Neighborhood Hunger Network:** including multiple programs providing staple groceries and fresh produce to anyone in need.



# 33,441

Children Served

**4**  
Programs

**\$5,100,000**  
Value of food  
provided

**1,800,000**  
Meal equivalent  
provided

## Every Child, Every Day

The Redwood Empire Food Bank ensures a healthy start in life by filling the meal gap for at-risk children. Our Every Child, Every Day initiative operates four robust programs specifically designed to end childhood hunger and fuel growing bodies and active minds. Addressing the nutritional needs of children of all ages and targeting seasonal meal gaps, we provide local families the bounty of fresh produce, nourishing groceries, and healthy meals that their children need to grow up healthy and strong, and stay engaged in school activities.



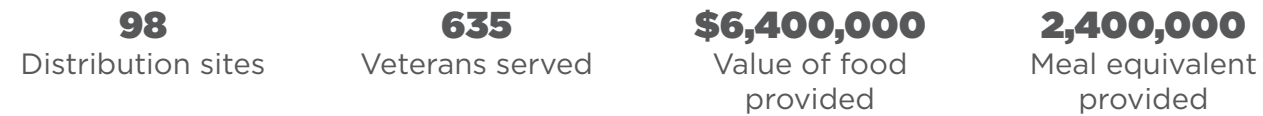
“

Last week, we received a flat of strawberries and my daughter went crazy for them. We washed, bagged, and froze them so she can have strawberries every day with her yogurt or cereal.

”

# 13,606

Seniors Served



## Senior Security

Many seniors in our community are living on low-fixed-incomes, making unthinkable choices about how to stretch limited budgets, often sacrificing food in order to pay for rising health care and housing costs.

Whether facing an unexpected hardship or living on a fixed income, seniors in our community have monthly access to an abundance of quality groceries through Senior Basket. The consistent availability of vitamin-rich foods enables nutritional stability for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.



“The increased prices of everything have really impacted my fixed budget so I had to start cutting back on food until I discovered the Redwood Empire Food Bank.”

# 117,273

Individuals Served

**1,204**

New households  
per month

**\$27,100,000**

Value of food  
provided

**10,100,000**

Meal equivalent  
provided

## Neighborhood Hunger Network

Through wide-reaching hunger relief programs, including vital partnerships with 150 local human service organizations, the Redwood Empire Food Bank operates a vast emergency food system in Sonoma County and throughout our broader service region. With such a robust network of support, we are able to remove many of the barriers our neighbors face in seeking help and weave a strong nutritional safety net, one that is large enough to support our entire community.



“  
I found myself seeking food assistance because I could not make ends meet on my own. I never thought I would find myself in a food line.”



# Our Dedicated Volunteers

**10,378**

Volunteers donate their time

**126**

Volunteers for every single staff member

## 6 Volunteer Opportunities

- Distribution site
- Warehouse
- Kitchen
- Food Connections Market
- Driver
- Special events

**110,060**

Hours served

**909**

Hours put in by a single volunteer

**4,079,348**

Pounds of fresh produce bagged

**71,609**

Senior Basket kits packed



“ I wanted to do something that was meaningful, that really made a difference in people’s lives. I needed help before and was able to get back on my feet. I want to help others do the same. ”

# On the Spot Nutrition

By the time people come to us for help, many have been enduring persistent hunger over an extended period of time. To address their acute food needs, in April we launched the On the Spot Nutrition program. Assembled by volunteers using fresh donated ingredients, On the Spot allows us to feed the line at our food distributions with healthy snacks that offer a boost of nutrition and provide immediate relief for hungry participants.

**12**  
Volunteers  
per day

**5,000**  
Meals provided  
each week

**10,000**  
Meal goal per  
week for 2023



“ I have worked with a lovely cross-section of kind-hearted, motivated people. I always walk away with a combined feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment. ”

# Our Partners in Hunger Relief

Our donors and supporters are a vital part of our mission. Together, we improve the nutritional security of vulnerable households in our community and restore a greater sense of stability and relief.

**12,552**  
Individual monetary donors

**150**  
Human service organizations

**597**  
Corporate, foundation, and organization donors

**16**  
Dynamic board members to push forward our mission

**102**  
Farms, food manufacturers, and suppliers provided enough food for **4,013,171** meals.

While individuals donated enough food for **149,670** meals.



“The Redwood Empire Food Bank has supported us as the number of families coming for help has increased. We are grateful for the quality of healthy food provided.”

# By the Numbers

## Revenue

Individual donations \$12,726,000

Grants & foundation support \$1,151,000

Corporate contributions \$1,562,000

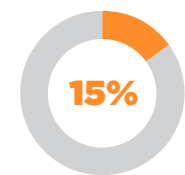
Government contracts & other revenue \$2,686,000

Donated food \$33,303,000

## Total Revenue



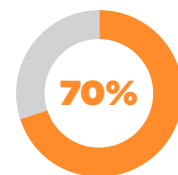
## Funding Breakdown



Government contracts & other revenue



Corporations & foundations



Individual donations

## Expenses Breakdown

Hunger-relief programs  
**94%**


General operating expenses  
**6%**



For every dollar received, we are able to provide \$3 worth of food.



“We strive to provide the highest quantity, the best quality, and the greatest variety of food to anyone in need of help—while remaining nimble, efficient, and effective.”



**Hunger  
Relief  
Worker**