



Updated: June 7, 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.

Summer Lunch program runs from June 7, 2021 through August 6, 2021.

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're partnering with Santa Rosa City Schools Kitchen to provide meals to children over the summer while school is out.
- The Summer Lunch program offers free and healthy breakfast and lunch to children 18 and under.
- There are 38 Summer Lunch sites throughout Sonoma County.
- The Summer Lunch program has transitioned to grab-and-go (via drive-through) and includes care packages of groceries for the entire family.

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:

- **9,000** 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**



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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 9,000 volunteers. With the shelter in place order, the number of people volunteering has drastically reduced.
 - We are taking all necessary precautions to help make sure 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.
 - 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 for more information.



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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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