



Our Mission:

To end hunger in our community.

We define ending hunger as having in place a community response system that makes adequate nutrition assistance available and accessible to anyone in need of help.

Ending Hunger in Our Community

We are the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California, from Sonoma County to the Oregon border.

Since 1987, we have been responding to the immediate needs of people seeking help through the provision of healthy food and nutrition education. We pursue long-term solutions to food insecurity through public policy and the development of partnerships with civic, faith-based, corporate, and government organizations and, most importantly, individuals in our community.

Who We Serve

We serve 1 in 6 people in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties.

In an effort to effectively reach people struggling with food insecurity, the Redwood Empire Food Bank operates 12 innovative programs under three strategic hunger relief initiatives—Every Child, Every Day, Senior Security, and the Neighborhood Hunger Network.

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, the Redwood Empire Food Bank provides 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.

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. The Redwood Empire Food Bank's Senior Security programs ensure that 4,300 low-income seniors living in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte



counties have access to a consistent source of healthy, fresh food every month of the year—food that supports vitality and independence. Reaching thousands more through our network of partner organizations located throughout our service region, our Senior Security initiative meets the critical needs of our community's most vulnerable elders.

Neighborhood Hunger Network

Through wide-reaching hunger relief programs, including vital partnerships with 170 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.

2020 Highlights

In 2020, the Redwood Empire Food Bank served more than double the number of individuals compared to 2019.

- The average number of people we planned to serve per month in 2020 was roughly 23,000 households per month; however, the pandemic hit and **in April alone, we served over 47,000 households.**
- **In 2020 we distributed over \$65 million worth of groceries** which consisted of enough food for **26.8 million meals** (a 79% increase over 2019) and included **8.4 million pounds of fresh produce.**
 - *What does that look like? Well, if you were to feed a sellout crowd at Oracle Park (where the Giants play baseball) breakfast lunch and dinner every day of the year during baseball season, plus the playoffs and World Series—that's what 26 million meals would look like.*

Individuals seeking information for food assistance, many for the first time, increased 70% in 2020.

- Our Food Connections Office (where people go to learn about food assistance) went from 1,000 referrals per month to **1,700 referrals per month** since the start of the pandemic.
- Emergency food box distribution (where they come to the food bank to get food boxes) **increased by 53%** since the start of the pandemic.