



## **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 Northern 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 10 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 5,400 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 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.

**In 2021, the Redwood Empire Food Bank distributed over \$59 million worth of healthy groceries to residents in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties, providing enough food for over 24 million meals.**

**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**
- **82** passionate **staff** members
- **13,783** individual monetary donors
- **710** corporate, foundation, and organization donors
- **113** farms, food manufacturers, and suppliers
- **150** other hunger-relief **partner organizations**

**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—the equivalent of more than 45 full-time staff.
  - 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.
  - Our most needed items include Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter, Rice, Pasta, Oats, Dry Beans, Low Sugar Cereal.
- **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.**