The Redwood Empire Food Bank’s work in 2016 galvanized around the goal of improving our provision of help.

For 30 years, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has been providing help to people in need of food. During this time, nearly everything we do has increased. Originally helping just a few hundred people, we now discuss our service in the tens of thousands. The value of the food we provide, once measured in $1,000 increments, has now surpassed a staggering $40 million a year. And our hunger relief programs have expanded from one to 15 as we have developed new ways to reach the epicenters of hunger in our community.

Amid such dramatic changes, one element of our work has remained constant; the REFB continues to attract remarkable people. Nearly 8,000 volunteers generously give their time, doing whatever is necessary to improve the lives of others. Donors increase their financial support so we can continue fortifying an ever burdened safety net. And the staff, genuinely excited about improving our provision of help, relishes the opportunity to provide food to anyone who needs help.

Turning toward the coming year, we are examining the complexity of our work, and the tremendous growth that we have experienced over the decades. Recognizing that there are ways to become more efficient and effective, we have launched the Million Meals Project. This effort will uncover redundancies, consolidate efforts, and maximize resources with the goal of increasing our service by one million meals - simply by improving everything we do.

David Goodman
Chief Executive Officer

Pete Golis
Board President
82,000 PEOPLE SERVED

YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT HUNGER-RELIEF PROGRAMS

- Community Donations
- Grants
- Government Funding
- Program Revenue

SOURCES OF FOOD

- Growers & Packers ( Produce) 52.5%
- Food Drive 2.6%
- Purchased Food 11.8%
- Government 14.6%
- Donated Food 18.5%

8,000 VOLUNTEERS EQUALING 45 EMPLOYEES DONATED 90,000 HOURS

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15 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD
177 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
15 DIRECT-SERVICE PROGRAMS

The mission of the Redwood Empire Food Bank is to end hunger in our community. Our constant goal is to support the health and well-being of our neighbors, to ensure that everyone, in all of our cities, towns, and rural areas, consistently have enough of the nutritious foods they need to thrive.

Through our innovative emergency response system of 15 direct-service programs and 177 partner organizations, we met both the immediate and the long-term needs of 82,000 people facing hunger last year. We also broadened and strengthened our food safety net through partnerships with social service agencies in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties, expanding access to health and wellness to low-income people living throughout our community.
ENDING HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY
Our Kitchen Collective transforms donated fresh produce, farm fresh herbs, and staple pantry items into thoughtfully-prepared, vegetable-based, entrées. These entrées bolster nutritional intake and ease the stress of meal preparation for low-income seniors and families in our community. The program grew dramatically last year with the addition of dozens of new volunteer sous chefs who helped increase the number of flavorful heat-and-eat entrées distributed each month. Our Chef, Don Nolan, also worked diligently to expand the types of meals offered through the program. As a result, flavor-packed soups like MUSHROOM POSOLE, MULLIGATAWNY, and HOUSE-MADE UDON are now distributed at program sites throughout our community. Chef Don amped up his creative use of proteins as well, using the whole protein HEMP SEED in recipes for BASIL PARMESAN BISCUITS, among others, and adding protein-packed CHICKPEAS to SQUASH CURRIES.

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased the number of homemade entrées from 1,700 every month during the 2014-2015 fiscal year to **3,000** every month.

- **50** dedicated culinary volunteers signed-up to help prepare nutritious, vegetable-based entrées each week.

“The meals are always so fresh and tasty and filling. I love having them in my freezer, ready to heat up in the microwave.”

-Senior resident of Santa Rosa and Kitchen Collective meal recipient
Cultivating a healthier community starts with our children. Thousands of local children do not know when they will eat their next meal. In our ongoing mission to end hunger in Sonoma County and fortify a nutritional safety net, we expanded several of our six Every Child, Every Day hunger-relief programs last year. Our Farm to Family School Pantry (FFSP) provides the families of children enrolled at high-need elementary schools with 25 pounds of nutritious food weekly during the school year, but distributions end when schools break for summer. The Bayer Farm summer pilot this year helped close the summer meal gap for at-risk children in Santa Rosa. We also expanded our reach to low-income students in Lake County with the opening of a vital new FFSP site at East Lake Elementary. And, our Megan Furtth Harvest Pantry provided enhanced Nutrition Education to better promote health and wellness for entire families.

2015-2016 Highlights

- **Milk & Eggs** were added to 9 high-need Farm to Family School Pantry sites, ensuring elementary school children had access to fresh produce, staple pantry items, protein and dairy to fuel active minds.

- Summer Lunch formed 7 new partnerships, adding Healdsburg and Sonoma Valley Libraries to the list of safe and nurturing spaces children enjoyed hot and healthy meals during the academic break.

> “If it weren’t for this program, I would not be able to give the right foods to my children. Produce is too expensive and I didn’t always know what foods to choose. The nutrition lessons help me learn what is best for their diet and how to cook healthy meals with the food I receive. My kids love the broccoli.”

-Megan Furtth Harvest Pantry participant
The mission of our Value Market is to build a bridge from food assistance to self-sufficiency for those we serve. Last year, we connected more of our neighbors in need to our friendly and affordable grocery store, providing seasonal varieties of fresh produce, quality, brand-name staple items like locally-sourced Clover Stornetta milk and yogurt, Amy’s Kitchen organic frozen entrees, and Petaluma Poultry chickens. We also distributed thousands of pounds of fresh produce at no charge through the Value Market to significantly increase the nutritional intake of shoppers, and supplement emergency food boxes received through the Food Connections office, which is located next door to the market for added convenience. And, we continued to foster a welcoming atmosphere, where participants in the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program (WIC), those enrolled in MediCal, recipients of CalFresh benefits (Food Stamps), and those who self-verify their household income can shop with dignity, ask questions, and seek help.

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

• **14,700** bags of affordable groceries were sold.

• **31,000** pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed to Value Market customers at no charge through the Value Market’s weekly free produce promotions.

“Recently, I received a tearful hug from a mother who needed to feed her family of five for $9. With that $9, she purchased a whole chicken, vegetables, and tortillas. She also received free fresh fruit from the Value Market’s weekly free produce basket.”

-Olga, Value Market Clerk
Making nutritious foods available and accessible is at the heart of our efforts to end hunger in our community. To that end, we launched our first Food Plaza in March of last year in the REFB parking lot. We offered the Food Plaza on a Saturday, so that working families and individuals would be able to attend, and opened the doors to our Food Connections office to ensure individuals could sign-up for CalFresh (Food Stamps) and discover additional resources while receiving food. We raised colorful tents to shade fresh produce, a diverse array of shelf-stable pantry items, dairy products and frozen entrées prepared in-house in our Kitchen Collective, cultivating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for visitors. We also introduced families to our Value Market, where they could supplement food received at the Food Plaza with affordable, name-brand groceries. The Food Plaza has continued to grow, now nourishing hundreds of households each month.

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Roughly 325 households visited the Food Plaza each month to access fresh produce, healthy staple pantry items, quality meats, and dairy products.

- Distributed 22,933 pounds of fresh produce, protein and staple pantry items, plus more than 4,000 frozen Kitchen Collective entrées.

“I work full time, but with the high cost of living in Sonoma County, I still can’t always afford to buy high quality produce. The Food Plaza provides the fresh vegetables I usually have to pass up.”

-Food Plaza food recipient
Our Food Connections office continued to expand its reach last year, helping more of our neighbors in need connect to hunger-relief resources and programs in their immediate neighborhoods and through state and federal food assistance programs. The office also continued to help those in need navigate the CalFresh (Food Stamps) application process, one of the most important tools available in the fight against hunger. Our Food Connections team enrolled hundreds of families in the CalFresh benefit program last year, significantly increasing the meal budget for families facing hunger in our community.

2015-2016 Highlights

- **4,475** Food Connections referrals made to local hunger-relief programs.

- Food Connections enrolled **319** households in the CalFresh benefit program (Food Stamps), with an average benefit of **$189.34** per household.

- **700** families received fresh produce and dairy products, including milk and yogurt, through the Food Connections emergency pantry.

“I’m apprehensive to apply [for CalFresh], but my kids are asking for yogurt and waffles, and I can’t give them the food they want to eat or the food they need to grow.”

-Ana, who called Food Connections last year in search of food assistance, is now enrolled in CalFresh with benefits that help her better feed her family.
The REFB’s monthly food boxes, weekly produce pantries, and special health and wellness programs provide the nutritional stability seniors need to lead healthy, independent lives. Last year, our four innovative Senior Security programs - the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Diabetes Wellness, Brown Bag, and Kitchen Collective - provided critical food assistance to thousands of seniors in our community.

2015-2016 Highlights

- Our **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** provided staple pantry items and fresh produce to 3,400 low-income seniors each month at **92 sites** in five counties.

- Roughly **300** seniors, and nearly 300 adults, managed pre- and type 2 diabetes with healthy foods and nutrition education through **Diabetes Wellness**.

- Our **Brown Bag** program provided staple groceries and fresh produce to nearly **500** seniors each month at **15** sites in **8** towns, and through home delivery.

“This is a wonderful service. A lot of us aren’t able to afford apples and oranges and the other fruits that are available here, not at $2.00-$2.50 a pound. It’s sort of takes me back to Christmas as a child, when I got an apple and an orange and a small toy in my sock. It’s a special thing.”

- Senior resident of Santa Rosa and Brown Bag food recipient
13 MILLION MEALS

The Redwood Empire Food Bank provided the food equivalent of over 35,000 meals each day of the 2015-2016 fiscal year to our neighbors in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties. In total, over 13 million meals were provided to families and individuals experiencing hunger. Over half of the 15.1 million pounds of food we distributed was fresh produce, seasonally sourced from local farms located in Sonoma County, as well as from regional and national growers.

It was all made possible because of the continued support from friends and partners like you. You transformed hunger into hope.

Thank you for nourishing our community.
OUR GIVING COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES

Community food drives make a critical impact in the lives of 82,000 of our neighbors facing hunger, immediately lining our warehouse shelves with staple pantry items for daily distribution to REFB hunger-relief programs and our 177 partner organizations. You’ve probably seen our orange food donation barrels in your local grocery store, bank, or community center filled with boxes and cans of non-perishable foods. Last year, hundreds of individuals, businesses, schools, and social groups hosted food drives benefiting the REFB. Many, like the Petaluma Turkey Trot, the Froggy 92.9 Rob & Joss Food Fund, Rohnert Park’s Double Decker Lanes, and the Sonoma County Library, continued annual traditions of collecting canned and non-perishable foods to ensure our neighbors in need had wholesome, hearty meals on their tables during the winter months and throughout the year.

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

• 384,850 pounds of food was donated by members of our community, with OVER TWO-THIRDS collected during the holiday season.

• 317 individuals, businesses, schools, and social groups organized food drives to feed our neighbors facing hunger.

“There are people in our community who need help, and not just during the holidays. We have a chance every day to love our fellow man.”

-The late Gene Grozat, G&C Auto Body Founder and Annual Food & Funds Drive Sponsor.
COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Each year, individual and corporate partners throughout our community organize campaigns to generate financial support for the REFB, fueling our hunger-relief programs. We are deeply grateful to be part of a community that gives generously throughout the year. Last fiscal year:

- **Kosta Browne Winery** provided over 48,000 meals through employee giving and the donation of a priceless live auction lot for our annual Empty Bowls Dinner & Auction.

- **Wine Road Northern Sonoma County** provided nearly 60,000 meals through fundraisers and special event promotions throughout the year.

- 11 year-old **Memphis Roettter**, in his Annual Birthday Food & Funds Drive, used the occasion of his birthday to raise $5,000 to provide 10,000 meals.

- Maria Carillo High School student **Kati Hilaro** provided more than 7,400 meals through sales from her annual Thanksgiving **Pies for Poverty** project.

- Shoppers donated funds to provide 62,000 meals at **Whole Foods Market** check-stands during the holidays.

Hundreds more raised funds in their schools, businesses, and neighborhoods throughout the 2015-2016 fiscal year to help feed families in need.

**2015-2016 Highlights**

- Nearly **$211,000** was raised for the REFB by individuals and businesses through community-driven fundraisers during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

  “Helping others and baking are my passions. And with Pies For Poverty, I get to bake to support my community.”

  -Kati Hilaro, Maria Carillo High School student and Pies for Poverty creator, organizer, and baker.
We welcomed significant growth in our volunteer base last year, with dozens of new groups and individuals taking direct action to help end hunger in our community by signing-up to volunteer. These dedicated members of our giving community helped prepare food for distribution, served hot and healthy lunches to children at Summer Lunch sites, distributed hearty, heat-and-eat Kitchen Collective entrées at our Food Plaza, organized fresh produce and nutritious staples at distribution sites throughout Sonoma County, and provided support at REFB benefit events. Last year, these 8,000 volunteers provided the equivalent service of 45 full-time staff, helping us increase our capacity to serve hope through nutrition to our neighbors in need.

### 2015-2016 Highlights

- **8,000** volunteers visited the REFB facility in Santa Rosa, or a distribution site in their neighborhood, to help put food on the tables of our neighbors facing hunger.

- Volunteers donated roughly **90,300** hours to the REFB to prepare **1.3** million pounds of food for distribution each month.

- A record breaking **189** volunteer groups from local businesses, schools, and social organizations donated their time to glean, package, and prepare food for distribution to our neighbors in need.

“We share a common cause here at the REFB: feeding people in need. I feel privileged to be part of such a meaningful organization.”

-Kaarin Lee, 10-year veteran REFB volunteer and life-long hunger-relief advocate
The REFB acquired and distributed **15.1 MILLION** pounds of seasonally-sourced, nutrient-dense, and culturally appropriate foods last year from local and national manufacturers, retailers, and growers. Sonoma County-based food manufacturers like **La Tortilla Factory** and **Gourmet Mushrooms Inc.** filled our warehouse with an abundance of high quality, locally grown and locally prepared foods. Additional donations from **Clover Stornetta Dairy** and **Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery** allowed us to provide protein-rich dairy products to children and seniors in our community, and donations from **Petaluma Poultry** made it possible for us to place locally-raised organic chicken on the tables of low-income families facing hunger.

**Oroweat** was our largest food donor last year, providing over 800,000 pounds of premium fresh breads.

### 2015-2016 Highlights

- **1,177,270** pounds of healthy foods were donated by Sonoma County-based growers, food retailers, and food distributors.

- **55%** of all food distributed was fresh produce.

"In a country as rich in resources as ours, no one should go hungry. That’s why Petaluma Poultry has partnered with the REFB for more than a decade in a shared commitment to help solve hunger. We are proud to support their efforts through product donations, financial contributions and associate engagement to help those in the community who experience food insecurity."

-Matt Junkle, Petaluma Poultry Complex Director
OUR AGENCY PARTNERS

Our 177 partner organizations helped create a vast network of support for our neighbors who experienced hunger last year. The following agencies acquired food from the REFB and our Agency Store, a discounted wholesale marketplace, to support their programs, and together we fortified our provision of help for those in need.

Last fiscal year, we helped stock FISH OF SANTA ROSA’s food pantry with 243,617 pounds of food. Our St. Vincent de Paul partners acquired 378,079 pounds of food from the REFB, and our Catholic Charities partners collectively received 174,310 pounds to support those struggling with hunger. Food for Thought nourished people living with HIV/AIDS with 51,971 pounds of healthy foods from the REFB, and the Santa Rosa Junior College fueled active minds with 25,848 pounds of produce and pantry items.

SONOMA COUNTY
Anapolis
Starcross Food Pantry
Agua Caliente
Catholic Charities
Cloverdale
Cloverdale Food Pantry
King’s Valley Apartments
Wallace House
Community Services
Cotati
Community Support Network
Oaks of Hebron, Inc.
Independent Living Skills
SVDP St. Joseph’s
Forestville
Food For Thought
Forestville United Methodist Church
Fulton
Fulton Pentecostal Church
Graton
Catholic Charities
Guerneville
Community & Family Services
River to Coast Children’s Services
Russian River Community Food Pantry
West County Health Centers, Inc.
Healdsburg
Alliance Medical Center
Boys & Girls Club of Central Sonoma County
California Human Development
Calvary Chapel
Catholic Charities
Christian Outreach Center
Community Child Care Council
Healdsburg Shared Ministries
Salvation Army Arc
Trinity Baptist Church
Monte Rio
St. Andrews Episcopal
Occidental
Catholic Charities
St. Philip Rural Food
Petaluma
Assembly Apostolic
Burbank Housing
Community Child Care Council
Committee on the Shelterless (CCS)
Elim Lutheran Church
New Life Christian Fellowship
North Bay Children’s Center
Petaluma Christian Church
Petaluma People Services Center
Salvation Army
Independent Living Skills
Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Waugh Wallabies Daycare
Rohnert Park
Boys & Girls Club of Central Sonoma County
Calvary Fellowship
Faith Community Church
Iglesia Josue
Las Casitas de Sonoma
Millennium Housing - Rancho Feliz
Neighbors Organized Against Hunger
Oaks of Hebron, Inc.
Primera Iglesia Bautista
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Independent Living Skills
St. Joseph Health Foundation
SVDP St. Elizabeth Seton
Santa Rosa
ACTS Ministries Inc.
Becoming Independent
Bethel Children’s Center
Boys & Girls Club of Central Sonoma County
Burbank Housing
California Human Development
California Programs for the Autistic, Inc.
Calvary Chapel The Rock
Catholic Charities
United Methodist Church
Christ Tabernacle Church
Christian Family Fellowship
Church of the Incarnation
Church of the Nazarene
Community Action Partnership
Community Child Care Council
Community Support Network
Council On Aging
Crossing the Jordan Foundation Inc.
Extended Child Care Coalition
FISH of Santa Rosa
OUR AGENCY PARTNERS

Forget Me Not Children’s Services
Foundation Christian Fellowship
Girl Scouts of N. CA
God's Miracles Ministries
Goodwill Redwood Empire
Greater Power House
HeartLink International
Hope Chapel Santa Rosa
Housing Connections
Iglesia Bethel
Immanuel Christian Center
Individuals Now Inc.
Interfaith Shelter Network
Jewish Family & Children Services
Kid St. Learning Center
Knox Presbyterian Church
Leisure Mobile Home Park
Life Steps
Living Room Center Inc.
Living Word Family Church
Multi-Cultural
My Home Inc.
NAMI
Napa County Office of Education – CalSERVES
North Bay Children’s Center
Oaks of Hebron, Inc.
On The Move
Positive Images
Presbyterian Church of the Roses
Progress Foundation
Progress Sonoma
Promise Center
PTA Kewana
R House
Redwood Covenant Church
Redwood Gospel Mission
Roca de Salvacion
Salvation Army Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa Alliance Church
Santa Rosa Apostolic Church
Santa Rosa Catholic Worker
Santa Rosa Community Health Centers
Santa Rosa Foursquare Church
Santa Rosa Junior College
Santa Rosa Parks Foundation
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Sonoma Avenue Church of Christ
St. Luke Lutheran Church
Stars of the Valley
Stony Point Christian Fellowship
SVDP Holy Spirit Conference
SVDP Resurrection Parish
SVDP Dining Room
SVDP St. Eugene’s Parish
SVDP St. Rose Church
Bridge Community Church
The Children’s Village
Unitarian Universalistic Association
Valley Oak Park
Vertical Call
Victor Treatment Centers
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Vietnam Veterans of California Inc.
Village Charter School Foundation
Volunteer Center of Sonoma County
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Catholic Charities

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Helping Hand
Hunger Task Force
Lakeport Senior Center
Seventh Day Adventist Church
United Christian Parish Food Pantry

Lower Lake
Community Care
United Methodist Church

Lucerne
Alpine Senior Center

Middletown
Catholic Charities
Senior Citizens Inc.

MENDOCINO COUNTY
Covelo
Round Valley Indian Health Center

Fort Bragg
Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program, Inc.

Gualala
Gualala Baptist Church

LAKE COUNTY
Point Arena
Point Arena Food Pantry

Ukiah
First Baptist Church
North Coast Opportunities
Plowsshares Peace & Justice Center
South Ukiah Rotary

Willits
Round Valley Indian Health Center
Willits Daily Bread
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Donors who made gifts totaling $1,000 or more between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Their generosity fueled vital hunger-relief programs throughout our community.

$100,000 +
County of Sonoma Human Services
Michael and Mary Schuh
William and Inez Mable Family Foundation

$50,000 - $99,999
Andrew and Ellen Bradley Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund
Friedman’s Home Improvement Center
Hunger Is
Mary Clark Janis
Lowe’s Charitable and Education Foundation
St. Joseph Health Community Partnership Fund
Walmart Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
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Bethlehem Foundation Community Foundation Sonoma County
George H. Sandy Foundation
Michael and Theresa Haire
Stephen Hansel
Impact 100 Sonoma
Jackson Fund of Community Foundation Sonoma County
Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs
Steven Maass & Kathleen Gallagher
Robert & Wilma Milby
Ron & Maria Nersesian
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Fund
Nelson & Jane Weller
Whole Foods Market
Wine Road Northern Sonoma County

$10,000 - $24,999
American AgCredit, FLCA
American River Bankshares Foundation

Ameriprise Financial
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bergin Glass Impressions
Gordon and Ann Blumenfeld
BoDean Company
Boyd Stockham Construction
Phyllis Chan and Jack Salzgeber
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Exchange Bank
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Rotary Club of the Valley of the Moon
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Sonoma Clean Power
Sonoma Country Day School
Sonoma County Hot Air Balloon Classic
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Spring Lake Village
Carolyn Stone
Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation
The California Wellness Foundation
TLCI Architecture
Pedro Toledo
Umpqua Bank
United Way Combined Federal Campaign
Celia Vigil
Westamerica Bank
Dale Westrom
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These teams of volunteers gave their time between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 to help prepare over 15 million pounds of food for distribution to high-need sites throughout our community.

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Whole Foods Market
Windsor High School
Wine Road, Northern Sonoma County
World Centric
Worldmark by Wyndham
ZFA Structural Engineers
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Revenue
Individual Donations .................................................................................................................. $2,637,558
Government ............................................................................................................................... $1,066,124
Corporations ............................................................................................................................ $333,140
Agencies .................................................................................................................................. $1,319,812
Drives and Events .................................................................................................................... $967,990
Foundations ............................................................................................................................ $848,172

Revenue Subtotal ...................................................................................................................... $7,172,796

Donated Food Value .................................................................................................................. $22,485,631
Other ...................................................................................................................................... $12,590

Total Revenue .......................................................................................................................... $29,671,107

Expenses
Programs* .................................................................................................................................. $29,016,731
Fundraising ................................................................................................................................. $770,318
Management and General ......................................................................................................... $400,097

Total Expenses ........................................................................................................................ $30,187,146

Change in net assets

$-516,129

* Program expenses include the value of donated food distributed.

A full copy of our audited financial statements can be found online at refb.org.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank has earned our thirteenth consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities. Charity Navigator rates charities on financial performance, as well as their accountability and transparency to donors. A four-star rating is the highest possible rating a charity can receive.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call 707.523.7900 ext. 158 for assistance, information, or corrections.