FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to Donate One Year's-Worth of Hunger-Relief Aid

$280,000 Donation to be Gifted Thursday at 10 A.M. at Alicia Park to Provide Safety Net to Local Neighbors

Santa Rosa, CA – August 9th – The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) will receive a $280,000 donation from The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to underwrite all of its Rohnert Park direct service hunger-relief programs for one year, allowing every child, senior, and adult who faces hunger to have a place to turn for vital food and nutrition assistance.

The REFB offers seven direct service hunger-relief programs, each addressing a variety of circumstances, at 14 convenient sites throughout Rohnert Park, reducing the barriers to food access for those seeking help. More than 840,000 pounds or $1.85 million dollars’ worth of fresh produce and healthy groceries set to be distributed through these program sites, helping to stretch the limited food budgets of Rohnert Park individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, and foster a healthier community.

“We are deeply honored to have the generous support of The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria in our efforts to end hunger in Rohnert Park and throughout Sonoma County,” said Redwood Empire Food Bank CEO, David Goodman. “The REFB will need to fundraise nearly $6 million over the next fiscal year to meet our program operating costs and continue to fortify our programs in Sonoma County and throughout our broader service region. This critical funding allows us to continue to provide a strong safety-net for our Rohnert Park neighbors in need and ensure our entire community is well nourished.”
The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribal Chairman Greg Sarris will represent his 1,400 member Tribe and present a check to the Redwood Empire Food Bank’s CEO, David Goodman, at the REFB’s Harvest Pantry distribution on Thursday, August 9th, at 10:00 am at Alicia Park.

“This gift continues our mission to promote social justice and environmental stewardship for all people in the community and throughout our shared homeland,” said Sarris.

The REFB’s Harvest Pantry program provides fresh fruits and vegetables along with nutrition education to pregnant women and families with children 0-6 years of age in Rohnert Park and throughout Sonoma County. A nutrition lesson lead by REFB staff on the importance of a healthy, balanced lunch for pre-school children will accompany the August 9th distribution and check presentation, a follow up to a recent educational discussion on healthy breakfast choices. The lunch lesson will include a demonstration on preparing low-sugar, high energy meals to fuel active minds.

“Our work in Rohnert Park is extensive and makes a critical difference in the lives of our neighbors facing hunger,” said Redwood Empire Food Bank Director of Programs, Allison Goodwin. “This exciting partnership with The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria allows us to continue delivering food, education and hope to our neighbors who need help most - in Rohnert Park and throughout our community.”

Representatives from the City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University, which operates a campus food pantry in partnership with the REFB, will join representatives from the Redwood Empire Food Bank and The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria’s Tribal Council at Alicia Park on August 9th to celebrate the significant impact the donation will have on all members of the Rohnert Park community.

### About the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria:
The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria were restored as a federally recognized tribe in 2000. The nearly 1,400-member tribe consists of both Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo people. Their tribal ancestors existed for thousands of years in what is now Marin and Sonoma counties. Under the leadership of its Tribal Chairman, Greg Sarris, the tribe is the owner of Graton Resort & Casino.

### About the Redwood Empire Food Bank:
The Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. Since 1987, the REFB has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger, currently serving 82,000 children families and seniors in Sonoma County, while striving to end hunger in our community. The REFB collaborates with local and regional partners to obtain and distribute 15.5 million pounds of food annually, the equivalent of more than 35,000 meals every day. Through more than 200 of our own direct service distributions and partnerships with 170 other hunger-relief organizations, we form a network of over 450 weekly and monthly distribution sites serving low-income residents in Sonoma, Lake, Del Norte, Mendocino and Humboldt counties. Visit [www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org) or call 707-523-7900 to learn more.