Fact Sheet

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
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 been helping end hunger in our community through 11 innovative programs under three strategic initiatives – Every Child, Every Day; Senior Security; and the Neighborhood Hunger Network. Learn more at refb.org.

Every Child, Every Day
Under the Every Child, Every Day initiative, the REFB operates five programs specifically targeted to ending childhood hunger. Healthy food is strategically distributed at schools, parks, after school programs, and in low-income neighborhoods so that children have access to food year-round.

Senior Security
More than 16,000 seniors turn to the REFB and our partner organizations for help in Sonoma County. With monthly food boxes, weekly produce pantries, and supplemental groceries, the REFB provides these seniors access to the nutritious food needed to lead healthy, independent lives.

Neighborhood Hunger Network
The REFB provides fresh produce and staple groceries to anyone in need of help. It is through our innovative programs that we can ensure a county-wide emergency food system and strong safety net. We are also a major food source for 170 partner organizations, which include pantries, dining rooms, and local shelters.

2018 REFB highlights by the numbers:

- The REFB collaborated with local and regional partners to obtain and distribute nearly 18 million pounds of healthy food last year, the equivalent of roughly 15 million meals, or nearly 41,000 meals every day.
- Served 82,000 of our Sonoma County neighbors struggling with hunger.
- Distributed 9.1 million pounds of produce, including 30 varieties of fruits and vegetables.
- Distributed a retail value of $40 million worth of food.
- 95% of REFB resources supported program activities.
- School Pantry sites served an average of 728 families, including 1,600 children, each week of the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Enlisted 8,500 volunteers who did the work of over 45 full-time staff.
- 80 Kitchen Collective volunteers created 45,500 nutritious entrées for low-income seniors and families.
- Operated 66 monthly Senior Basket and Diabetes Wellness distributions in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties, reaching a monthly average of more than 3,700 seniors.
- 28,000 customers accessed affordable groceries and other food assistance resources in our Value Market.
- Distributed more than $4 million worth of healthy food through Station 3990 emergency distributions in the first eight months following the 2017 wildfires, enough groceries for more than 1.7 million meals.