Fight Hunger. Spark Change.

Every day, we hear stories about the impact our work has in helping to end hunger in our community. As part of the Feeding America and Walmart “Fight Hunger. Spark Change.” campaign, we want you – our neighbors – to hear from those who benefit from your support. The struggle with hunger is all too real for millions of Americans, including many right here in our community. Through campaigns like “Fight Hunger. Spark Change.”, our voice is louder in raising awareness about the small actions that have a big impact on our neighbors’ lives.

Reyna is a parent volunteer, whose children participate in the REFB’s School Pantry program at Monroe Elementary School in Santa Rosa. As a devoted mother to her young children, Reyna’s day-to-day is dedicated to caring for her family while her husband works as the sole provider for the household. “My husband struggles sometimes just to pay the rent, this program gives us food we really need.” Reyna shares that despite her tight schedule that includes picking up her children from different schools and programs, preparing meals, and taking her children to appointments, volunteering at School Pantry is important to her. She notes that School Pantry’s support goes beyond her helping just her children, and that the program helps many families with children in their neighborhood, which is comprised mainly of low-income households. Reyna talks about seeing dozens of other parents with children at Monroe Elementary experiencing the same hardship, some with even greater obstacles, adding, “What the food bank is doing makes a big difference in my community, and for me personally, it means the world.”

Sandra, a taxi-cab driver for 25 years and a borderline diabetic, entered retirement with little savings. Now on a fixed income, she visits an REFB food pantry for some extra help, and to receive the food she needs to stay healthy. “My doctor told me to watch what I eat, but healthy food is expensive, you know?” She adds, “That’s why I was excited to learn that this pantry gives out special food boxes to people with diabetes.” The REFB’s Diabetes Wellness Program provides fresh fruit and vegetables, and teaches participants how to cook meals with the ingredients provided. “To everyone who makes this pantry possible – you are wonderful,” Sandra tells us. “I bless you in my prayers. You’re changing my life.”

The REFB is grateful for its collaboration with Feeding America and its numerous partners, whose generous support allows us to keep doing what we do best: feed our community.