



CENTRAL
CALIFORNIA
FOOD BANK



FEED HOPE

SUMMER 2023

SERVING OUR SENIORS WHERE AND WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

Here in Central California and throughout the country, thousands of seniors struggle with hunger every day. **With increased health vulnerability, rising food costs, and transportation barriers, seniors need help accessing food more than ever.**

Seniors like Angelica Juarez, a resident of the City of Mendota for the past 50 years, benefit from our Senior Hunger Program. After years of working in the agricultural industry, Angelica recently had spinal surgery to deal with back injuries she developed laboring long days in the field. The surgery has left her with limited mobility — making trips to the grocery store painful and nearly impossible at times.

Thanks to amazing supporters like you, and incredible partners like AMOR Wellness Center, we are able to provide nutrient-dense food boxes right to senior communities who need it most — like Angelica's.

AMOR, our Senior Hunger partner, provides wraparound services including food support to the underserved City of Mendota and surrounding rural communities. They collaborate with churches, senior living facilities, and senior housing complexes to help distribute food to seniors in need. "Our elderly community here has a lot of issues with mobility and transportation," says Stephanie Franco, Rural Program Coordinator for AMOR. "To alleviate those issues, we deliver food boxes right to their doorsteps."

This is just one example of the amazing work that is made possible by your support!

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THE SIDE DISH

by Natalie Caples, co-CEO



With Summer right around the corner, I, like many others, are thinking about what this summer season might bring. A special trip, time with family and friends, carefree adventures. But for many of our food insecure neighbors in Central California, summer doesn't mean happier and carefree times — It simply means another barrier in accessing the food that they need to thrive, and the continued struggle of putting food on the table. For our young students it means reduced or limited access to school meals. For parents and families it means navigating an increased food bill during times when inflation and food costs remain high, all while necessary and much-needed food benefits like CalFresh have been drastically reduced. For college students it means another trip to access the campus resources. **The reality is, for many this summer will be hard.**

But the good news is that the changing of seasons and the longer days of summer do not have to mean additional challenges for our food-insecure neighbors. As you read through this newsletter, you'll have the opportunity to hear about some of the amazing partnerships that have been forged, in part, because of your unwavering support. **You'll also have the opportunity to ensure that the start of summer doesn't mean increased hunger in our community — You can do this by becoming a Summer Sponsor.** At Central California Food Bank, we value your support as it allows us to provide hope to neighbors facing impossible choices, and we hope that together, we can continue to lean into our shared goals and values to realize a hunger-free Central California.

Natalie Caples
co-CEO



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING FAMILIES AT SAFE HAVENS

Schools are often safe havens for families to turn to when in need of resources, which makes them ideal community partners in our fight against hunger!

With your help, Burton Unified School District's School Pantry serves over 180 Porterville families in need every month throughout the school year.

Burton has customized the way they distribute food to families after taking into consideration the unique needs of their students. Once a month, using carts provided by the district, families receive fresh corn tortillas, eggs, frozen meat, and produce, along with a school food box at each Food Distribution.

Powered by your generosity, this innovative food distribution is giving moms in Tulare County, like Ciera, a place close to home to access a wide variety of healthy foods for her family. Something, she says, has become more difficult due to the steep increase in food costs.

"Distributions like these make us feel like we are not going to have to sacrifice more things than we already are," says Ciera.

Ciera's words are a reminder of the life-changing impact you make through your generosity.

Thanks to you and committed partners like Burton Unified School District, we're meeting our neighbors where they are to provide sustainable and sensible solutions to hunger.



FEEDING FUTURES

Over 20,000 students enrolled this past Spring semester at Fresno City College, and the volume of students visiting their RAM Pantry for much-needed food support continues to grow.

As college students strive to further their education and invest in their futures, the rising costs of tuition, housing, gas, and food is forcing many students to choose between buying food or paying for other basic necessities. **With your help, the RAM Pantry helps alleviate some of this stress.**

“We welcome all current FCC students so that they can take care of their hunger and focus on their classes,” says Paul Torres, RAM Pantry Coordinator. **“This past semester we had nearly 200,000 visits to the pantry, serving over 11,000 students.”**

Thanks to your support, we are able to assist partners like the RAM Pantry to help food-insecure students achieve their educational and professional goals year-round.

WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT, HUNGER IS IN

Schools in Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties provide over 450,000 kids with free and reduced-cost meals during the regular school year — meals they might not otherwise get at home.

With summer break right around the corner, school meals that students are used to are limited and can be more challenging to access. This means so many kids will be too anxious, sad, or restless from hunger to find any fun this summer. Let's face it, when school stops, hunger starts.

We're looking for 200 people to become Summer Sponsors. That means committing today to give three monthly gifts between now and August. **As a Summer Sponsor, you'll be stepping in to help replace the meal a child usually receives and relies on during the school year.**



SCAN ME



MEMBER PARTNER SP☆TLIGHT — SOUTH VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH LEMOORE, CA

Member Partners like South Valley Community Church (SVCC) are at the heart of what we do. Partners like these are the reason we are able to reach as many communities as possible across the five counties we serve.

The moment our driver pulls into their parking lot, volunteers from Lemoore and surrounding towns start packing fresh fruits and vegetables for the over 150 families SVCC serves every month.

When asked how inflation has impacted access to fresh produce in Kings County, SVCC Coordinator Maria emphasized that **“the way the economy is right now, a lot of people can’t afford it.”**

While our Mobile Pantry program has been a vital part of how we increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in rural areas, the need has sky-rocketed this past year. **We are so grateful for partners like South Valley Community Church and their devoted volunteers who are committed to providing the nutritious food their community needs to thrive!**



UPCOMING EVENTS



Central California Food Bank's Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 11

Sunnyside Country Club

Find more information at
www.ccfoodbank.org/golf



10th Annual Feeding Families Fund Drive

Friday, September 22

The Market

Learn more at
www.ccfoodbank.org/garmatch



CONTACT US

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*To learn more or to make a donation,
visit ccfoodbank.org.*