Board Chair Message

The United States wastes approximately 40% of its food supply annually, while millions of children go to bed hungry at night. The problem, most experts say, is not that there isn’t enough food, it’s that we don’t do a very good job of getting the food that we have to the folks who need it most.

In Stockton and San Joaquin County, there is a resource for families in need of food assistance. For the past 50 years, the Emergency Food Bank has been distributing food to households in San Joaquin County. To date, we have fed 50,000 people and served 40,022 tons of food, with the help of almost 16,000 volunteers. This work does not get done through magic; it most definitely takes a village, and that is where our volunteers and our donors come in.

We know it is a busy time for giving and that every day brings - at least at my house - a new solicitation for a remarkable cause. I believe sincerely that the Emergency Food Bank is a remarkable cause. As the year comes to a close, if you have not designated a donation, or if you have and you would like to add to your generosity, I ask you to consider the amazing work performed on a daily basis for the children and families of our community. Better yet, after making your donation, come see the work that is done as we strive to answer the call to feed the hungry.

Thank you.

Susanne St. Clair, Chair
Emergency Food Bank Board of Directors

Following unhealthy smoky days and welcome rainfall, the sun broke out on Thanksgiving morning allowing almost 2,000 hearty runners and walkers to participate in our annual run. We are so grateful to our sponsors, runners, volunteers, and staff. All of you make this possible. Thank you!
I am indebted to you and all supporters of the Emergency Food Bank. Because of you, we are able to supply healthy and nutritious food to those who are food insecure or hungry for one reason or another. Since joining the Food Bank in October as the Interim CEO, I have sincerely been humbled by the generosity of so many. I invite you to read about Anne, Jesus and others who make our critical work possible.

As generous as individuals, families, corporations, municipalities, and foundations have been, I am so aware that many in our community are hungry throughout the year. As I review the Food Bank’s financial position, I realize our immediate need is to raise funds to ensure full operation from January through December.

Donations and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Food Bank. Our main pantry is open Monday-Friday, 9 am-noon. Most days I have the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who help organize and distribute food to the working poor and those on limited income. In the last few weeks, in addition to our individual volunteers, teams came from area businesses, educational institutions and non-profit organizations. Every day, I see members of our community helping their fellow community members making me even more proud to live in Stockton and San Joaquin County.

I encourage you to join me in supporting the Emergency Food Bank by making an end-of-year donation to help sustain our important and critical work in the community.

Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or submitted online at donatenow.networkforgood.org/emergencyfoodbank

If you would like a tour of the Emergency Food Bank, please call me at 209.464.7369 x1001 or email me at gmurphy@stocktonfoodbank.org

All of us at the Emergency Food Bank wish you a meaningful and peaceful Holiday Season.

Gillian Murphy
Interim CEO
Meet a Volunteer!

Following 40 years of service, Dan Kyes retired from the railroad. He knew he wanted to volunteer in his community and fortunately for us, he found the Emergency Food Bank. For the past 18 months, Dan has spent two days each week volunteering at the Food Bank. He welcomes every client with his broad smile, carries heavy goods for those struggling, and helps out wherever he is needed in the warehouse. On volunteering at the Food Bank, Dan says “It’s important to give back. I also do this for myself. I’m blessed with good health and a home. The Food Bank does such important work. Thank you for being here for me and our clients.”

One Man… Big Results

A few weeks ago, Jesus Serrano came into the Food Bank with a receipt for $2,100 and simply said “bring this receipt to Costco and pick up 100 turkeys.” Jesus saw the need and collected the money from his family in order to be a part of the solution and to help ensure families would have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. He was happy to bring the receipt and leave. Fortunately, he allowed us to tell his story. Jesus and all our donors are inspirations to the Emergency Food Bank. Whether it’s $21 or $2,100, every donation allows us to do the work we do. We are so very grateful to Jesus and all of our donors.

Meet One of our Families

There is a misconception when people hear about the Emergency Food Bank. Many think we serve only the unemployed. Here is a story about a working family, one of our many faces that come through our gates Monday - Friday. On a cool Tuesday morning, Kristal B. visited the Emergency Food Bank with her two children and left with a full bag of groceries that included fresh fruit and vegetables. Kristal is a stay-at-home Mom while her husband works full time. She credits the Food Bank as one of the reasons her family is getting back on their feet. Kristal said “The food I receive here makes a huge difference in our lives. I really appreciate the fresh produce. When I get home, my children help me cook the vegetables I received that day.” Kristal also remarked on our safe and clean environment and the friendly people she meets at the Food Bank.
Using social media to help the Food Bank

Local teacher, Anne Swehla Garcia, shared an Emergency Food Bank Facebook post seeking turkey donations prior to Thanksgiving. Through Anne’s amazing efforts, her Facebook friends and school colleagues, she raised enough money to buy 965 pounds of turkey for our Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway. Without seeing any post for the December Turkey giveaway, Anne is already raising considerable funds to buy more turkeys. Meanwhile, she filled five cars with boxes of school supplies and books which were transported to Paradise following the tragic Camp Fire. Anne is pictured with her husband, Michael Garcia who is always ready to help Anne when she is on a mission! She is truly an inspiration.

Turkey Giveaway…The Need is Great

Following weeks of preparation, receipt of many donations, and purchasing food, on November 19, over 2,000 turkeys and boxes of food were distributed guaranteeing over 10,000 people a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Between the preparation and the food distribution, almost 200 volunteers worked tirelessly to help make this day successful. Many who stood patiently in a line that stretched as far as the eye could see were so very grateful for what they received. Many volunteers thanked us for giving them the opportunity to serve others. We are humbled by and grateful for all who passed through our gates. On December 20, we will have a second turkey and food box giveaway and anticipate distributing another 2,000+ turkeys and boxes.

Emergency Food Bank Programs

**Main Food Pantry** Open M-F, the EFB works to provide 5-7 days worth packaged groceries, canned goods, dairy and fresh fruits and vegetables for each family as often as twice a month.

**Satellite Pantries** The EFB serves as a source of food for distribution at 22 satellite pantries located throughout San Joaquin County. These pantries are usually open to their clients one day each week.

**Mobile Farmer’s Markets and Nutrition Education Classes** Two (2) Mobile Farmer’s Market vans reach over 60 sites monthly with fresh produce, cooking demos, recipe tips and nutritional classes twice a month, the nutrition education is a growing part of our services.

**CalFresh Outreach** Our on-site CalFresh Outreach Coordinator is able to enroll clients in the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (CalFresh, formerly Food Stamps).

**Food to Non-Profit Organizations** The EFB also supplies food, nutrition supplies and other needed goods (at no charge) to many non-profit partner agencies such as St. Mary’s Dinning Room, Gospel Center Rescue Mission, the Child Abuse Prevention Council and many more - almost 1 million pounds was shared with these partner agencies in the last 12 months.

**Community Garden** in conjunction with the San Joaquin County Master Gardeners, the Food Bank provides the community with 19 planter beds and 7 fruit trees. Throughout the year, Master Gardeners provide instruction on how to plant, prune and maintain a healthy vegetable garden. This program FREE and open to ALL members of the community.

**NEW PROGRAMS COMING IN 2019**

- Child Care Mobile Farmers Market
- USDA Pantry Distribution
- San Joaquin Teeth Outreach