

2020 - 2021

# Annual Report



# This Past Year

The Food Bank grew exponentially in learned experience, meals distributed, staff employed, community partnerships started and strengthened, challenges overcome and much, much more.

Our mission – **to end hunger in San Francisco and Marin** – remains. However, with this growth, during the spring and summer of 2021, the Food Bank staff and board came together to define our vision for creating a San Francisco and Marin without hunger that will quide us through continued pandemic response, recovery, and into the future.

This vision captures a place that both recognizes the journey the organization has been on for a while and where we hope to elevate the work. The Food Bank is a place where the solutions to end hunger center on partnerships with communities, partners, participants, and supporters like you.

LEARN MORE [7]







# We believe that...

#### Food is a basic human right.

Hunger does not affect us all equally - not having enough to eat is the result of systemic racism and oppression, insufficient social safety nets, and structural inequities.

# Access to nourishing food will ensure that our communities thrive.

Therefore, we must focus on community-driven solutions in the communities that are the most impacted: we'll deepen our relationships with existing partners and form new ones.

#### Food insecurity is solvable.

We must address both the consequences and causes of food insecurity. This means confronting its root causes and working to increase access to food by pushing for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels to shore up safety nets.

# Working Together to End Hunger

77,000,000

pounds of food distributed

\$9,000,000+

secured in CalFresh Benefits

67,000,000

meals provided

5,000

neighbors assisted with CalFresh applications



# Our Partner Network

#### POP UP PANTRIES

Run by San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

#### NEIGHBORHOOD PANTRIES

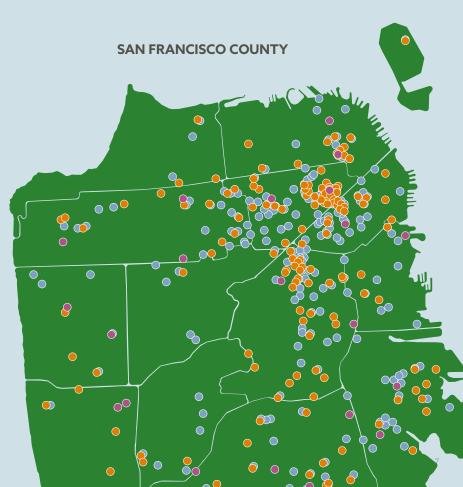
Run by partners

#### OTHER FOOD PROGRAMS

Run by partners providing, for example, meal programs and CalFresh outreach







# In Partnership

Our partners and supporters are the backbone of the Food Bank's work. Together, we increase access to food. Together, we advocate for policy change. Together, we are ending food insecurity. Together, we provided food for over 50,000 households every week this past year.

Our partnerships are instrumental to the work we are doing, so we have invited both partners and Food Bankers to share, in their own words, what happened this past year and what's next in the coming year.



#### **PANTRY NETWORK**

### Partnering to Better Support the Community

LEARN MORE

We serve 300 neighbors every week, each of whom often has four to five family members per household - that's over 1,200 people in our community who are receiving food. The hardest thing is keeping up with the demand for fruit and vegetables, but thanks to the dedicated team at the Food Bank, we can ensure access to fresh produce. We also have a fantastic group of longtime volunteers who show up rain or shine to support our community; they are the ones who keep the wheels turning."

#### Gloria

Pantry Coordinator, Canal Alliance, Marin



We're so grateful to Canal Alliance, one of our amazing Marin partners that supports our Latinx immigrant community. The food pantry is just one of many services they provide and this upcoming year, our partnership is focused on the food needs of the community, getting backtofarmers' market-style, and minimizing food waste. Canal Alliance has deep roots in the community, making them a trusted and valued resource."

#### — Patricia

Community Coordinator, Food Bank



#### **HOME-DELIVERED GROCERIES**

# Making a Healthy Difference Door-to-Door

LEARN MORE [7]

I love this service. During the pandemic, I lost 91 pounds because of all the fresh fruits and vegetables I got in my box. *This past week, we got some beautiful string beans, so I looked up a recipe to roast them with fresh garlic, olive oil and balsamic vinegar*. I'm low-income and food costs a lot of money, especially really good food. Thank you for having the Food Bank for us. A lot of people I know rely on the Food Bank for most of their food and it really makes a huge difference."



Home-Delivered Groceries Participant



Home-delivered

#### 8,000 BAGS

of groceries every week to people with disabilities, seniors, & families with young children The generosity and strength of our partners, donors, and volunteers made it possible to scale Home-Delivered Groceries so quickly to meet the new demand stemming from COVID-19. Now that we've expanded eligibility to receive Home-Delivered Groceries to include families with children aged 3 and younger, we are focused on getting the word out to the community. In the coming year, we want to further equity and agency by working to reach more neighbors, increase food choice, and stay in open communication with participants like Jane through surveys and feedback."



#### **PANTRY NETWORK**

### Fueling Student Learning

LEARN MORE [2]

We started with a farmers' market at SFSU about 15 years ago and quickly realized that there was a greater need so we created the Gator Groceries, a popup food pantry. It has been a wild success and now serves about 700 students every week.

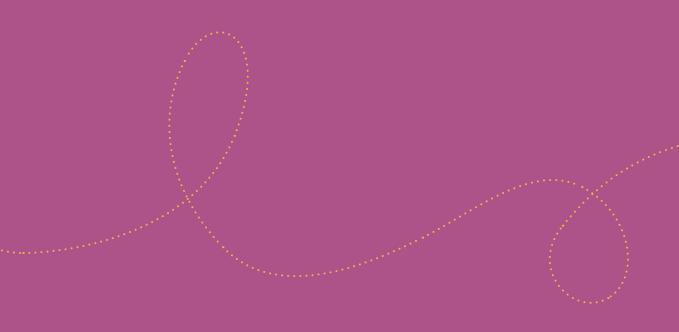
When the pandemic hit, me, my wife, and my teenage sons ran the pantry ourselves. Our pantry never closed. We just adjusted and started making pick-up boxes for students. Now that students are getting new foods in their box that they may not have chosen before, we've created cooking demos and videos that can help students navigate what to do with butternut squash, for instance.



Having folks at the Food Bank who feel the same way we do about trying to do the best we can to get food to our students is so important. You can't learn when you're hungry."

— Horace

Pantry Coordinator, SFSU Gator Groceries







# Building a Wider, Stronger Safety Net

LEARN MORE

Last year we spent time making sure we were in each neighborhood that needed food in SF and Marin. The food insecurity and trauma that people experience, especially in immigrant communities, is really hard. We want to provide the best experience we can and minimize that anxiety, so we started enrolling participants to come at a specific time and the lines weren't as long.



Our Call Center Hotline helped more than

**22,000 CALLERS** 

find the food assistance right for them



We distribute about

184,000 MEALS

every day

Our pantry partners who have remained open have been through a lot too, handling the collective pain and anxiety of the community. In our partner meetings, we make sure to emphasize the importance of taking time for yourself and share self-care strategies. SFSU Gator Groceries was one of the pantries that stayed open, thanks to Horace. Nothing stops him from getting food to the students that need it.

This year, we want to try to reach those we're not reaching. Part of that effort will be creating more partnerships with Food Hubs that have the space to give more food choice, have extended hours and be more culturally responsive to the neighborhoods they're in. We are excited



#### **POLICY & ADVOCACY**

### Winning Big: Universal School Meals

LEARN MORE

Universal School Meals was a big accomplishment this year. The program ensures two free meals are available and destigmatized for all public school students. When this program is run and funded correctly, it can be an example for the rest of the food system.

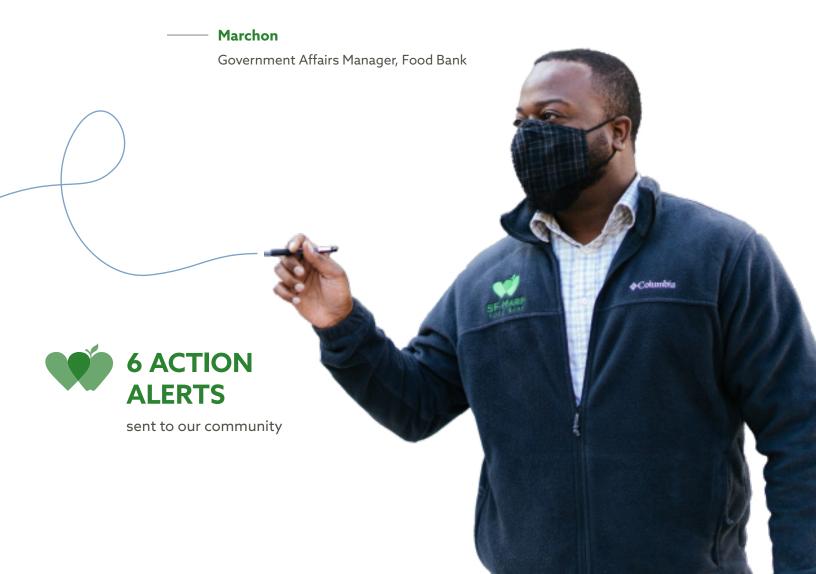
Let's get kids the meals they need so that they can be healthy and ready to learn. Let's not waste this as an opportunity for us all to learn and to move forward."

#### — Jennifer

Executive Director for Student Nutrition Services, San Francisco Unified School District



Our team focuses on policy that is equitable, responds to the community, strengthens safety nets, and builds change and empowerment within the community. This year, we were able to simplify the CalFresh application process for seniors and people with disabilities, get folks with Supplemental Security Income included in the Golden State Stimulus, and reinstate the Great Recession cuts to SSI/SSP benefits. Universal School Meals is a huge victory for the community and a great model nationwide. Jennifer's coalition building ability was critical to this success. Partnership and collaboration – that's what it's all about."



#### **CALFRESH ASSISTANCE**

### Facilitating More Access for Neighbors

LEARN MORE [2]

We provide resources and support services to families. The majority of our families are low-income, monolingual, Chinese-speaking families with children aged zero to five. Over the past year, the most important thing was finding creative ways to assist participants virtually. The Food Bank has been a great liaison between us and the city and county, helping to get us the resources we need to provide these services. In the coming year, we are hoping this partnership can help to keep CalFresh application information from the city and county open and available, so that we can continue to answer questions and get more community members signed up."

#### Candy & Lena

Wu Yee Children's Services/Joy Lok Family Resource Center



CalFresh (food stamps) is one of the best tools available to end food insecurity. Participants receive money for food that gives them choice and provides economic benefits. This past year, we worked hard to educate the community about CalFresh assistance, knowing that many eligible households are not yet connected to this valuable service. Through virtual outreach, we're helping a lot of people apply, maintain their benefits, and get answers. Our partners, including Joy Lok Family Resource Center, are really community-focused and community-driven. In the coming year, I'm excited to strengthen these partnerships and find more equitable ways to get folks what they want and need."

#### — Liliana

Associate Director of Programs Outreach, Food Bank



#### **VOLUNTEERS & OPERATIONS**

## Continuing Onward, Thanks to Community

LEARN MORE

When we take a step back, we're just in awe of how much our volunteers have done this past year. While we are still in need of more volunteer support going into this next year, it's important to acknowledge that the work has more than doubled since pre-pandemic times and our volunteer community has grown to support this need. In the coming year, we hope to grow our participant volunteer program and see more supporters 'adopt' specific pantries and routes. What we've done would be impossible without volunteer support."

#### Cody

Associate Director of Community Engagement, Food Bank



The truly amazing thing about this past year is that despite supply chain and food sourcing issues, physical space limitations in our current warehouse, driver scarcity, and need almost doubling, we were able to continue with very little disruption to our service. That is a testament to the community rallying around us.

This year, with our warehouse expansion set to debut, we hope to strengthen and smooth our operations further and give even more back to this community."

#### Angela

Director of Food Sourcing and Allocation, Food Bank



#### **REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR**

## The First Word that Comes to Mind is Community

It is only through the strength, partnership and generosity of this community that we were able to meet the extensive sustained need from the pandemic. Many families in our community lost jobs, incomes, and life savings. When we surveyed our participants, 81% of respondents said they have not yet recovered financially from the pandemic. We are serving nearly double the families we were serving pre-pandemic and food costs remain higher than ever due to supply chain issues. With the expected long-term impact that will result from the pandemic, we anticipate seeing this sustained level of food insecurity for the foreseeable future.

To meet this need, we have grown our operations by hiring more staff, renting additional warehouse space, and most importantly, purchasing more food. This also means an increase in ongoing expenses. While donors rose to the occasion with a tremendous outpouring of support, it will take considerable time for the fundraising to sustainably grow to support this dramatic increase in our expenses.

The community's generous reaction to our pandemic response efforts will allow us to support current and future efforts to serve our community in times of unexpected and significant need. As highlighted by recent events, these reserves will be critical. As the largest nonprofit food provider in San Francisco and Marin, the Food Bank is an essential food safety net. We must be prepared to continue supporting the ongoing needs of our community.

It is a powerful thing when our community comes together. I am in constant awe of the engagement, commitment, and dedication of our participants, our partners, our volunteers, and our donors. We need your continued support to meet this need - to dig deeper and reach wider to serve more people in our community and address the root causes of food insecurity through a focus on policy change and community-driven solutions. Hunger does not affect us all equally. It is the result of systemic racism and oppression, insufficient social safety nets, and structural inequities. Ending food insecurity in San Francisco and Marin means a comprehensive approach with solutions in mind - one squarely focused on putting the people we serve at the center. With your support, we are steadfast. We will and must work towards ending food insecurity for our community.

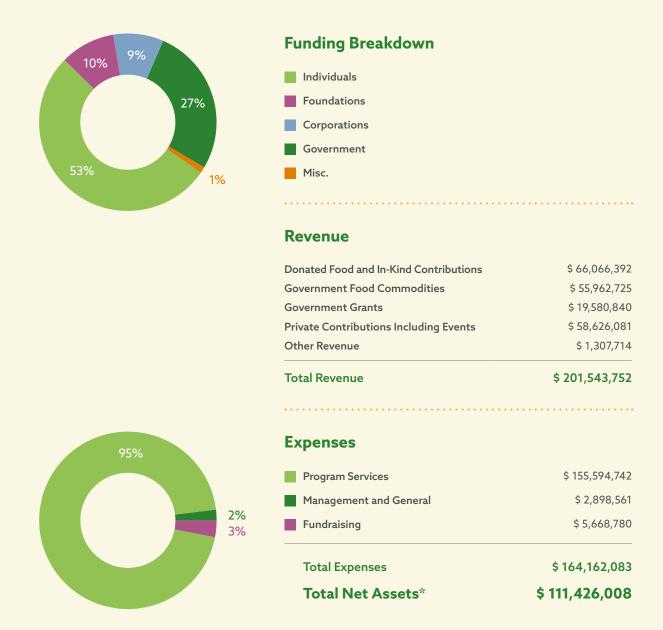
We can make real change with your support. It takes a community - thank you for being part of this one. Let's end hunger together.

Tanis Crosby

**Executive Director** 

# Financial Statement

Thanks to generous support like yours, the Food Bank was able to provide enough food for 184,000 healthy meals on average each day last year. For every \$1 donated, we can distribute two meals.



<sup>\*</sup> This figure includes \$24 million of restricted net assets related to the Food Bank's expansion as well as food on hand as of June 30, 2021

# Board of Directors

Scott Brubaker, Chair

CFO

GlobalLogic Inc.

Cigdem Gencer, Vice

Executive Coach and Founder,

Fazilet Consulting

**Noelle Bonner** 

CEO/Principal Consultant, Bonner Communications

Pepe Gonzalez

Principal, Laurel Dell, Short Elementary

**Randy Gottfried** 

Consultant, Finance

**Jennifer Levy** 

Retired Partner Rockwood Capital

**Hyun Park** 

SVP & Chief Legal Officer, FirstEnergy Corp.

Stephen Pearce

Senior Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Emanu-El

Barbara Rosston

Non-profit and Educational Consultant

Joseph Sáenz

Managing Director, Fremont Group

**Elliot Schrage** 

Business and Human Rights

Hilary Seligman, MD

Professor of Medicine, UCSF

Linda Shiue, MD

Director of Culinary Medicine, Kaiser Permanente SF

**Uma Sinha** 

Chief Scientific Officer, BridgeBio Pharma **Michael Terris** 

Partner,

CleanSweep Campaigns

Jonathan Walker

President,

Economists Incorporated

Dianna Cavagnaro

COO

Ideas, Events & Rentals

Jessica Berg

Co-Founder and Principal, BergDavis Public Affairs

Nadia Rahman

Principal, Rahman Consulting

Tara Seracka

VP and Deputy General Counsel, Cisco Systems

Jennifer Chang

Senior Director of Program Management, Zendesk







900 Pennsylvania Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94107 2550 Kerner Boulevard, San Rafael, CA 94901 415-282-1900

sfmfoodbank.org

FOLLOW US @sfmfoodbank







