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Letter from the CEO

At the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB), collaboration drives impact. In 2024, we worked alongside our member food bank network, policymakers, and partners to secure critical funding, expand nutrition assistance programs, and strengthen food access across California. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to ensuring that food banks and the communities they serve have the resources they need to thrive.

With growing demand and evolving challenges for our state's food banks, we remain focused on building a more resilient, charitable food system. This includes expanding access to fresh, culturally relevant foods, ensuring that communities not only have enough to eat but also access to food that aligns with their traditions and nutritional needs. At the same time, we are expanding food banks' ability to purchase fresh produce from small and historically under-resourced farmers, ensuring a more reliable and diverse food supply within their communities.

By strengthening food banks, supporting communities, and driving policy solutions, we are working toward a hunger-free California—one where every person, regardless of their circumstances, has reliable access to nutritious food. Through innovation, collaboration, and advocacy, we are committed to transforming the way we fight hunger, ensuring long-term solutions that create lasting change.

Stacio Lu

Stacia Levenfeld



Our Guiding Principles

MISSION

To end hunger in California.

VISION

A well-nourished and hunger-free California, where all people have enough food to lead a healthy life.

VALUES

Dedication Inclusion Collaboration Transparency Accountability

THEORY OF CHANGE

We can end hunger in California if we:



Build a diverse and sustainable charitable food system.

Create robust and equitable pathways connecting foodinsecure neighbors to food. 3

Prevent hunger from happening in the first place.



Our History

The California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) was founded in 1995 with just one staff member. Today, it has grown into California's leading anti-hunger organization, supporting a vast network that includes:



41 Member Food Banks

Serving communities from Humboldt County to Imperial Valley.

50+ CalFresh Partners

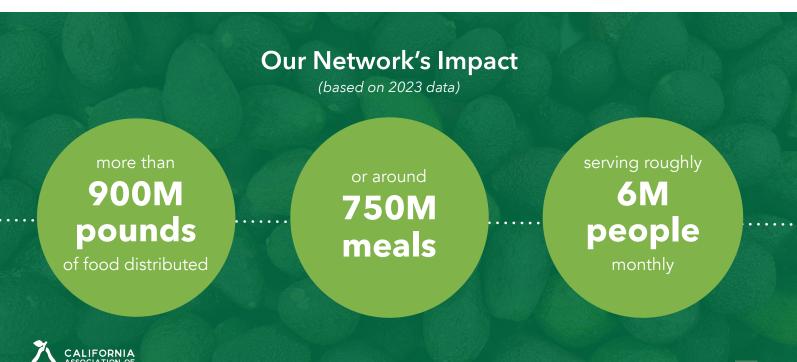
Helping connect families to vital nutrition assistance.

100+ Farms

Supplying over 250 million pounds of fresh, California-grown food to food banks.

6,000+ Network Members

Providing food and resources at the neighborhood level.



CAFB'S STRATEGIC PLAN

A Hunger-Free California

CAFB is committed to ensuring every Californian has access to nutritious food. Our strategic plan is built on our key pillars:

PILLAR 1:

Food

Increase food resources available to feed California.

PILLAR 2:

Advocacy

Drive political and public will to end hunger in California.

PILLAR 3:

Strengthening the Network

Strengthen the California food safety network with expertise, capacity, and connections to drive our shared mission to end hunger.



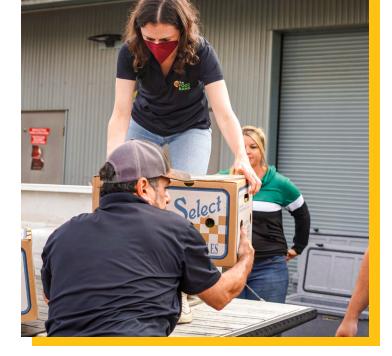
TOYOTA

Food

In 2024, CAFB's Farm to Family program partnered with 103 farmers and all 41 member food banks to recover and distribute 274 million pounds of food, ensuring fresh, nutritious options reached communities across California.

To further support small and remote food banks, CAFB established a mixing center in Lodi, repacking and delivering fresh, mixed-produce loads to food banks that previously had limited access.

This initiative was part of the Removing Barriers to Fresh Produce Project, a \$1 million, two-year effort launched in 2023 to enhance food bank capacity



through logistics coordination, cold storage rentals, and equipment upgrades like forklifts and pallet jacks. As a result, produce distribution to these food banks increased by 911% from 2022, significantly expanding access to fresh food across the state.



What's Next for Food?

Looking ahead, CAFB will continue sourcing California's excess produce, with a goal of distributing more than 280 million pounds by 2027 through its Farm to Family program. By enhancing procurement and logistics services, CAFB will better support food banks, ensuring that fresh, nutritious food reaches communities facing the greatest barriers.

"I come from a Hispanic background. We love to feed people, so any chance I get to feed someone, whether it's enchiladas or whether it's watermelons, we're happy."

-Elio Angel, Co-Founder Cache Produce & Family-to-Farm Donor of the Year

PILLAR 2 Policy & Advocacy

Despite a \$72 billion State budget deficit and shifting political landscape in 2024, CAFB remained steadfast in strengthening California's food safety net.

Through policy advocacy and strategic partnerships, we secured key policy wins, protected critical funding, and ensured food banks had the resources needed to serve their communities.

To support informed decision-making, CAFB expanded interactive dashboards, providing real-time data to help our network refine policies and maximize impact. Our research tracks poverty,



housing, wages, and CalFresh participation, ensuring data-driven solutions that address food insecurity at its root. With a growing coalition of 120+ advocates engaging 120+ legislative offices, CAFB continues to build momentum—leveraging data and advocacy to advance policies that fight hunger and strengthen food access for all Californians.

2024 Advocacy & Public Policy Wins

State Emergency Food Bank Reserve permanently authorized in 2024.

\$146.8M

SUN Bucks funding secured, delivering \$500M in food benefits to 5M children.

9.2%

SSI grant increase maintained, with county-level cost transparency.

\$30B

in prevented SNAP & TEFAP cuts, securing a Farm Bill extension through 2025.



What's Next for Advocacy?

In 2025, CAFB will continue leading the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of policy solutions that strengthen California's anti-hunger programs and food resources. CAFB will also enhance data collection and analysis, improving the understanding of hunger across California and ensuring policies are informed by accurate, actionable insights. Through research, advocacy, and innovation, we are building a stronger, more equitable food system for all.



Strengthening the Network

Building a resilient food safety net requires equipping food banks and partners with the tools, knowledge, and support needed to expand food access and address the root causes of hunger.

At the start of 2024, CAFB played a pivotal role in supporting Disaster CalFresh efforts in San Diego, ensuring that families affected by emergencies could access critical nutrition assistance. In May, Food ACCESS, CAFB's biennial conference, brought together leaders from across California and the nation to collaborate on policy solutions and strategies to strengthen food access and combat hunger.

CAFB continued to provide training to 50+ outreach groups statewide, helping remove barriers to CalFresh enrollment and increase participation among eligible households. Additionally, CAFB delivered critical resources, facilitated impactful peer discussions, and actively supported the strengthening of rural food banks, all in service of advancing our united efforts to end hunger in California.

CALFRESH OUTREACH

28,000 houseolds applied for CalFresh

4,200+

households retained CalFresh benefits with partner support

FOOD ACCESS CONFERENCE 2024

439 attendees

31 workshops

discussion

groups

7

148

participating organizations

15

keynote speakers

CAPACITY BUILDING

31

online events, including 12 webinars, equipping food banks with insights on volunteers, SB 1383, rural access, and data.

3

in-person convenings fostering collaboration among rural food banks.

What's Next for Strengthening the Network?

In 2025, CAFB will continue equipping member food banks and the communities they serve with the resources and support needed to strengthen food access across California. As part of this effort, CAFB will launch The Digest and Food Access Speakers Series, inviting mission-aligned organizations and partners to stay connected, informed, and actively engaged in advancing equitable food access statewide.

"As food banks' primary advocate at both the state and federal levels, CAFB plays a crucial role in securing the funding and resources we need to continue our work, while also making sure that government programs aimed at alleviating food insecurity, like CalFresh, are funded."

–Yolo Food Bank CAFB Member

Thank You to Our Sponsors & Supporters

Your support drives CAFB's fight against hunger, expanding partnerships and funding initiatives that create lasting impact. Together, we are strengthening California's food system to ensure every person has access to the food they need to thrive. Your generosity, alongside our partners and advocates, drives this collective effort to end hunger in our state.

Foundations & Companies

Allworth Financial Anonymous California Foundation for Stronger Communities California Resources Corporation David & Lucile Packard Foundation Douglas Shaw & Associates Driscoll's Feeding America **G&R** Transport Guiness Gives Back Fund Helix Environmental Planning Insperity Kainos

Kaiser Foundation Hospital Fund for **Community Benefits** Programs at The East Bay **Community Foundation** Kaiser Permanente Southern California Fund for Charitable Contributions issued from Donor Advised Fund of the California Community L.A. Care Health Plan Mary & David Benin Charitable Fund Mondragon Family Charitable Foundation **Pacific Connection** Pacific Gas & Electric Pareto Health

Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese. Co **Richard Heath & Associates Rich Family Foundation** Sequoia Produce Simco Sales Skyline Foods Stupski Foundation Sunlight Giving Sunterra Produce Taurus Freight The Farmers Truck Inc. The Food Exchange LLC The Hearst Foundation The Outreach Program Toyota Research Institute **Total Quality Logistics** Webcor Construction

Dedicated Donors \$500+

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2024 CAFB Revenue Sources

Grants
Farm to Family Net Revenue 25%
Government Contracts
Member Dues
Pass Through to Members10%
Interest Income & Other7%
Contributions
Conference Sponsorships & Fees3%



Thank You to Our Generous Food Donors

A&J Global Foods A.V. Thomas Produce Access Organics All State Packers Altar Produce Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce Avo 88 Limited Beachside Produce **Bee Sweet Citrus** Bella Vista Produce, Inc. Billingsley Produce Sales, Inc. **Bluebird Mountain Organics** Bonita Packing Co., Inc. **Boskovich Farms BP** Packing Company C & E Produce Cache Produce Califia Farms LLC Catalan Farm Challenge Dairy Products, Inc Channel Islands Logistics Chestnut Hill Farms, LLC Chiquita Channel Island Classic Fruit Company **Compass Foods Inc** Crown Jewels Produce Co. Curation Foods, Inc David J Elliot & Sons **Deardorff Family Farms** Del Monte Fresh Produce, Inc **Del Norte Distribution** Delta Fresh Sales LLC DFI Marketing DJ&A PTY LTD Dole Packaged Foods, LLC Driscoll's Dulcinea Durant Distributing Inc. **Dwelley Farms**

EpicVeg Equifruit Inc ERC Trade LP Farm2People Inc **Five Crowns** FiveStar Gourmet Foods, Inc Foodshed Cooperative Inc. Fordel Marketing, LLC **Foster Farms** Fowler Packing Company Fresh Innovations Fresh Prep, LLC Glaum Egg Ranch LP Grapeman Farms L.P. Green Life Farms Greene & Hemly **Grimmway Enterprises** Harris Fresh Harvest Tek, Inc HATCH, Inc **HMC** Farms Hungenberg Produce Index Fresh JAS Family Farm Organics Johnston Family Farms Keystone Fruit & Vegetable Co., Inc. Kings River Packing Kirschenman Enterprises Laguna Produce Sales Lakeside Organic Gardens Loomis Distributing Inc Lundberg Family Farms Maple Ridge Food, LLC Marin Sun Farms, LLC **Mission Produce Inc** Morada Produce Mucci Produce Neil Bassetti Farms LLC North Coast Growers Assoc. Ojai Orchards LLC

Onions ETC P & J Estes, Inc. Pacific Coast Produce Pacific Trellis Fruit, LLC Peri & Sons Farms **Pinos Produce** Pleasant Valley Farms Inc. Podesta Packing Prestige Produce Prima Frutta Prime Time **Producers Dairy Project FoodBox Rivermaid Trading Company** Scully Packing Company LLC Sequoia Produce Sales Southland Cooling Sunkist Growers, Inc Sunrise Kiwi Packing SunTerra T D Produce Sales Talley Farms, Inc. Taylor Farms Retail, Inc. The Flavor Tree Fruit Company LLC The HMC Marketing Group Inc. TheVegBoss, LLC V&H Fresh, LLC Inc Van Groningen & Sons Vanguard Direct LLC Varsity Produce Sales, Inc Venida Packing Company Vessey & Company Western Onion Sales Western Veg-Produce Wilson Produce LLC Windset Farms WM Bolthouse Farms Inc WMD Wonderful Citrus Cooperative Zada Fresh Farms Zuckermans



Give to California Association of Food Banks

Ways to Give

Every gift helps nourish communities and fuel lasting change.

One-Time Donations

A one-time donation provides fresh, nutritious food to families in need, while a monthly gift builds a steady, reliable food safety net across California.



Looking to deepen your impact?

Employer matching gifts

Employer matching gifts double or triple your contribution.

Stock donations

Stock donations offer a tax-efficient way to give.

Legacy giving Legacy giving ensures long-term support for hunger relief.

Cryptocurrency donations

Cryptocurrency donations provide a modern way to help.

Donor-advised funds

Donor-advised funds sustain long-term solutions, strengthening California's food safety net.

Corporate Partnership

Align your corporate values with action, increase brand visibility, and drive meaningful change in California communities by partnering with us.

Together, we can create a hunger-free California. To learn more, visit <u>cafoodbanks.org/ways-to-give/</u>



CAFB Member List

Alameda

Alameda County Community Food Bank <u>accfb.org</u>

Alpine

Food Bank of El Dorado County foodbankedc.org

Amador Interfaith Council of Amador feedamador.org

Butte

Community Action Agency of Butte County – North State Food Bank buttecaa.com/north-state-food-bank

Calaveras The Resource Connection Food Bank trcac.org/the-food-bank

Contra Costa Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano <u>foodbankccs.org</u>

El Dorado Food Bank of El Dorado County foodbankedc.org

Fresno Central California Food Bank ccfoodbank.org

Glenn Community Action Agency of Butte County – North State Food Bank

buttecaa.com/north-state-food-bank Humboldt Food for People foodforpeople.org

Imperial Imperial Valley Food Bank ivfoodbank.com

Kern Community Action Partnership of Kern <u>capk.org</u>

Kings Kings Community Action Organization <u>kcao.org</u>

Los Angeles Los Angeles Regional Food Bank lafoodbank.org

Los Angeles Westside Food Bank westsidefoodbankca.org

Marin

SF-Marin Food Bank <u>sfmfoodbank.org</u>

Mariposa Merced County Food Bank mmcfb.org

Mendocino

Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program – Fort Bragg Food Bank fortbraggfoodbank.org

Merced Merced County Food Bank mmcfb.org

Monterey Food Bank for Monterey County foodbankformontereycounty.org

Napa Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank canv.org

Orange Orange County Food Bank ocfoodbank.org

Orange Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County www.feedoc.org

Placer Feeding the Foothills feedingthefoothills.org/

Riverside Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino feedingamericaie.org

Riverside FIND – Food In Need of Distribution findfoodbank.org

Sacramento Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services sacramentofoodbank.org

San Benito Community Food Bank of San Benito County communityfoodbankofsbc.org

San Bernardino Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County <u>capsbc.org</u>

San Bernardino Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino feedingamericaie.org San Diego Feeding San Diego feedingsandiego.org

San Diego The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank sandiegofoodbank.org

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San Francisco SF-Marin Food Bank www.sfmfoodbank.org

San Joaquin Emergency Food Bank stocktonfoodbank.org

San Joaquin Second Harvest of the Greater Valley <u>localfoodbank.org</u>

San Luis Obispo SLO Food Bank <u>slofoodbank.org</u>

San Mateo Second Harvest of Silicon Valley <u>shfb.org</u>

Santa Barbara Foodbank of Santa Barbara foodbanksbc.org

Santa Clara Second Harvest of Silicon Valley <u>shfb.org</u>

Santa Cruz Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County thefoodbank.org

Shasta Dignity Health Connected Living dignityhealth.org/north-state/ locations/connected-living/ services/food-assistance-for-seniors-living-in-the-redding-area/ food-bank Solano Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano foodbankccs.org

Sonoma Redwood Empire Food Bank refb.org

Stanislaus Second Harvest of the Greater Valley localfoodbank.org

Sutter Yuba-Sutter Food Bank feedingys.org/

Tulare FoodLink for Tulare County foodlinktc.org

Tuolumne ATCAA Food Bank – Tuolumne County <u>atcaa.org/food-bank</u>

Ventura FOOD Share of Ventura County foodshare.com

Yolo Food Bank yolofoodbank.org

Yuba-Sutter Food Bank feedingys.org/

Board of Directors

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Casey Castillo Chief Executive Officer, Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

Michael Flood President & Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

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Sara Griffen Executive Director, Imperial Valley Food Bank

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