



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
Fall 2008

Hunger Advocacy News

Produced by the Food Bank's Education and Advocacy Program
Contact us at (510) 635-3663, ext. 307 ♦ advocate@accfb.org ♦ www.accfb.org

This letter is a quarterly publication to inform you of new and exciting anti-hunger advocacy work. If you know anyone else who might be interested in receiving this mailing please let us know at advocate@accfb.org

In this issue:

Save the Date
Nov 14: Legislative Breakfast

Dec 17: Holiday and Victory Party

State Legislative Successes
See how our bills fared this season

Legislative Breakfast
Learn how CAAH members are strengthening their relationships with their legislators!

Elections
Be sure to register to vote for the November elections!

Advocacy 101
Food Bank staff takes a few moments to learn more about how they can be better advocates!

Hunger Study
Join the Food Bank as we begin our 2009 Hunger Study. Volunteer to help conduct surveys with us!

Meet our new staff
This fall the Food Bank has been very busy, and welcomed on many new people,

SAVE THE DATE:

November 14, 3rd Annual

Legislative Breakfast

December 17, Holiday and Victory Party

Legislative Victories!

Thanks to your advocacy efforts, the Governor signed the following bills:



AB 2300 – Connecting Medi-CAL families to school meals – With the passage of the bill, the California Department of Education will begin to design and implement a computer match to use Medi-CAL participation for enrolling more eligible children for free and reduced price meals. Thanks to all who supported AB 2300! Special thanks to Assembly Member John Laird.

AB 2726 – Healthy Food Purchase Pilot – This bill, to move the Healthy Purchase Pilot forward, was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger. At the core of this effort is the use of the food stamp EBT card to deliver a financial incentive to support produce purchases. Thanks to all who helped in this effort. Special thanks go to Assembly Member Mark Leno. Stay tuned for an update on the progress of the pilot.

AB 433 – Categorical Eligibility - no more asset test and a new name! AB 433 requires the California Department of Social Services to develop a new name for the Food Stamp Program! In addition to a name change, California Food Stamps will no longer have an asset limit for eligibility, which will make it possible for more low-income families to receive benefits. In a state with high costs of living like California, families need stored assets of more than \$2,000 in the case of job loss or emergencies. With the success of AB 433, it is estimated that 32,000 additional households in California will be able to receive benefits to assist them to put more food on the table. Special thanks to Assembly Member Jim Beall and his staff.

SB 1101 – Personal income contributions to the Emergency Food Program – Our check-off bill will

secure a spot for food banks on the California Tax Form. This will bring in money to food banks for food purchase and will help to remind Californian's about hunger. A special thanks to Senator Cedillo and his staff for authoring this bill.

Despite our best efforts, some bills were vetoed:

AB 2844 – Removing red tape from the Food Stamp Program – As expected, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 2844, the bill to have California join 48 other states using a simplified reporting system for food stamps. AB 2844 would have moved CalWORKS to 6-month reporting as well. Thanks to all involved in this effort, especially: Assembly Member John Laird and his staff

AB 1996 – Transitional Support bill – would have helped increase the accessibility of the food stamp program by restoring benefits to people who have served their time and are now reentering the community from prison. Currently in California only former offenders who have committed certain types of drug-related crimes are subject to a ban of food stamp benefits. This bill would have ended this confusing restriction, providing needed support that would reduce recidivism and bring in more federal funds to the state of California. Thanks to Assembly Member Sandré Swanson and his staff!

Community Advocates Against Hunger Update

Our meetings are held the **third Wednesday** of every month from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Newman Center, 2700 College Ave., Berkeley CA. Our next meetings is October 15. Call Betsy Edwards at (510) 635-3663 ext. 307 for more information. This month we will be discussing the Legislative Breakfast, and our holiday party.

Fall and Winter Events:

Legislative Breakfast
Elections
Holiday and Victory Party
Advocacy 101

Legislative Breakfast

Help the Food Bank plan their third legislative breakfast. This year we have a great opportunity to say a big thank you to both our state and our fed-

eral legislators. It was with their dedication that we passed a successful Farm Bill and got four pieces of state legislation passed, enabling many more Californians to gain access to healthy and nutritious foods.

Elections

November 4, 2008 is a big day for Bay Area residents. Campaign season is particularly big for us this year with three Congressional Districts, two state Assembly districts and one State Senate district up for reelection, and did we mention one of the tightest Presidential elections in modern history? For more information about who is running, please check out the Secretary of the State's Certified list of Candidates. The districts to be on the look out for are State Assembly districts 14, 15, and 20, State Senate district 9, and Congressional Representative districts 9, 10, 11, and 13, Senator Diane Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer's terms will not be up until 2010. (http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election_2008/certified_list_of_candidates_08292008.pdf)

Holiday and Victory Party

There are plans in the works to create a fabulous holiday party to celebrate all of the hard work that you all have done! Let us know if you have any special request.

Advocacy 101

Food bank staff will take a time out for a brown bag lunch on Friday October the 10th to learn a little bit more about the role that the food bank plays in advocacy. We talked both about the legislative process, and the public process of legislation.

Hunger Study

Raise your hand if you have participated in a Hunger Study before, and if you want to help this year. Now that everyone has their hands raised; January will begin the kick off for the 2009-2010 Hunger Study. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this project, next spring we will be visiting several of our agencies and conducting interviews with clients. We are doing this to create a snapshot about who is experiencing hunger in Alameda county and how we can better serve them. To conduct these surveys we are going to need to rely on a very large volunteer base, so please if you think you will have any free time from January through May 2009 please contact Ross Steinborn, at 510-635-3663 x352 or rsteinborn@accfb.org.

To protect Federal nutrition programs visit www.house.gov and type in your zip code and email your Representative.

To support our state anti-hunger legislation visit www.govmail.ca.gov and contact the governor.

New Faces at the Food Bank

Ross Steinborn: I am a graduate in the field of sociology from Western Illinois University. I moved out to the Bay Area as part of a volunteer organization called the Lutheran Volunteer Corps which places their volunteers in various not-for-profit organizations around the country. My work with the Food Bank consist of political advocacy, educational development and, my biggest project, managing volunteers and collecting data for the 2009 Hunger Study. I am ecstatic to be working with the Food Bank towards our aspiration of the eradication of hunger.



Catrina Armas: I am the Agency and Nutrition Services Coordinator here at the Food Bank. I became familiar with the food bank last winter, when I worked as a nutrition education intern. This past June, I graduated from California State University, East Bay, and soon found my way back to the food bank. I work with our network of agencies to make sure that their needs are being met,

and am available to answer any questions they have. I also teach nutrition workshops to our agencies to advocate healthy living and eating.

Brian Higgins: I am the new Communications Manager. A longtime sportswriter -- Oakland (CA) Tribune, Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram, Phoenix (AZ) Gazette, Savannah (GA) Morning News -- I formerly handled media relations for Chabot Space & Science Center. I am an avid hiker and have conducted media trainings for more than three dozen current NFL players. I bike to work from Alameda.



Amy Rodelo: I come to the Food Bank ready to leap into the wide world of hunger alleviation! I bring an intense interest in food economics, a desire to learn the nuts and bolts of a non-profit organization, and a knack for admin to our position of Holiday Food Drive Assistant. I was formerly at the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental

Studies, where I studied and assisted with a variety of marine ecology and molecular genetics projects, I am delighted to be assisting with the Holiday Food Drive.

Jenny Craft: As a native Oakland-er who grew up working in soup kitchens with my parents, I am very excited to join the Food Bank. I am working part-time as the receptionist, so I get to interact with people involved in all different areas of the food bank. My favorite part about the job is sitting next to the help-line volunteers and hearing about all the food and assistance that the Food Bank is providing to our community!

