

# COMMUNITY HARVEST

SPRING 2025



Food Bank staff 1990-91

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
FOOD BANK

**40**  
YEARS

**FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION**

**1985**

The Food Bank was founded as Food Bank Network of Alameda County.

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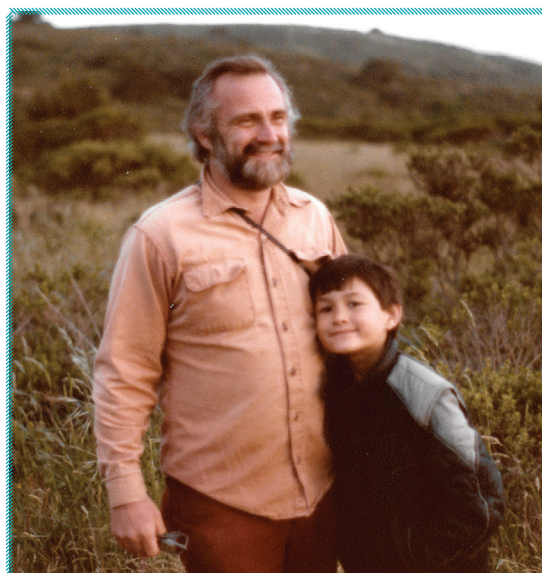


# How it all Began

From day one, ACCFB has always been a community-powered project. This community is made up of thousands of dedicated individuals, including Ken Schmidt. In 1985, Ken led the effort for a group of 40 independent organizations to form The Food Bank Network of Alameda County, Inc., which four years later was renamed Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Ken was the Director of the Telegraph Community Center in Oakland, where in addition to his daily responsibilities, he created a "Free Store" for clothing exchange, recycled before it was mainstream, and advocated for affordable housing policies.

Ken passed away in 2022, but his legacy lives on. His son, Aubie, has early memories of riding around in his dad's truck, picking up and distributing food as the Food Bank was formed. Forty years later, Aubie visited ACCFB to see what came of his dad's original vision, and reflected on how Ken's values and hard work show up in both where ACCFB is today, and in where it's headed.



Ken and Aubie at Point Reyes, July 1985

Telegraph Community Center, Oakland, October 1985



## ACCFB: What inspired your dad to do this work?

**Aubie:** My dad just had this concept of: "we have the technical capability of feeding everybody." In our family, if you walked in the front door and you were hungry, you ate. Nobody should be hungry under our roof. He extended that past himself, that there's no reason for people to be hungry and if somebody was hungry, then they should eat.

## ACCFB: What would you like to make sure people know about your father's legacy at the Food Bank?

**Aubie:** My dad was really focused on making sure people's basic needs were fulfilled. In today's society, we have five modern necessities: food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education. I really like how ACCFB is bridging local farms into the community. Programs where the Food Bank connects health and nutrition and reducing the cost of what people need really gets to the heart of

solving the problem of food insecurity. Shrinking those gaps is one of the greatest things that we can do and is a natural extension of his vision.

## ACCFB: What was it like to tour the Food Bank and see where it is now?

**Aubie:** Walking into the Food Bank for me was such a catharsis, seeing how so many people have implemented my father's ideas and expanded on them. I'm so thankful for everyone who has contributed to making our community better and it means so much to me to see how he still touches so many in the world through your efforts.

**FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION**

**1989**

We changed our name to Alameda County Community Food Bank.



# Looking to the Future

FROM THE DESK OF REGI YOUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1985. When the Food Bank was founded 40 years ago, the A's and Warriors were the pride of Oakland (while the Raiders were on their sabbatical in Los Angeles), Alameda County's population was only 1.2 million people (it's now more than 1.6 million), and not a single one of us were carrying smart phones. It's safe to say, things have changed.

Over the past four decades, Alameda County has seen its highs and lows: natural disasters and pandemics, movie stars and music chart toppers, professional sports championships...and the loss of all three professional sports teams in 5 years. Sigh.

Forty years in, and the Food Bank is still here and as committed as ever to serving our community. We're not going anywhere, but we are adapting. On the heels of a year with our highest food output ever, we're asking ourselves how we can care for our community in a long-term, sustainable way.

Looking back at 40 years of community, including many trailblazing projects—nutrition policy, CalFresh outreach, Food As Medicine—we're also thinking about how we can build a future that doesn't need a food bank.



Our new strategic plan, launching this summer, charts an evolution from a food charity model to a food justice one, and will be our guide as we leverage relationships, community partnerships, and the strength of our network to make systemic change for a hunger-free Alameda County.

For this anniversary, we're celebrating our history of boundary-pushing victories—which you made possible. And we're working harder than ever to make lasting, transformative change to end hunger for good.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Regi Young.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR NIGHT ON THE TOWN!



We hope to see you on June 6 at Night on The Town at the Oakland Museum of California! This free First Friday event will have family-friendly activities, food from Off the Grid for purchase, museum entry (ticket required), and opportunities to engage with the Food Bank's work and support our mission. Get the latest at [accfb.org/events](https://accfb.org/events).

## FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

# 1998

*Our Advocacy Department, one of the farthest-reaching in the nation, was created.*



# 40 YEARS OF H

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THESE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO



Dan McClosky (center), donating turkeys for the 1999 holiday season next to Food Bank staff Glenn Ruley, (left) and Gilberto Martinez (right)

## HOLIDAY DINNER DRIVE: A 25-YEAR LEGACY OF FAITH-BASED FUNDRAISING

In 1998, Dan McClosky read an article about ACCFB not having enough turkeys to provide for Thanksgiving. Turkey at Thanksgiving was a cherished part of the holiday for Dan's family, and he felt called to act. That year, family, friends, and neighbors chipped in to buy 55 turkeys for the Food Bank.

Seeing the power of community, he expanded the effort the following year and in 1999 the annual Holiday Dinner Drive was born. Today the drive includes a dozen East Bay synagogues—and others throughout the region to support local food banks.

Reflecting over 25 years later, Dan remarked "Evidently, once you've started, you can't stop." Evidently, indeed. Since the drive's official first year, Dan's efforts have raised more than \$2.6 million for local food banks! The success of these fundraising efforts is proof that when people come together around a shared cause, they can make a serious impact.

## SEMIFREDDI'S - A TRULY NEIGHBORLY APPROACH

Semifreddi's is a local, artisanal bakery headquartered a stone's throw from ACCFB. Their beloved sourdough starter has been around for as long as we have: 40 years. As ubiquitous as Semifreddi's products are to Alameda County, not enough is known about their commitment to the community—including a partnership with ACCFB goes back so many years that it predates both of our records!

During the pandemic, Semifreddi's committed to keep all their employees on full-time—but there weren't enough places to sell the bread they were making. It was then that they decided to bake and donate fresh bread for our food bank every day—which they've been doing ever since, to the tune of 1,100 pounds of fresh-baked goods every week!



From left to right: KPIX reporter, Katie Nielsen, ACCFB's Executive Director, Regi Young, and Semifreddi's co-owners, Mike Meyers and Cary Weigle

## FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

# 2003

*Our current Chief Impact Officer Liz Gomez launched the first-of-its-kind CalFresh outreach program (from her then-desk as emergency food helpline coordinator).*



# HUNGER HEROES

WE'VE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR HUNGER-RELIEF FOR DECADES!



Oakland A's  
presenting  
an annual  
gift of  
\$25,000 to  
ACCFB in  
2022

## THREE CHEERS FOR THE A'S, A LEGACY OF GIVING

Last September, we bid farewell to our beloved neighbors and partners, the Oakland Athletics. The A's have been consummate partners since the 1990s through volunteering, food drives, grants, and stadium events. They were also one of the very first organizations to reach out with additional support during the pandemic. We will always be grateful for the A's commitment to the community—and we wish them well in their future homes of Sacramento and Las Vegas.

During the A's final season in Oakland, Larry Miller, a diehard fan and ACCFB volunteer for nearly 15 years, donated his extensive set of A's bobbleheads and memorabilia to our annual Savor the Season fundraiser auction, raising essential funds to end hunger in Alameda County. Now that's what we call team—and community—spirit!

Long-time Food  
Bank volunteer  
Larry Miller at  
the Food Bank's  
Community  
Engagement  
Center



## NOURISHING NEIGHBORS WITH SAFEWAY

Safeway has been headquartered in Alameda County for nearly 100 years, and since 1995, they have partnered with the Food Bank to provide nearly 5 million meals to neighbors throughout the county. Safeway has shown support through food drives, volunteerism, CalFresh awareness campaigns, food recovery, and impactful grants as part of work to expand food access to everyone.

Through our longstanding partnership with Safeway and NBC, and their Nourishing Neighbors program, ACCFB has been able to distribute more food, expand outreach efforts, and further engage community members around our mission of ending hunger in Alameda County.

Thank you to Safeway for 30 years of supporting the community!



Students from St. Edward School helping raise funds during the 2024 Nourishing Neighbors event in Newark

## FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

2005

Alameda County Community Food Bank was the first food bank to ban soda, replacing all 1 million pounds with fresh produce.



# Oakland International High School: Welcoming Students with Food and Care



Sofia and her daughter, Lady, pick up fresh fruit and produce at Oakland International High School's food distribution

At Oakland International High School, a partnership between ACCFB and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) plays a crucial role in creating a welcoming environment for immigrant and refugee students, fostering a sense of community, and addressing fundamental needs beyond academics. The school-based food distribution, run by IRC with food provided by ACCFB, serves 130 students in addition to family and community members every week.

Above the food distribution tables, the flags of dozens of countries fly. The school serves a diverse community of students from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and China. Madenh Hassan, the community school manager, comes from an immigrant family herself and understands the challenges newcomers face. "When students register for school, food is one of the first things we [offer and ask about] before they set foot in a classroom," she said. "There's no better way to welcome a newcomer than to feed them. We give them food boxes from the ACCFB. It builds a sense of care."

Segen Berhane, a 19-year-old refugee from Eritrea via Sudan, is one such student. Her mom is a home health care worker, and though Segen and her siblings also work, money is tight. "I make the food of my country," she said. "Getting food at school is so helpful, because it is so expensive at the market."

Beyond food, these distributions are symbolic of the community built at Oakland International. Students from various backgrounds learn about each other's cultures while enjoying meals from their homelands. "They eat in community, and it's a celebration of their identities," said Madenh. "There's a sweet synergy between the groups that makes people feel safe. Eating together is powerful."

**FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION**

**2012**

*We launched our Grocery Rescue Program (now Food Recovery Program—which rescued 12 million pounds last year).*



# HUNGER ACTION DAY



Since the 1990s, ACCFB has participated in Hunger Action Day, a day-long event including a rally at the State Capitol and community advocacy for policies that further our goal of ending hunger in Alameda County, California, and beyond.

Hunger Action Day has been instrumental to major policy wins—including universally free school meals for all California public school students, ongoing state funding for food banks, and expanding access to CalFresh for seniors and people living with disabilities who are on SSI.

As we celebrate recent policy wins, there is much work to be done. At this year's Hunger Action Day, on **April 29**, we will push for disaster preparedness resources for food banks and other first responding organizations and for the expansion of CalFresh benefits to all Californians regardless of their age or immigration status as part of the statewide Food4All Campaign.

The movement is only as strong as the people involved! We'd love for you to join our efforts. Visit [accfb.org/advocate](https://accfb.org/advocate) to sign up for a spot on the bus for this year's Hunger Action Day and to subscribe to our Advocacy Action Alerts to make your voice heard.

## 40 YEARS OF PARTNER POWER!

"Not only was [the Food Bank] responsible to the community; right from the beginning, it was the community."  
– Father John Rawlinson, one of ACCFB's founders

**Did you know?** Forty years ago, ACCFB began as a network of 40 organizations united by a shared mission to provide hunger relief in Alameda County. Today, we are proud to work with **more than 360 partners** who have deep roots in their communities and an even deeper dedication to ensuring that they are cared for. A few partner agency leaders also serve on our Board of Directors!

Thank you to this passionate network of partners who truly make our work possible.

## FORTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

# 2023

*Alameda County Community Food Bank started distributing medically supportive food boxes to Medi-Cal recipients through a CalAIM Initiative.*



# Stay Engaged and Make an Impact

As a community-based organization we're only able to keep pushing boundaries and serving the community with your support. There are countless ways to make an impact! Here are some easy and meaningful ways to support our mission:



**Donate Monthly:** Monthly donations provide consistent support to fund our work. Set up a recurring donation to become a Monthly Helper at [accfb.org/GiveMonthly](https://accfb.org/GiveMonthly) and **your gifts will be matched for 12 months, up to \$50,000!**



**Host a Food Drive:** Food drives aren't just for the holiday season! Recruit your friends, family, and community to pitch in for a food drive. Get started at [accfb.org/food-drive](https://accfb.org/food-drive).



**Volunteer:** Volunteers, we need you! Visit [accfb.org/volunteer](https://accfb.org/volunteer) to sign up for a shift.



**Make Your Voice Heard:** Learn how you can be a part of our policy and advocacy efforts at [accfb.org/advocate](https://accfb.org/advocate).



**More Ways to Give:** Did you know that you can donate cryptocurrency? Learn about crypto donations, how to include ACCFB in your will, and more at [accfb.org/give/more-ways-to-give](https://accfb.org/give/more-ways-to-give).

**FORTY YEARS OF  
INNOVATION**

**2024**

*We invested in the local,  
BIPOC-led Dig Deep Farms.*



**COMING SOON**

*Our new multi-year  
strategic plan will launch  
in July. It's the next  
step in our evolution to  
becoming a Food Justice  
organization!*

## Celebrate 40 Years of the Food Bank – Donate to End Hunger in Alameda County

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to become a monthly donor, and have my commitment matched!**

Become a **Monthly Helper** by April 15<sup>th</sup> and have your commitment **matched for 12 months, up to \$50,000!**

☐ **Make this my first gift:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (my first gift is enclosed). I authorize Alameda County Community Food Bank to charge the amount indicated above to my account each month. You can also sign up at [accfb.org/Monthly](https://accfb.org/Monthly).

I am signing and dating to confirm my monthly commitment to ACCFB. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:

**Alameda County Community Food Bank** (or "ACCFB")

P.O. Box 30757

Oakland, CA 94604-6857

### Credit Card Information:

(Please fill below. All major credit cards accepted)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [accfb.org/Newsletter](https://accfb.org/Newsletter)

NLSPR25-C

Your donation is tax-deductible as permitted by law. The Food Bank will send you a receipt.

