

The HARVEST



placerfoodbank.org



News and notes on solving hunger in El Dorado, Nevada, and Placer Counties

Holiday 2017



Jamie doesn't regularly receive food assistance, but a costly car repair set her back financially. She came to one of our partner agencies in need of food.

"I don't know if you understand just how many people you touch by what you give."

Jamie

Your generosity helped me put food on my table

My name is Jamie. I don't ordinarily need to reach out for food help. But when my car needed repairs--that just put me in a crunch. I couldn't afford to take it to the mechanic, so I had to fix it myself. I've learned a lot and met some nice people in the process.

One of my friends told me about this food pantry and I thank God she did. When I walked in, I just started crying. I had no idea this was all here. The people are sweet, and the food is so abundant!

I grew up in this area, and moved back about ten years ago when my parents started getting older. I worked at Macy's for many years, but had to stop when I became disabled. Now, when I'm able, I volunteer at the hospice thrift shop, which is enriching for me.

Your support goes a long way

Most of the time I get by, but when I have unexpected expenses, the food I receive is a real help. And I like to share what I get. I take some of the food to my mother. Another time I shared my bag of rolls with a homeless man.

I really don't have the right words to say thank you to the people who support Placer Food Bank—I'd probably just cry. I don't know if you understand just how many people you touch by what you give, but I am so grateful.

The extra expenses of the holidays can make it difficult to afford food and other basic needs for their families. Thanks to you, we work with more than 80 partner agencies that help people like Jamie celebrate the holidays with enough to eat. This year, we're also collecting turkeys— read more about how you can help on page 3.

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ENCOURAGING WORDS from our Executive Director



Most families have holiday traditions that involve meals. In my family, one of our traditions is gathering together to make holiday food and then taking these meals to our homebound family members. It's a part of our holidays that enriches both those of us who prepare the food and those who receive it.

At the Food Bank, we're busy getting ready to provide holiday meals. We're working with our partner agencies to ensure the families we serve have the food they need to celebrate their traditions and stay healthy during the holidays.

It's exciting to see the ways our friends and supporters respond to meet the needs in our community. The turkeys we collect at our upcoming turkey drive not only help our neighbors in need have a special holiday meal, but they also provide a much-needed source of protein as well.

This year the Roseville Lion's Club Holiday Meal Distribution will take place out of our new 20,000 square foot warehouse. This much-needed expansion of our building provides more volunteer workspace and allows us to receive and distribute food more quickly and efficiently. We also have plans to expand our refrigerated storage in that space to allow us to safely store and handle more fresh foods.

In this season of thanksgiving, we have so much to be grateful for, including your faithful friendship. Recently, I've been inspired by how many of you have come to visit us at the Food Bank and brought friends, sharing your commitment to help us fight hunger in our communities.

This holiday season, your gifts of time, food and funds will help us provide meals for the more than 70,000 people we serve. I hope your generosity will enrich your family's celebration as well. Thank you for making the effort to care.

Gratefully,

Dave Martinez
Placer Food Bank,
Executive Director

**"We have so much
to be thankful for,
including your
faithful friendship."**

I'm grateful for a community that cares

All her life, Rosemary worked and bought her own groceries. She raised two daughters and owned a house in the area. Then, at sixty-one, Rosemary was laid off from a job she'd held for over ten years. During her unemployment, she attended classes and hoped to find another job. "I'd rather have gone back to work, but people my age have trouble finding jobs," Rosemary explains.

Without any source of income, she began drawing on social security. Living on a fixed, lower income meant Rosemary had to rethink how to make ends meet. She rented out a room to help pay her home expenses and began going to one of our partner agencies for food assistance.

"This is the first time in all my years I've ever gone to a food bank," says Rosemary. "Things are tight, and I don't have the money to go out and get groceries like I normally would. I'm very thankful for the Food Bank."

Rosemary says she loves to cook. At the food pantry she especially appreciates the selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. "The food goes a long way and you can fix anything with vegetables," she says. "When we sit down to a meal I tell my roommate, 'Thank God for the Food Bank because everything we're eating tonight is from them.'"

The Food Bank helps me stretch my limited income

One of Rosemary's biggest challenges is dealing with unexpected, large expenses. Recently she found out her home needed repairs from termite damage. "Like so many people who are down on their luck, the Food Bank comes in handy when I'm just trying to keep a roof over my head," she says.

When Rosemary expresses her gratitude to those who support Placer Food Bank, the tears begin to fall. "My thanks are endless because I'm so grateful to you for contributing what you do," says Rosemary. "You're putting food on our table when we don't have anything. It just means a lot to be so cared for."



Rosemary

Photo has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.

“It keeps you grateful,” says Bernadette when speaking of helping at the Placer Food Bank Farmers Markets. She has volunteered with Placer Food Bank for years but this is only her third time attending a market day. And she’s hooked.

She scans the crowd and recognizes many of the faces since she lives nearby. One is a mother of a very large family; another is raising her grandchildren. Bernadette has three kids herself and understands the cost of keeping them fed.

Most on the Farmer’s Market volunteer team started as box packers in the food bank’s Roseville warehouse. Involved for four years, Ann says of the markets, “It’s been great meeting people.” She enjoys hearing their stories and also invests time beforehand distributing flyers to laundromats, senior and low-income apartment complexes, libraries and other locations in the community – all to help spread the news of the Farmers Market and the opportunity for free fresh produce for those in need.

Fresh produce comes from partnering growers and is trucked to the park sites on market days. Team members help shoppers as they select fruits and vegetables from huge bins. On average, 12,000 pounds of fresh produce are distributed at one of these mobile pantries, which offer easy access for the community.

“It can be very expensive to feed your family healthy food, and we want to help our community go from hungry to healthy.”



Just some of the many Farmers Market Volunteers, looking forward to helping those in need.

Also on hand at the markets are Placer Food Bank team members for CalFresh, ready to answer questions about this government food assistance program. Sixty-six families received information at the most recent Rocklin market, and 100 at the new Lincoln market location, all hopeful they will qualify for help with grocery expenses.

Bernadette and Ann are just two of about a dozen volunteers who form the Placer Food Bank Farmers Market team. Some are retired and want to stay busy. Others have different stories, but they all have a big and happy heart for serving our community.

Help us put the thanks in Thanksgiving at our Drive Out Hunger Turkey Drive

Friday, November 10 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm

Roseville Toyota: 700 Automall Drive, Roseville, CA 95678

This year we’re hosting our second annual Drive Out Hunger Turkey Drive at Roseville Toyota. We’re asking our community to donate turkeys—so that local families don’t have to go without a Thanksgiving dinner due to lack of resources. It’s easy to participate—on Friday, November 10, just drop off a frozen turkey or a monetary donation at Roseville Toyota.

Last year your generosity helped provide 3,000 turkeys for families in need, and those went fast! This year we’re asking you to help us provide 5,000 turkeys to help even more of our neighbors in need have a special Thanksgiving meal.

For more information about how you can help with this event, please contact Diana Yruegas, Food & Fund Drive Manager at 916-783-0481, ext. 103 or by emailing Diana@placerfoodbank.org. You’ll be helping us put the thanks into Thanksgiving for the families we serve.



Volunteers of all ages are helping local families.

The outpouring of support from our community during the holiday season helps us continue the work of feeding families in need all year long

Thank you for providing food —and joy— to families in need this holiday season

Families want to make the holidays a special time in their home, but it can put an added financial burden at a stressful time of year. With seasonal jobs dwindling for low-income workers and children home from school, paying the bills, providing extra meals and meeting the expectations of the holidays can make it difficult to make ends meet.

At Placer Food Bank, we work with supporters like you and more than 80 partner agencies to help the families we serve. They can take home items for a special holiday meal and other food items to keep them nourished through the holidays. When you donate turkeys at our Turkey Drive, provide nonperishable goods at a food drive, or give a monetary donation to Placer Food Bank, you help us reach out with food and hope to families across El Dorado, Nevada and Placer Counties.

One way you can make a real impact is by donating today. For every dollar you donate, we can provide three meals. That's a whole day of food for a hungry neighbor! It's easy to give online at placerfoodbank.org or return the enclosed reply slip. Your partnership and support can ensure hungry families in our community can celebrate the holidays with a nutritious meal.



Volunteers deliver the Roseville Lions Club Holiday Food Baskets directly to the homes of those in need.

Making the holidays happy for families in need



On December 23rd, the Roseville Lions Club will be distributing Holiday Food Baskets to local families in need. This year the distribution will be launched directly from the newly-expanded Placer Food Bank warehouse.

Not only do volunteers come here to our warehouse to build the boxes, they also personally deliver the food to families in need. This event has become a fun holiday tradition, with families even dressing up their delivery cars! Last year, they provided over 1,000 baskets to families we serve.

To find out more about how you and your family can participate in this enriching holiday tradition, contact Roseville Lions Club volunteer coordinator, Bernie Milmo, at 916-782-8816. Through this partnership between Placer Food Bank and the Roseville Lions Club, this community is coming together to share the joy of the holidays with our neighbors in need. Thank you for your participation!

MY HOLIDAY DONATION

Yes, Dave, I want to give the gift of food to families who are struggling this holiday season.

Here is my gift of: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

I commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____. My first gift is enclosed.

Please charge my gift on my credit card:

VISA MC AMEX DISC

NAME _____

CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY # _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

MY E-MAIL ADDRESS IS: _____ @ _____

Thank you. Please make your check payable to:

Placer Food Bank | 8284 Industrial Avenue | Roseville, CA 95678

To charge your gift by phone, please call 916-783-0481.

It's easy! Give now at placerfoodbank.org



Nourishing Communities. Ending Hunger.



Costs are average and include the expense of securing and distributing food. If gifts exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to provide food to the hungry throughout the year. We never sell or rent our supporters' names or information. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records. Tax ID Number: 94-1740316.