



## Donor Spotlight – June 2015

### Joan Blaise

Joan Blaise, a 30-year resident of Sacramento, recently retired from a long career with the US Postal Service. Joan quickly found more time on her hands as a retiree and sought out volunteer opportunities with local organizations. She possesses a passion for gardening, but is unable to have a garden of her own at home, so Joan immediately jumped at the chance to volunteer in Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' (SFBFS) Demonstration Garden. In April 2014, Joan attended orientation and began volunteering once per week in the Demonstration Garden. Not only does she volunteer her time, but she also donates supplies to keep the garden going strong. "Joan brings much-needed and appreciated supplies each time she volunteers. Her generosity is inspiring; she sees a need and fulfills it," said Garden Coordinator Kate Wilkins.

SFBFS began offering workshops in the Demonstration Garden three years ago. Clients can attend a variety of classes including *Introduction to Gardening*, *Pest Management*, *Composting*, *Healthy Food Choices* and more. The Demonstration Garden also includes a greenhouse, composting and vermicomposting bins, large production beds and an outdoor *kitchen table* where clients can learn to prepare the food they cultivate and harvest.

Joan passionately supports SFBFS through the Demonstration Garden because it accomplishes her interests in supporting the community and gardening.

"SFBFS' philosophy of supporting individuals on their journey to self-sufficiency really appeals to me. Being a part of that while also having the opportunity to learn more about gardening is a privilege", said Joan.



When asked why Joan feels it is important to help people in need, she replied, "government programs don't provide enough; there is a huge need which doesn't seem to be getting any smaller".

SFBFS would not be where we are today without key supporters such as Joan. Their dedication to helping fellow community members truly makes a difference in people's lives and the community. Donors like Joan make the journey SFBFS clients are on brighter and more manageable through their support. SFBFS is incredibly grateful for their generosity.