

Donor Spotlight: April 2016 California State Employees – Food Access



The State Employees' Food Drive has been benefiting Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' (SFBFS) Food Access program since 2015. The California Department of Food and Agriculture coordinates the yearly drive and challenges each and every state employee to participate. This year, 101 state agencies participated and ran over 300 donation locations.

The State Employees' Food Drive participants gather donations in creative ways through events like bake sales, rummage sales, craft fairs and chili cook-offs. "The State Employees' Food Drive opens the door for people to become more involved in their community," says Peggy Marshall, SFBFS' Donations Drive Coordinator. "Both the food and the



financial donations come directly from the employees who participate. There were so many people who had such enthusiasm for helping those in need."

Each individual agency designates a Coordinator who designs a donation program for the drive, which runs October through February each year. Holly Ray, the Coordinator for the Employment Development Department (EDD) says, "At EDD, we look forward to and are proud to partner with SFBFS each year through the State Employees' Food Drive. It is truly a rewarding experience and a wonderful way to reach out to the communities we serve." Andy Reid from the California Board of Equalization agrees, saying, "The Food Drive has been such a fun, rich and rewarding experience, especially knowing that our efforts contributed in such a positive and meaningful way to the communities in which we live, helping to make them a better place for all of us."

The state employees' time and dedication is invaluable to SFBFS' services. SFBFS provides no-cost emergency groceries to families in need through more than 220 partner agencies, six days per week. In an effort to move families toward self-sufficiency, grocery items such as fresh vegetables and fruit, grains and dairy are distributed instead of hot meals. We incorporate health and nutrition courses and cooking classes

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into our curriculum so that families have a chance to improve their health and their children's future through preparing their own food.

SFBFS' Food Access program would not be possible without support from the Sacramento community.

SFBFS is grateful and fortunate to receive the support of generous community members through donation drives like the State Employees' Food Drive. Their support is an example of how together, we can support families on their journey to self-sufficiency.