

Yolo Food Bank presentation – 100 Women Who Care 8/11/2020

Thanks to the private donors – rather than government – who provide more than 90% of Yolo Food Bank’s annual operating revenue, the capacity and programmatic prowess required to advance our mission, “To end hunger and malnutrition in Yolo County,” has been vastly enhanced over the past several years. **Now, however, an unimaginable and unprecedented disaster has befallen our community, and we are striving daily to serve Yolo County neighbors in need.** Yolo Food Bank currently is engaged in the execution of a robust response to the COVID-19 socio-economic disaster.

Since mid-March, the demand for food assistance in Yolo County has escalated by more than 60%. Both new and adapted programs quickly emerged in the early days of the pandemic, and these programs have continued and transitioned in the ensuing months to fit the needs of the community as the COVID-19 crisis has evolved around us.

As a result, nearly **900 new volunteers have joined donors of food and funds to support our staff of 30 to recover and collect, store, pack, deliver and distribute a total of more than 3.1 million pounds of food in the past five months to 45,000 food insecure individuals in Yolo County each month.** These residents are children, senior citizens, homeless, veterans, students, migrant workers, and others who are vulnerable. **Working families, many reaching out for assistance for the first time due to sudden economic hardship, constitute much of the clientele.**

This COVID-19 response activity has come at a staggering cost to Yolo Food Bank; **monthly operations have risen by 75%, and could soon double as the economic impacts of the pandemic continue** to erode residents’ ability to meet their basic needs due to job losses and business failures. Currently, Yolo Food Bank is **providing COVID-19 response services via four programs**, and funds offered by 100 Women Who Care Yolo County will be applied to the continuation and evolution of these programs for as long as the socio-economic crisis dictates.

Each of these programs requires extraordinary logistical expenditures for trucks and vehicle maintenance, fuel, drivers, warehouse and programs personnel, volunteer coordination, refrigeration and other storage expenses, as well as strategic food purchases.

The COVID-19 response programs are:

- **Neighborhood Food Access**, offering customized food access plans for more than 6,000 low-income senior citizens and health-compromised individuals required to isolate in their homes from virus spread. Plans are formed based upon individuals' ability to venture out safely, access a vehicle, or connect with others for assistance. Those without these options are provided home delivery service.
- Preparation and delivery of three daily ready-to-eat meals, in partnership with Yolo County cities, to **nourish the at-risk homeless whom are being sheltered from COVID-19** exposure in local motel rooms. This program served as many 275 individuals at its peak.
- **Eight new Eat Well Yolo fresh food distributions** have been added since the pandemic, and nearly 130 food access opportunities now are propelled countywide monthly by Yolo Food Bank. Several locations have been **adapted to serve as contactless drive-through models**, and all locations now require face coverings and employ physical distancing protocols. Food access events typically draw hundreds of recipients on a weekly basis.
- The **Nonprofit Partner Organization program has gained 16% more participants in recent months for a total of 84 nonprofits in Yolo County** accessing food at no cost/low cost to meet nutrition needs related to the execution of their own missions. These include food pantries, senior meal delivery programs, homeless and domestic violence shelters, migrant centers, college campuses, mental health and recovery programs, and more. Familiar names include STEAC, Davis Community Meals and Housing, Meals On Wheels – Yolo County, Empower Yolo, UC Davis/ASUSC Pantry, Yolo Community Care Continuum, amongst others.

Already focused upon a scale-up to meet the full food security need of Yolo County, **Yolo Food Bank's unanticipated sudden increase in service to respond to the COVID-19 emergency is essential to many families' ability to thrive as the economy recovers over a period of many years.** However, we soon risk dipping into operational reserves to feed people in desperate need during this disaster. With prospects for FEMA and similar reimbursements now exhausted, every additional dollar makes a difference in saving lives and preserving the future of Yolo County's eventual economic return. **Food for as many as three meals is made possible by every dollar that you donate.** This is the moment for 100 Women Who Care Yolo County to make a heroic investment in Yolo Food Bank. We are grateful for your consideration!