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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Redwood Empire Food Bank Welcomes Three New Board Members

SANTA ROSA, CA (February 12, 2025) – Santa Rosa, CA – The Redwood Empire Food Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of three distinguished individuals to its Board of Directors: Rabbi George Gittleman, Kathy Inouye, and Michael Schuh. These new members bring a wealth of experience and diverse perspectives that will further strengthen the organization’s mission to End Hunger in Our Community.

New Board Members

Rabbi George Gittleman

Rabbi George Gittleman joins the board with a rich background in spiritual leadership and community service. As Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, California, he served as their spiritual leader for 28 years until June 2024. Rabbi Gittleman’s commitment to Tikkun Olam (The Repair of the World) aligns perfectly with the Food Bank’s mission, as he has been a strong advocate for immigrant rights, marriage equality, and finding housing for the unsheltered. This dedication extends to his longstanding financial support of local nonprofits, including the Redwood Empire Food Bank, further demonstrating his commitment to community well-being.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from the University of Vermont and rabbinical training from the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbi Gittleman brings a unique blend of historical perspective and spiritual insight to the board. His experience as a Senior Rabbinic Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and his practice of Jewish Mindfulness Meditation will contribute valuable wisdom to the organization’s decision-making processes.

Kathy Inouye

Kathy Inouye brings over 25 years of finance leadership experience from Keysight Technologies to the Redwood Empire Food Bank Board. As the current head of internal audit working on behalf of Keysight’s board of directors, Inouye’s expertise in global

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finance and business leadership will be invaluable to the Food Bank's operations and strategic planning. Originally from Tennessee, Inouye's journey to Sonoma County took her through Los Angeles, New York City, and Mill Valley, giving her a broad perspective on diverse communities and their needs. Throughout her career, she has led global teams in providing finance support for senior business leaders, developing skills that will directly benefit the Food Bank's financial oversight and strategic decision-making.

A longtime financial supporter of the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Inouye is eager to contribute her business acumen to further the organization's impact in the community. Her transition from supporter to board member demonstrates her deep commitment to the Food Bank's mission and her desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity.

Michael Schuh

Michael Schuh joins the board with an extensive background in technology and venture capital. With a career spanning over five decades in the software industry, Schuh brings a wealth of experience in sales, management, and investment. His leadership roles in worldwide sales organizations for both private and public companies, coupled with his experience as a CEO and venture capitalist, will provide valuable insights into organizational efficiency and strategic planning.

Schuh's notable involvement as an early investor and 11-year board member of Netflix showcases his ability to recognize and nurture innovative ventures. A dedicated philanthropist, Schuh has been a strong financial supporter of the Redwood Empire Food Bank for many years, demonstrating his deep commitment to addressing food insecurity in the community. His experience on both for-profit and non-profit boards will be a significant asset as the food bank strives to enhance its services and maximize its impact within the communities it serves.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is confident that the addition of these three exceptional individuals to its Board of Directors will enhance its ability to serve the community and work towards Ending Hunger in Our Community. Their diverse backgrounds, skills, and passion for community service will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and growth of the organization.

To learn more about or express interest in joining the Redwood Empire Food Bank Board of Directors, please contact Chief Development Officer, Breanne Beseda at bbeseda@refb.org.



About the Redwood Empire Food Bank

Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—serving more than 142,000 children, families, and seniors in Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties. With over 300 direct service distributions and 150 partnerships with local human service organizations, all residents facing food insecurity have regular access to weekly and monthly food distribution sites across the five counties.

Visit refb.org to learn more.