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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Sonoma County's Free Lunch Program for Kids Returns!**

Santa Rosa, CA – April 26, 2024 – As school doors close for the summer break, the Redwood Empire Food Bank gears up to ensure no child goes hungry with the return of its Summer Lunch program, running from June 10th to August 9th across Sonoma County.

Amidst concerns about where their next meal will come from, approximately 1 in 6 children face food insecurity. Throughout the regular school year, the Redwood Empire Food Bank diligently supports many of these children through initiatives like the Afterschool Café, School Pantry, and Preschool Pantry programs.

“Summer is a time for children to explore, play, and grow. Ensuring they have access to nutritious meals not only fuels their bodies but also nourishes their potential. We’re committed to making this summer a season of joy and abundance for every child in Sonoma County.” – Maria Fuentes, Hunger Relief Worker and Every Child, Every Day Manager, Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Partnering with Santa Rosa City Schools who will provide the meals, the Redwood Empire Food Bank aims to bridge the meal gap over the summer months. Multiple Summer Lunch sites will be available throughout Santa Rosa, Cloverdale, Sonoma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Petaluma, and Sebastopol. The food bank will also offer some non-congregate meals in rural areas, where parents or guardians can pick up meals for their children who may not be able to access a congregate site.

For details on the nearest location, visit [www.refb.org/summer-lunch](http://www.refb.org/summer-lunch). For immediate assistance or further information about the Summer Lunch Program, contact the Redwood Empire Food Bank directly at 707-523-7903.

### **About the Redwood Empire Food Bank**

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving Northern California. Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—serving more than 140,000 children, families, and

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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.

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