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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Redwood Empire Food Bank is Calling for Volunteers

SANTA ROSA, CA (July 14, 2020) – The Redwood Empire Food Bank is seeking volunteers to join the fight against hunger. A wide variety of opportunities exist, from gleaning and packaging fresh produce, to distributing healthy groceries.

“We are at a critical moment in time and the Redwood Empire Food Bank is committed to distributing food to those in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake and Del Norte counties,” said Redwood Empire Food Bank CEO, David Goodman. “Volunteers play a vital role, and we are in need of compassionate, hard-working volunteers to help us carry out our mission.”

The Redwood Empire Food Bank specializes in hunger relief. In addition to operating a dozen programs for children, families and seniors throughout the counties, the Redwood Empire Food Bank also runs their disaster-relief program, Station 3990, during times of crisis—as many as needed to keep up with the demand.

“We are first responders in this crisis, as we have been during floods and fires and public safety power shutdowns,” said Goodman. “Because of the support of our community, we run towards disasters, not away from them. We can’t do this alone.”

On average, prior to COVID, the Redwood Empire Food Bank served about 10,000 families per month. In April alone, they served 40,000. An alarming 300% increase!

Volunteering for the Redwood Empire Food Bank is easy and flexible. Whether it’s just a one-time service, or ongoing. Anyone can volunteer—no previous training is required, and there is no age cap.

“One thing that unites us all is time: there is never enough of it,” Goodman added. “Volunteers are giving up their most precious commodity to help people they will likely never meet. There is a ferocity that you see from frontline staff and volunteers during these times. It’s impressive.”

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is taking all necessary precautions to help make sure that staff, volunteers, food and participants remain safe so distributions can continue. In addition to following the recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they are also

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taking proactive and voluntary steps to help reduce contact and/or spread of Coronavirus.

For more information on volunteer opportunities and to register, please visit <https://refb.org/volunteer-opportunities/> or call (707) 523-7900.

For more information and answers to questions regarding the Redwood Empire Food Bank's response to the Coronavirus pandemic, please visit <https://refb.org/response-to-coronavirus/>.

About Redwood Empire Food Bank

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. Since 1987, the Redwood Empire Food Bank has provided food and nourishment to those facing hunger—serving more than 100,000 children, families and seniors in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake Counties. With over 250 direct service distributions, and 170 partnerships with other hunger-relief organizations, all residents facing food insecurity have access to 450 weekly and monthly distribution sites across the five counties.

Visit www.refb.org or call (707) 523-7900 to learn more.

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