



SLO
FOOD
BANK

County Partnership
for Hunger Relief



The mission of the **SLO Food Bank** is to work with a network of community partners to alleviate hunger in San Luis Obispo County and build a healthier community.

2019

ANNUAL

REPORT

A Letter from our Board Chair

Dear Reader,



The following pages will give you insight into the SLO Food Bank's operations in 2019, including a condensed report of our financial data. I hope you will be impressed as I am when you see how our donors—individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations—gave generously and enabled the SLO Food Bank to serve as a critical part of our community's safety net.

What is not as obvious from the facts and figures is the human side of our accomplishments. Thanks to our hard-working staff, nonprofit agency partners and volunteers, the SLO Food Bank provided 669,798 nutritious meals to our SLO County neighbors who are struggling with hunger. These individuals, families, children, and seniors were able to be more productive at work, learn better in school, stay healthier and be happier because of the services the SLO Food Bank provides.

In other words, while a 5% increase (which equals about 3.3 million lbs. of food) in our food distribution is substantial, it is the personal stories that hearten and encourage us to continue our mission to alleviate hunger and build a healthier community: A senior couple who can no longer drive thanking us for helping them stay healthy through our Senior Farmers Markets. A father telling us the food they receive helps feed his family the last week of the month after his paycheck has run out. Teachers sharing stories about improved concentration and performance in the classrooms when their students are well fed. All these stories are the heart behind the numbers and charts you will find in this report.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the donors, volunteers, nonprofit agency partners and our hard-working staff for your contributions and support to the SLO Food Bank. Our community is healthier because of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Davis".

Steve Davis



Our Vision and Operations

The vision of the SLO Food Bank is that every person in SLO County has adequate access to nutritious food, regardless of the reasons that they may not be able to obtain it for themselves. It is our intent to not only help make healthy food available through our programs and nonprofit agency partners, but also to encourage and support each person we serve, recognizing their possible vulnerabilities and sensitivities. Every human being, whether individuals, families or agencies, deserves to be treated with kindness, respect and dignity. It is our privilege to serve without judgement.

First, we collect food.



Food Donations

Individuals, local businesses, and community organizations hold food drives and donate non-perishable food goods to us.



GleanSLO

Our GleanSLO program harvests fresh produce from backyards, farmers markets, and farms.



Grocery Store Rescues

Grocery stores let us know when they have surplus food items and we pick it up.



Local, State & Federal Government Programs

We administer various governmental food assistance programs.



Purchase Power

We use donor funds to buy fresh produce and other nutritious food staples in bulk.



Next, we sort and pack food.

Staff and volunteers pack food orders at our warehouse in San Luis Obispo.

Then, we distribute food.

Nonprofit Agency Partners

78 nonprofit agency partners source food from our warehouse so that they can distribute it throughout SLO County.

Neighborhood Distributions

Our SLO Food Bank staff and volunteers also facilitate recurring food distributions in every community in SLO County.



Our Community Programs, Public Out

In addition to the recurring food distributions that we provide in every community throughout SLO County, we provide education on how to prepare healthy meals, even when resources are scarce. We work to improve the availability of nutritious food. Food insecurity puts those we serve at higher risk of diet-related diseases. Poor nutrition can

In 2019, we distributed over 3,312,684 lbs. of food.

44%

fresh produce

27%

shelf-stable items

17%

meat and dairy

8%

bread

4%

prepared foods



Food Rescue

We live in an area of agricultural abundance, yet many people in SLO County are food insecure. **clean SLO** believes in harvesting extra produce and getting it to our neighbors in need. Through the act of harvesting and sharing food, we connect and nourish our community, build stronger relationships and create a deeper appreciation for food.

- ✓ 229,095 lbs. produce rescued
- ✓ 253 farmers markets collections
- ✓ 155 farm harvests
- ✓ 150 backyard harvests
- ✓ 64 new produce donors
- ✓ 335 volunteers
- ✓ 2,003 volunteer hours



Food Distributions

Our public **Neighborhood Food Distributions** allow us a direct approach when delivering food to our community. Strategically located food distribution sites across SLO County provide all residents with access to food. Most of these sites are operated by our staff and volunteers. This means that our team is in direct contact with the people we serve and that in turn enables us to see current needs.

- ✓ 60 unique food distribution sites
- ✓ 917 food distributions held
- ✓ 3,191 households served per month
- ✓ 7,366 people served per month



Farmers Markets

At **Children's Farmers Markets**, kids can shop for produce, learn about fruits and vegetables, try out new recipes and participate in nutrition lessons.

At **Senior Farmers Markets**, participants select the produce they want, learn easy ways to prepare and store the food they take home, receive bilingual recipes and get to try samples made from the items that are being handed to them.

- ✓ 292 total farmers markets held
- ✓ 16,670 households served
- ✓ 174,621 lbs. of produce distributed

Reach and Nutrition Education

We are also dedicated to increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as the health of our community and ensure that everyone has access to fresh and nutritious food that does not negatively impact classroom performance for children.

Local Capacity Building

Working closely with distribution sites and nonprofit agency partners, we continually strive to improve our services so that we can expand our community's access to food. We have provided grants to purchase cold storage equipment, empowered new organizations to expand their capacity by adding USDA food to food distributions, and offer leadership training as well as hands-on experience to volunteers.



Nutrition Education

Our partnerships with the *Dietetic Internship Programs* at Cal Poly and Atascadero State Hospital are mutually beneficial and enable us to provide training and practical hands-on experience in **Community Nutrition Education** to seven full-time interns which in turn increases our reach and impact within the community without adding costs.

- ✔ 40+ recipes shared at 26 sites
- ✔ 6,906 individuals served

Breakfast Bags

Breakfast Bags provide children with multiple options for a balanced breakfast during the summer when free and reduced lunches are not available. Each reusable bag contains 21 meals or three weeks' worth of breakfast foods, including shelf stable items such as milk, oatmeal, fruit cups, applesauce, peanut butter, trail mix, granola bars, cereal bars, and cereal.

- ✔ 2,973 children served at 45 sites
- ✔ 62,433 meals provided

CalFresh

California's **Food Stamps** help households and families buy the nutritious food they need. CalFresh dollars stretch a tight budget so that people can afford healthy items. Through a grant from the *Department of Social Services (DSS)*, we had a full-time staff member dedicated to helping eligible SLO County residents apply for CalFresh during the first half of 2019.

- ✔ 88 applications submitted
- ✔ 149 public outreaches

Our Partners and Volunteers

We are the only countywide source of nutritious food for people in need, providing services from San Miguel to Nipomo, and every community in between. Working hand in hand with nonprofit agency partners, volunteers, donors, and corporate sponsors, it is our goal to see that no one in SLO County goes hungry.



As a member of *Feeding America*, we work with **78 nonprofit agency partners** throughout SLO County. All of them distribute food to people in need as a part of their scope of services. Partners include, but are not limited to, after school programs, church pantries, and recovery homes. We and our nonprofit agency partners follow the guidelines established by *Feeding America* and are subject to regular compliance monitoring.

78

Nonprofit Agency Partners

11,496

Households per Month

26.42%

are over the age of 60

669,798

Meals Served

22,143

Individuals per Month

28.33%

are under the age of 18

Our **volunteers** play a key role in helping us gather, pack and distribute nutritious food every day to our neighbors in need. Alleviating hunger in our community requires the hands of many SLO County residents whose hearts beat for equity. We believe hunger should not be a price anyone has to pay.

2,294

Individual Volunteers

17,366

Volunteer Hours

8

Volunteer Programs

Volunteer Spotlight



Bonnie Allen
SLO Food Bank Volunteer

"Volunteering is a small portion of my day that helps me feel connected to my community. The SLO Food Bank allows people to take the money they would otherwise spend on food and put it toward rent and other expenses. Many folks are struggling, but the food support really helps because people not only eat, but also live better."

Bonnie picks up food at the SLO Food Bank's distribution site at Del Mar Elementary School in Morro Bay and delivers it to people who can't make it themselves.

Our Financial Reports

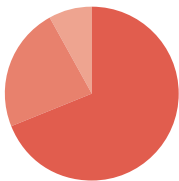
The **\$1,902,975.40 total amount** we received in 2019 through **7,946 monetary donations** shows that our community cares deeply about each other. Donations are the heart of our organization. These dollars are essential to our programs' overall agility and efficiency that help nourish our community and are also a crucial food source to our 78 nonprofit agency partners throughout SLO County.



Nearly 72% of our donations come from thousands of individuals who share the same compassionate mindset in looking beyond their self-interest and supporting every person's right to nutritious food. Businesses and corporations support our work both through volunteering and by making donations in support of events and essential programming. These contributions highlight their devotion to philanthropy and are a pillar of support to those facing food insecurity.

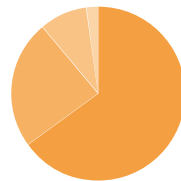
Average Donation

Individuals: **\$220.05** • Monthly Gift: **\$57.33**
 Corporations/Businesses: **\$1,194.05** • Other Nonprofits: **\$1,846.24**



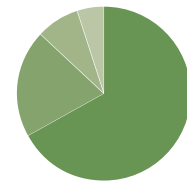
Donors

Direct Contributions **69%**
 (Individuals, Businesses, Non-Profits)
 Government Grants
 & Reimbursements **23%**
 Non-Government Grants **8%**



2019 Income

\$7,213,967
 Donated Food **65%**
 Monetary Donations **24%**
 Grants **9%**
 Other **2%**



2019 Expenses

\$2,391,445.91
 Programs **64%**
 Fundraising **15%**
 Food Acquisitions **12%**
 Management / Operations **9%**

Recipient Spotlight



David Short
SLO Food Bank Recipient

"My dad and I often get to a point where we have a week or more left in the month, but no more money to buy food. The bus ride to the distribution takes about one hour round trip, but if I miss a connection, it can take up to two."

David, who quit his job to take care of his father, has been coming to our public food distribution at the Paso Robles Housing Authority at Oak Park for several years. Without a car he has to rely on other methods of transportation which in his case is public transit.

Our Supporters and Sponsors

Our **Corporate Sponsors** facilitate our mission to alleviate hunger in SLO County. We value their year-round support of the work we do in the community and their generosity through financial contributions to our events, including Hunger Awareness Day, Turkey Trot, and Season of Hope. **Foundations and Grantors** are an important partner in alleviating hunger throughout the community. We are grateful to have been chosen as the recipient of various grants in support of our programs.

Major Sponsor

KSBY

Presenting Sponsors

BHE Renewables • Glenn Burdette • Pacific Premiere Bank • Union Bank

Premium Sponsors

Guaranteed Rate • Peter & Mary Russo Family Foundation, Inc • Rotary of San Luis Obispo de Tolosa
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Solarponics • St. Stephen's Episcopal Church • Wallace Group

Event Partners

Central Coast Printing • Dimes Media • KCOY Central Coast • Kennedy Club Fitness
Running Warehouse • The Tribune SLO • Yesterdays Sportswear

Grants*

**\$2,500 and above*

Albertsons Family Foundation • Bank of the Sierra • Central Coast Funds for Children
City of SLO GIA HRC • The Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County
Community Needs Grant • County of SLO CBO • George Hoag Family Foundation
JUSTIN Winery Community Grant • Klapproad Foundation • MOCA Foundation
Robert H. Janssen Foundation • Rotary of SLO de Tolosa • San Luis Sourdough / Bimbo Bakeries
S.L. Gimbel Foundation • United Way • USDA • USDA NIFA • Youth Health & Wellness Grant

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Visit our website for information on volunteering, donating and connecting to resources.