



Friendly 'Food Fight' Challenge Issued for Solano and Contra Costa Counties

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A food fight is once again about to begin between Solano and Contra Costa counties.

The counties have been participating in the annual "Counties Care Holiday Food Fight" challenge since 2004.

The challenge has become an annual event to raise funds for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and allows employees and residents of both counties an opportunity to help those in need in their respective counties through financial donations.

Tuesday, the Solano County Board of Supervisors will consider accepting the challenge during its regular meeting.

This year, the effort is projected to exceed a nine year cumulative donation total of one million dollars.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano distributes 3.9 million pounds of food annually in Solano County, serves more than 43,000 hungry people every monthly and provides remote mobile delivery of food to Vallejo, Vacaville, Rio Vista, Dixon and Fairfield. Food also is provided to numerous nonprofit agencies throughout the county.

Their mission is "to alleviate hunger by providing an efficient, coordinated system for collecting and distributing food that reduces food waste and increases public awareness regarding hunger and food insecurity."

"The food bank is fortunate to receive significant funding from diverse sources so that they do not depend on one major funding source," said staff in a report to the board. "As long as the food bank can depend on the community to provide funding for its operations, individuals to give volunteer time and people to donate food and funds via their drives, they will be able to help hungry people. ... The food bank believes no one should go hungry."

To date, Solano County has won the friendly competition and held the "Big Apple" trophy for three of the eight years. Last year Contra Costa County won the challenge with \$9.91 contributed per employee, while Solano County collected \$8.11 per employee.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. in the County Government Center, 675 Texas St., Fairfield.