

County Food Fight a success for Food Bank

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A “food fight” between Solano and Contra Costa counties is deemed a success after employees raised a total of \$143,088 for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

After a two-year winning streak, however, Solano came in second with an average of \$11.70 per employee to Contra Costa’s average of \$11.96 per employee.

But Solano’s average is nothing to scoff at.

The goal for 2014 was to raise at least \$10 per employee, they surpassed that goal, beat last year’s average of \$10.54, making the average in 2014 an all-time high.

Today, the Solano County Board of Supervisors will receive a presentation from Larry Sly, executive director, and Kathy Gleason, corporate donation coordinator of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, to recognize the efforts of Solano County employees in the 2014 “Peace, Love and Veggies Holiday Food Fight” challenge.

Since 2004, Solano County has been participating in an annual holiday food drive with Contra Costa County to raise cash for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. According to the Food Bank, Solano County’s Board of Supervisors and its employees donated \$30,813 to the 2014 campaign, a grand total of \$258,533 donated since the first friendly food fight competition in 2004.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, according to organizers, distributes approximately 7 million pounds of food annually throughout Solano County. Approximately 63,000 hungry people in Solano County, including children and seniors, are served by the Food Bank each month.

Both perishable and non-perishable food is also provided to countless nonprofit agencies throughout the county such as food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, senior and child care centers and group homes. The Food Bank’s mission is “leading the fight to end hunger in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need” and through continued community support, the Food Bank is able to accomplish this.

For each \$5 raised, the Food Bank is able to provide 10 meals for residents in need.

Additionally, county departments will receive trophies based on the most dollars contributed per departmental employee. In first place is Veteran’s Services, which

donated \$260 per employee. In second is the County Administration Office/First 5 Solano, which donated \$150.35 per employee, followed by County Counsel, which donated \$100.72 per employee.

In addition to the first-, second- and third-place awards, special wood plaques will be given to the departments collecting the most dollars over the past five years. Health and Social Services (H&SS) was the highest contributor of large departments of 200 or more employees with \$21,531; the Solano County Library was the highest of medium departments of 75 to 199 employees with \$7,384 and the County Administration Office/First 5 Solano was the highest of small departments of fewer than 75 employees with \$9,122.

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