

Food bank creates new volunteer opportunity for kids

By **Amy Maginnis-Honey**

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FAIRFIELD — The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano invites families with young children, ages 5 and older, to attend a Family Food Sort 9 to 11 a.m. April 18 at the Fairfield warehouse, 2339 Courage Drive, Suite F.

This is a new monthly opportunity, occurring every third Saturday, for families to bring their young children to learn about the food bank and introduce them to volunteerism. The children and adults work side-by-side bagging produce that gets distributed through the Food Bank's Community Produce Program.

Outside of special events that are geared towards families, the normal minimum age required to volunteer at the Food Bank is 11.

"It's rare that children as young as 5 get to engage in hands-on volunteering for a nonprofit organization," said the food bank's executive director, Larry Sly, in a press release.

"When the children learn that the produce that they are bagging is going to help people who need food, including other children, it really means something to them and leaves a lasting impression. It helps instill the message from a young age that we need to help one another."

Registration is required, no walk-ins. Visit www.foodbankccs.org/volunteer or contact Lauren Strouse at 421-2568.

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