

SUMMER 2016

# BREAD CONNECTION

A Not Quite Quarterly publication of Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

## Young Donor Gives because 'People like to eat!'

Dear Mr. Sly,  
I want to donate \$119.20 to the food bank and I have been saving this money for 2 whole years. I chose the food bank because I love eating and I know quite a lot of people that like to eat also. So probably when people that do not have that much food when they eat that food they like it and are really happy.  
From,  
Oren

In March, an impressive young man named Oren came in to visit the Food Bank. He met with Executive Director, Larry Sly to offer the \$119.20 that he had saved with his weekly tzedakah money for the people we serve. At seven years old, saving the money took two years.

Oren knew he wanted to donate to the Food Bank to help food-insecure people. According to his dad, "as a big eater, he commented about how tough it would be to be hungry all of the time!"

In his youthful way, he understands that not everyone has the same access to food, but we all need to eat. And it's even better if we can enjoy the food we eat.

When you consider hosting a summer food drive or donating funds, think like Oren and ask "what would I like to eat if I were hungry?"

**For a list of ideas for summer projects to collect food or save money to donate, visit:**  
[www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org)

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- Where does all that produce come from?
- The perks of your Pledge Partnership



## Working to reduce food waste

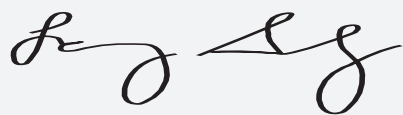
Food waste is a hot topic these days, which we at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano believe is good thing. As a society, we *should* be talking about this important issue. According to Feeding America, our national partner, an estimated 70 billion pounds of safe nutritious food goes to waste annually in America.



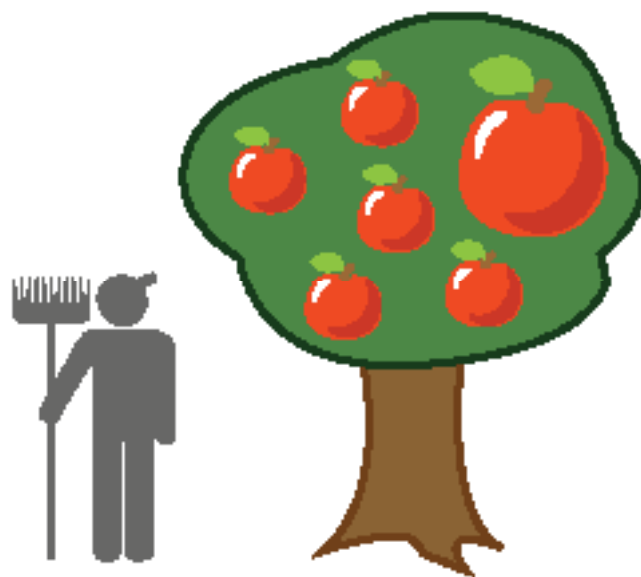
Although the focus to reduce food waste has recently been in the headlines, it is not a new concept. The California Association of Food Banks has been partnering with the agricultural industry for the last several years to make produce that doesn't meet market standards accessible to those who need food assistance. Market standards dictate that the produce can't be too big, too small, and otherwise not cosmetically perfect... even though it's perfectly edible.

Because of this partnership, we are able to provide nutritious fruits and vegetables to low-income children through our Farm 2 Kids Program and to senior citizens through our Senior Food Program. Through our Community Produce Program, we distribute fresh produce every other week at more than fifty sites in our two counties. Last year alone we distributed over 11 million pounds of fresh produce through our various programs.

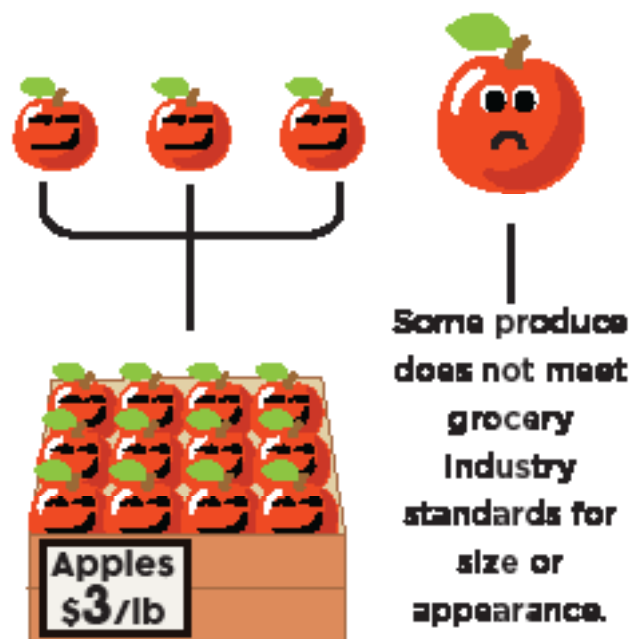
As we enter the summer months and backyard fruit trees start to ripen, consider donating your excess harvest to the Food Bank. It's another great way to help your food-insecure neighbors receive nutritious fresh produce that they often can't otherwise afford.



Larry Sly  
Executive Director



Farmers grow fruits and vegetables with the goal of selling to big grocery stores.



Instead of being discarded, this produce is given to food banks at a big discount.

## 4 Reasons to become a Food Bank Pledge Partner

Because you are committed to ending hunger, we invite you to become a Pledge Partner with the Food Bank. If you already pledge, here's a reminder of the benefits!

As a loyal Pledge Partner, you will provide continuous year-round support at lower administrative costs. We can ensure that our clients have steady access to nutritious food because we can plan our budget knowing funds will be available.

1. We can make a strong budget knowing funds will be available.
2. Easy automatic monthly, quarterly or yearly donations can be made using a credit card or checking account.
3. You'll receive annual statements for stress-free tax preparation.
4. The Food Bank saves money on printing and postage.



No pledge is too small! Just \$25 each month can provide 5,000 apples throughout the year!

If you are interested in providing food for people at risk of hunger year-round, please visit [www.foodbankccs.org/pledge](http://www.foodbankccs.org/pledge).

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## Nourish Gala will offer unique experiences

Here is just one of many amazing auction items for attendees of the Nourish Gala on May 21<sup>st</sup>. **Insider pass to Google headquarters with lunch:** Do what the general public cannot and take a tour of Google's main campus in Mountain View. This two-hour tour for up to 10 people will begin with lunch at Google's first and most famous cafe, Charley's. Next you will embark on a truly google-y experience as you walk the Googleplex's two-mile campus. You will finish your tour at the Google store, where you have the option of purchasing Google-branded apparel and much more.



The winner last year had to say this about this exclusive opportunity:

"All of us had a wonderful time and came away very impressed with Google's mission and culture. I was already a fan—now, even more so."

*Get in on the bidding at our annual Nourish Gala on May 21st! Details on the back cover.*





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# NOURISH GALA



Join the Food Bank for an evening of dinner, dancing and an exciting live auction at our biggest fundraiser of the year. Roberta Gonzalez of KPIX5 will bring her dynamic personality as host.

**May 21, 2016**

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Join the Food Bank as we showcase the impact your support makes.

Round Hill Country Club  
3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo, CA

Reserve your place online at  
**[www.foodbankccs.org/nourishgala](http://www.foodbankccs.org/nourishgala)**  
by May 13, 2016

Black tie optional

Presented by



## Upcoming Events

**MAY 14**  
Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger  
Food Drive

**MAY 28-30**  
KidFest Concord

**JUNE-JULY**  
Dollar Tree Food Drive

**AUGUST 7**  
Uncorked

Find more events and details at  
**[www.foodbankccs.org/events](http://www.foodbankccs.org/events)**