

# Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties has surplus of produce

- Aly Brown Staff Writer
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Photo by Heather Partida. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties has an abundance of fresh produce for needy families in East County, and volunteers are trying to spread the word. Pictured from left to right are David Bosuego, Antonio Partida, Ava Partida, Lily Partida and DeDe Bosuego.

Volunteers of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties are in a pickle with far too much food on their hands.

Heather Partida, along with her husband Antonio and daughters Ava and Lily, wanted to participate in a local volunteer program, so they joined the food bank to help distribute food to needy families in East County. Along with David and Dede Bosuego, they are so far the only volunteers on their particular route, which is fairly new to the area. As Aug. 20 was their first distribution, the word of fresh produce has yet to spread, leaving them with excess food.

“The extra food has to get packed up and sent to another distribution site, but I know there is a need for this here in East County,” said Heather. “We only had about 30 families come through last time. We just want to get it to the people who need it.”

The small team delivers only fresh produce, such as potatoes, onions, pears and apples. They were left with an excess of about 2,400 pounds of food, which had to be returned.

Currently, participants interested in receiving food do not need to fill out a registration form or provide proof of income. They simply state their income and number of family members in the home. Residence in the city of distribution is also not mandatory.

“At the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, we believe everyone deserves fresh fruits and vegetables,” Lisa Sherrill, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano communications director. “For the one in eight of our neighbors who turn to the food bank, fresh produce is not always affordable. We want everyone to have access to proper nutrition, which is why over half of the food distributed by the food bank and our partners are fresh fruits and vegetables. Improving access to produce for community members who cannot typically afford such nutritious food is part of the solution to fighting both hunger and improving the overall health of our community.”

The following is a list of places holding food distributions each month:

**Brentwood Immaculate Heart of Mary** – each second and fourth Tuesday, from noon to 1 p.m.

**Brentwood Community United Methodist Church** – each second and fourth Tuesday, from 4 to 5 p.m.

**The Commons at Oakley** – each second and fourth Tuesday, from 2 to 3 p.m.

**New Covenant in Bethel Island** – each first and third Sunday, from 1 to 2 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org).