

NEWS RELEASE

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FOOD BANK ANNOUNCES JOEL SJOSTROM AS NEW CEO

CONCORD, Calif., December 9, 2019— The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano's Board of Directors is pleased to announce Joel Sjostrom as the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Joel was unanimously selected by the Search Committee and Board.

"We are excited to have Joel join the team," Board Chair Tracy Tomkovicz said. "He is a leader with the experience, talent, and commitment to lead the Food Bank into the future. He is the right person for this position."

When asked why he sought out the Food Bank CEO position, Joel said, "This is an incredible opportunity to combine my passion for community service and blend it with my professional business experience to grow this incredible organization. I look forward to continuing the momentum toward the Food Bank's 50th anniversary and beyond."

Prior to joining the Food Bank, Joel, a long-term resident of Contra Costa County, was the CEO of Fairn & Swanson, one of the largest wholesalers and retailers in the American duty-free and travel retail industry.

Over the last three decades, Joel has demonstrated a record of successfully delivering consistent revenue growth, building team collaboration, and developing strong teams. He has held leadership positions at a variety of companies--ranging in size from small start-ups to multimillion-dollar retail stores-- including Metropolitan Coffee & Concession, Peet's Coffee & Tea, and Old Navy, Inc.

With a deep personal commitment to strengthening communities, Joel has long been an avid volunteer for a variety of nonprofit organizations. He has volunteered, held leadership positions, and helped fundraise for organizations including the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project (GRIP), one of the Food Bank's partner agencies. Some of the many other organizations he has worked with include: Alameda County Community Food Bank, Hope Lutheran Church Pre-School, Trinity Church Brown Bag Program, Haitian Foster Home Project, and the American Heart Association.

Joel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management and Marketing from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. A Minnesota native, Joel resides in El Sobrante, CA with his wife Sherry.

Joel takes over from long-time Executive Director Larry Sly who is retiring after dedicating his career to helping people in need. Larry has created a significant legacy of achievement and service over the past four decades.

The Food Bank engaged Koya Leadership Partners, a national executive search firm that specializes in leading searches exclusively for mission-driven clients, to conduct the national search for its next President and CEO.

ABOUT FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

For over forty years, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano has led the fight to end hunger in our community. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano provides food to low-income people at community sites and makes food available for other nonprofit organizations serving people in need. The Food Bank works to reduce food waste and raise public awareness of issues related to food and hunger. In Contra Costa and Solano counties alone, the Food Bank serves about 178,000 individuals every month and distributes over 25 million pounds of food each year, over half of which is fresh produce. For more information, visit foodbankccs.org.