

FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

January 31, 2013

Amy Scoop
Director of Grants Management
The California Wellness Foundation
6320 Canoga Avenue, Suite 1700
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Dear Ms. Scoop

Enclosed please find a Letter of Interest from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano for a \$50,000 grant in support of the Senior Food Project. We are seeking this under the health issue of Healthy Aging, as described in the How to Apply brochure.

My direct phone line is (925) 771-1312. Please feel free to call or email me at nzarchin@foodbankccs.org if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Neil Zarchin
Grants Coordinator

Encl: Letter of Interest

FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano is a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Concord, CA. We are dedicated to improving the wellness of our two county service area by providing emergency and supplemental food to low-income residents through direct distributions and partnerships with other agencies. Our annual budget is \$9.5 million, with only 5% going to administrative and fundraising activities. We are affiliated with Feeding America and the California Association of Food Banks. As the problem of hunger has increased in our counties, we have kept pace with the need and have grown from distributing 36,000 pounds of food in 1975 to over 16.5 million pounds last year (enough food for over 11 million meals). We are presently serving more than 149,000 people every month.

A few facts about the Food Bank:

- **Brief History**
The Community Food Coalition was founded in 1975 by some people who saw the need for a central clearinghouse for food donations. Back then, there were two employees, one truck, and a trailer for storing food. The driver would pick up day old bread from Safeway. People from area churches would pick it up for their food pantries. As services expanded throughout the county, we were soon renamed the Contra Costa Food Bank. In October 1995, the Contra Costa Food Bank merged with the food bank in Solano County to form what is now the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.
- **Mission Statement**
The mission of the Food Bank is to alleviate hunger and provide an efficient, coordinated system for collecting and distributing food that reduces food waste and increases public awareness regarding hunger and food security issues in Contra Costa and Solano counties.
- **Vision Statement**
Through the activities of the Food Bank and its member agencies, all hungry people in Contra Costa and Solano counties will receive at least one nutritious meal every day.
- **Diverse Revenue Stream**
The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano remains fiscally solvent and sustainable through a variety of revenue sources. For FY 2012-2102, 58% of revenue came from Individual Donors, 12% from Foundations, 10% from Corporations and 9% from Government. The remaining 11% is from miscellaneous sources.
- **Direct Distribution Programs**
The Food Bank runs six direct distribution programs: Community Produce Program (CPP), Extra Helpings (EH), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Farm 2 Kids (F2K), Food For Children (FFC) and Senior Food Program (SFP).
- **Collaborations**
We also distributed over 8.5 million pounds of food to partner agencies such as food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters last year.
- **Other Activities**
The Food Bank conducts extensive CalFresh Outreach and produces a play, "Hungry," for local middle school students.

FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

We are humbly asking the California Wellness Foundation for a grant of \$50,000 to fund the Senior Food Project (SFP) under health issue of *Healthy Aging*. The funds will be used to purchase, store, transport and distribute nutritious food that is distributed twice a month to low-income seniors in Contra Costa and Solano counties.

SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM DETAILS

- Senior Food Project (SFP) in its current form began July 2009, when Governor Schwarzenegger cut all state funding for what was then known as the Brown bag Program. That did not eliminate the need, so The Food Bank stepped to the plate and began to fund the program from other sources.
- Eligibility for SFP is based on age (55) and income (200% of federal poverty line).
- The food provided is a mix of donated canned and packaged foods, purchased shelf-stable items, bread, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables when available. The amount of fresh produce has increased to 30%, and is projected to increase to 50%.
- The Senior Food Program is well integrated into each community that it serves. We work with the staff from the senior housing sites to all residents can benefit. Senior Food distributions provide a place where elderly people can socialize, share resources, and offer services to others. Many Senior Food Program members deliver bags to their homebound neighbors. The Food Bank supplies enough food to each distribution site to ensure that anyone who meets the criteria for the program is served that day.
- We hold regular meetings for Senior Food Program volunteers where we invite speakers from other organizations to talk about topics such as physical activity, nutrition, senior housing, family care-giving, other volunteer programs and senior legal services. The volunteers take this information back to the communities where they live and share their knowledge with others.
- The total expenditure budgeted for SFP in Fiscal Year 2012-2013 is \$573,317. That pays for the purchase, storage and transportation of the food. Meg Zentner, who was a volunteer with the program for four years is now full time coordinator. A percentage of other salaries (administrative, driver and warehouse workers) and operating costs are also counted. Major funders for SFP are SCAN Health Plan (\$50,000) and Food Bank general funds.
- There are 28 distribution sites throughout Contra Costa and Solano Counties, with over 3,200 unduplicated seniors enrolled in the program.
- The Senior Food Program is an ongoing project, with no ending planned until there are no more hungry seniors.

We hope you will see the value of the Senior Food Program, consider the unique ability of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to deliver this needed resource and agree to fund this request.

Thank you.