



United Way
California Capital Region

Food Bank of Yolo County **Feeding thousands of local families**

United Way California Capital Region is proud to have the Food Bank of Yolo County as one of its 142 certified agencies in our five-county region: Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo. Founded in 1970, and incorporated in 1971, the Food Bank of Yolo County has grown from a backyard gleaning program providing a few thousand pounds of food a year, to an organization staffed by ten full-time and part-time employees and hundreds of volunteers that distributes millions of pounds of food annually. Twenty thousand families receive food each month from or through the Food Bank of Yolo County and other agencies served by the food bank.

“We’re kind of like the Costco for nonprofits,” Executive Director, Jose Martinez said, “We allow nonprofits to easily shop for items donated from companies like Walmart and Walgreens and also local grocers and rice growers.” Martinez and his staff also have put forth an effort to significantly increase fresh produce distributions in the last three years. Healthy eating and nutrition are big priorities for the food bank. Pictures of the food pyramid and comprehensive nutritional information are provided for all of their items so agencies can make healthy choices.

The food bank also uses volunteers to pack 25-pound food boxes and distribute them as a part of their rural food delivery program. The boxes are distributed to nine rural sites. About 300 lbs per year per family are distributed through this program alone. The Food Bank of Yolo County also is a distributor for the USDA commodities for the entire county and is the first food bank in the country that is a WIC authorized vendor.

The Food Bank of Yolo County has not been immune to a dramatic need for services that many nonprofits are facing. “We have seen a dramatic increase in the food services,” Martinez said. “We currently serve about 300 people weekly on Fridays and that has risen from 100 people very quickly.” While the Food Bank of Yolo County has a core group of dedicated volunteers and donors, they’re currently looking for someone special to purchase a new cooler and freezer for their warehouse, which would increase its capacity to handle more fresh produce.

For more information about the Food Bank of Yolo County, visit <http://www.foodbankyc.org/>. If you’re interested in volunteering please contact Teryl Warren at teryl@foodbankyc.org or call 530-668-0690 ext. 106.