



IMPACT 2017

4 in 10 
HUNGER IS AT CRISIS LEVELS IN TULARE COUNTY - 43% OF RESIDENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE (CHIS, 2016)


 **7,175,089**  **lbs**

of food recovered & redistributed to more than 70 agencies and organizations in Tulare County

EQUALS
THE WEIGHT OF

1,750 CARS

EQUALS
15%

Was fresh produce!

EQUALS
328,188
 individuals served through our pantry network of 31 sites
17,504
 individuals served directly through 12 fresh produce distributions

VOLUNTEERS WORKED 
37,556
Hours to PACK, RECOVER, SORT, and REDISTRIBUTE THIS FOOD

WE'RE BUILDING A BETTER FOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL TULARE COUNTY RESIDENTS AND PROVING THAT A HEALTHIER ACCESS IS POSSIBLE-- ONE THAT FEEDS TULARE COUNTY WITH HEALTH, SKILLS AND BUILDS COMMUNITY

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.





FIRST FRIDAY TACO POTLUCK

2ND SATURDAY GLOBAL TABLE COOKING

Join us in 2018

MONTHLY CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



IDENTIFYING & ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AT A HEALTHCARE SITE



SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE & HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS

#morethanafoodbank

SUMMER COOKING CAMP FOR KIDS

BACKYARD HARVEST





2017 was our first full year in our Exeter facility. Thanks to the FoodLink team, this year was a great opportunity for growth, education, partnerships, and events. As we approach our 40th anniversary this fall, we're excited about what 2018 will bring.

Since I started here at FoodLink, I've been following a dream or a mission that we can build a nutrition resource center that Tulare County needs. We can be a place where nutrition breaks the cycle of poverty. We can be a place where community comes together to learn, inspire, and grow.

I saw glimpses of this dream coming true in 2017 when I witnessed kids attended our cooking camp, 500 people attending Food Day, food service directors training in our teaching kitchen to create healthier school meals, and when our director of food system programs tells me that she's getting numerous requests for nutrition, cooking and gardening classes. I still aspire to partner with healthcare providers and create diabetes friendly cooking classes to address chronic disease challenges in Tulare County.

This past year has also been a year where multiple threats have been directed to cut safety-net programs like SNAP (food stamps) in order to balance our federal budget. The fear felt by our participants is palpable. Cuts or changes to SNAP, or other safety net programs, will cause serious consequences for our most vulnerable populations, nationwide and right here in Tulare County. Our food bank doesn't have the capacity to help all the new participants who will seek us out for food assistance. Changes to our safety net will also make it harder for our current participants, who are trying so desperately to pull themselves out of poverty, to contribute to our community.

Despite the challenges we are facing, we remain committed to offer programs with respect, dignity, and compassion for all those in our community who reach out to our program resources. We hope you'll celebrate the activities highlighted in this 2017 impact report and continue supporting our work through the activities and events taking place this year.

Sarah

Sarah Ramirez, MPH, PhD
Executive Director, FoodLink for Tulare County

THE FARM BILL MATTERS TO ALL

**MARCH 22
2-4PM**

4437 S LASPINA, TULARE, CA

The farm bill renews in 2018. It is a piece of legislation supporting that creates jobs and supports rural economies. It touches farm research and crop insurance — which have an indirect impact on food prices — to forestry, food stamps and school lunches. The farm bill is about everyone!

FOOD LINK
TULARE COUNTY

DEEP ROOTS

develops a more equitable food system for ALL RESIDENTS OF TULARE COUNTY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

ENTERTAINMENT BY
LANCE CANALES

Admission prices
\$20 at door
\$15 presale
\$5 for kids (under 18)
\$50 Family of 4

Purchase at <http://www.foodlinktc.org>
OR <http://tiny.cc/RootStomp2018>

Kids welcome!!
Petting Zoo
Face painting
Games

SAT. MARCH 24TH
2-5PM

D.E.E.P. ROOTS
FOODLINK GARDEN
611 2ND ST.
EXETER

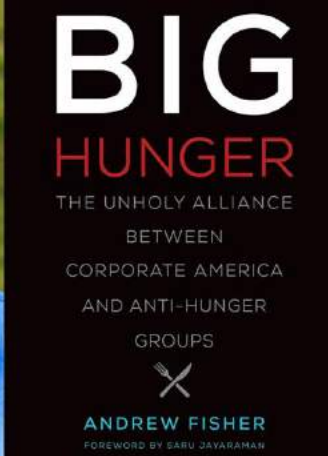
Root Stomp
Garden Party
Bbq ★ Live Music ★ Craft Beer

For more details on our Root Stomp Garden Party, visit www.foodlinktc.org

Big Hunger: Food Security for Social Change an evening with Andy Fisher

Friday April 20, 5:30pm

FoodLink's DEEP Roots Garden



Join us for an intriguing & relaxed evening with Andy Fisher, author of Big Hunger.

Ticket Options--

5pm Meet & Greet Reception and Book signing with Andy \$30
(includes your meal & event ticket)

Early bird purchase (purchased by April 6), \$10

General admission (April 7-18), \$15

\$20 at the door

<http://tiny.cc/FisherTulare>



Drive to Feed Kids™

Changing lives
one meal at a time

Dinner & Auction
August 10th, 2018
5:30 pm

International Agri-Center, Tulare

SUPER FOODS FOR SUPER KIDS

Send hunger packing with weekend SmartPacks for the school year. Event proceeds purchase healthy foods for kids.

AUGUST 10TH

\$50 dinner ticket

Table Sponsorship for 8 people, \$1500

Purchase Tickets online: <http://tiny.cc/drive2feedkids>

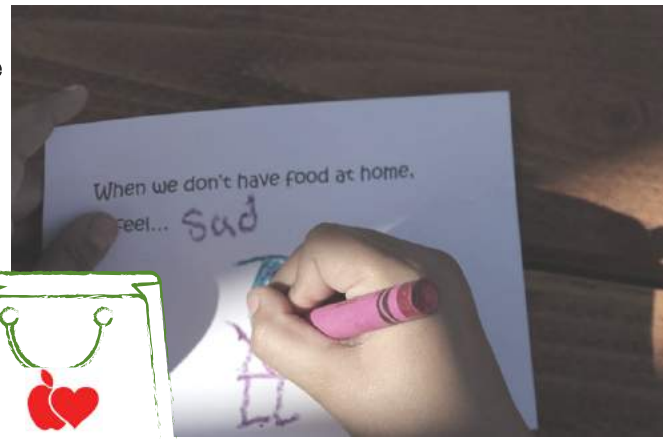
For more information on sponsorships contact
Shay Rambur (559) 684-3277





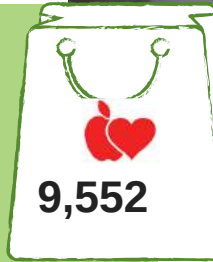
76% of Tulare County school-age children qualify for free & reduced priced meals

41% of Tulare County children live in poverty



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017 we delivered 9,552 SmartPacks to school age children providing them with food for the weekends.



We provided 6,079lbs of fresh produce to food service directors (Aug-Dec 2017 data). This food was used to create healthier school meals for students.

We have 4 healthy school farmer's markets providing fresh fruits & vegetables to school-age children.

Summer lunch 2017 was a partnership with a local school food service director. This means fresher meals for kids and local employment.



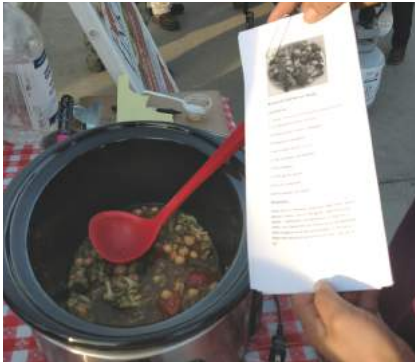
I like SMART PACKS because...

I like smart packs because they help us on food and the snacks are delicious and they help us with all the snacks we get from you.
I also appreciate and thank the people who pay for food.



I worked as a dietician and worked in a hospital in England. Today 1/3 of my social security pays for rent and the rest pays bills and buys food. Nutrition on the Go makes healthy eating possible. It's important because of my diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, and breast cancer in remission. I make the produce last an entire month and have a chance to cook healthy recipes for my neighbors.

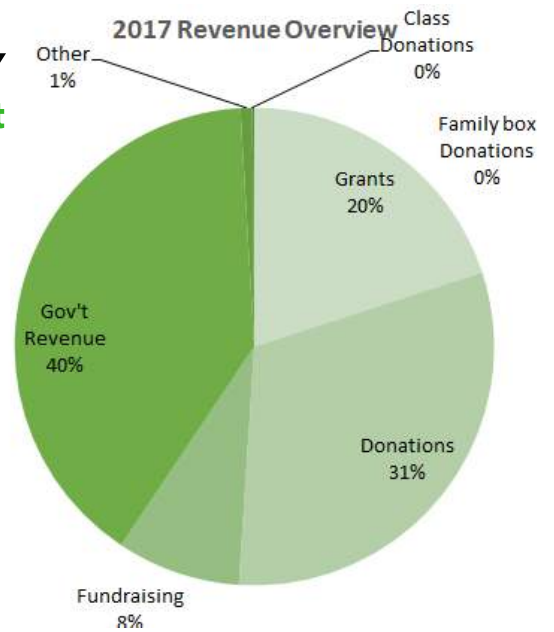
Organizations like FoodLink allow for people to survive and pursue a healthy life through accessible, fresh food.- Margaret



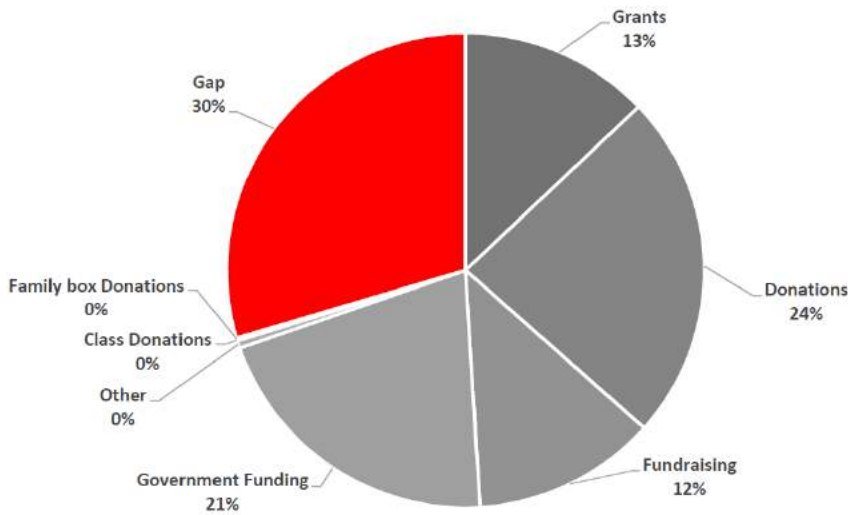
**ACCESS+ EDUCATION + DIGNITY
= IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY**

My first class was a learning experience for all of us, but the second class was different. All of a sudden we were not strangers. They knew my name and I knew theirs – there was trust. Each week I was excited to see their faces, and I can honestly say, they were excited to see me too. Then one class, a student asked if they could keep what they cooked. “Of course,” I said, and the smile on their faces let me know that I was making a difference. I look forward every week to teaching these kids something they can apply to their lives because they are future mothers and fathers; leaders of our community.- Sara, Nutrition Educator

The Drought Food assistance program provided more than 300,000lbs of food EVERY month . We delivered 88,242 boxes of drought food. It also represented half of our government funding (\$275,000) in 2017. The food and the funds from this program have ENDED and leaves a large gap.



2018 Projected Gap in Revenue



My family faced many challenges, and we found a blessing in FoodLink for Tulare County. It wasn't until I visited FoodLink that I truly understood all that they do for our community- Natalie, Donor & Supporter



We live in an environment where you can go into a supermarket and buy what you want, and it seems unbelievable to learn that there are people who cannot do that. I am overwhelmed to learn about the number of people in our community who don't have sufficient access to food.... Everyone at the Food Bank works hard every day to address hunger through food and education. -Astrid, Donor & Volunteer

When we had children, we told them we wanted them to be in a position to give back to their community, so like our parents, we taught by example. We vote in every election, we are active volunteers, and we donate to worthy causes – we strive to be good citizens, and make a difference in our community!- Bob & Elainea Scott, Donors & Supporters



We hosted the dinner for the 2017 California Ag in the Classroom



The Farm Bureau also held their annual Superintendents breakfast in our teaching kitchen

HANDS ON SKILLS THROUGH CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



2017 Kids Summer Cooking



Tamales & Poetry



Executive Director Dr. Sarah Ramirez speaking about food security through policy, environment, and systems change



Nutrition Educators, Sara Arellano & Patty Tovar, provide a hands-on cooking demonstration for the 2017 Farm worker women's conference

WE'RE CONTINUING OUR WORK TOWARD A HEALTHY & HUNGER FREE TULARE COUNTY IN 2018

DEFEND SNAP

We know SNAP keeps families out of poverty and decreases the risk of hunger.

Over 20% of Tulare County residents participated in SNAP at least at one time last year-- 2/3 are children and 6% are seniors. SNAP delivered \$193 million in 100% benefits to the county last year, created \$346 million in economic activity and supported 1,900 jobs.

EXPAND NUTRITION EDUCATION OFFERINGS

We know food skills are important to promote healthier food choices and help build community. We will increase the number of free and low-cost recreation cooking workshops offered in our teaching kitchen.

EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROMOTE FOOD WITH DIGNITY

Through the food system alliance we will expand partnerships with organizations to improve dignified food access and food security throughout Tulare County.

INCREASE ACCESS TO FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES FOR UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES

With our new produce truck, we'll offer fresh fruits & vegetables in small sites and communities.

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 CSET seniors
 Earlimart First Assembly
 Exeter Food Closet
 Bethel Spanish Assembly, Farmersville
 Goshen Family Services
 First Presbyterian, Lemon Cove
 Linnell Camp USDA
 1st Pent. Church New London
 Lindsay Strathmore Coordinating Council
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 WoodLake Food Pantry
 Woodville USDA

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION FOR 2018?

We've all heard of New Year's resolutions. Usually by March many of those resolutions begin to fade away except when the goals you set are aligned with your values and your life mission. Instead of setting short-term goals such as "lose ten pounds" or "run a marathon" a mission allows you to connect with a broader life purpose or creating a focus for your life. Our own mission focuses on promoting equitable and dignified access to nutritious, healthy food through education. If educating for a healthy and nourished community is part of your personal mission. Support our programs to connect agriculture, health, and nutrition to create a thriving Tulare County.

#bethelink #thinkoutsidethefoodbox

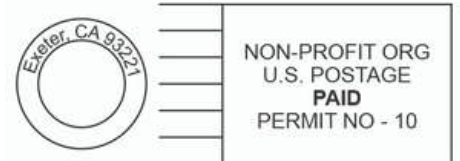
WHAT IS YOUR MISSION FOR 2018?

We remain committed to our traditional food bank programs and we've expanded our programs and commitment for education, leadership development, and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Join us today



PO BOX 391
611 2ND ST,
EXETER CA 93221



Return Service Requested



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(559) 651-3663