



# FOOD *for thought*

SUMMER 2014

## Thank you for the food—it's a blessing

My name is Pasha and I'm here today with my daughter, Serena. She's three years old, and I've been taking care of her on my own since she was born. Welfare is the only steady income I have right now, so I'm just trying to maintain my living situation. I haven't come here for about four months, but right now, I really need the food. It's a real blessing.

**"It's important to try and show someone that you care."**

I'm hoping to get a full-time job soon. It's been hard getting work because I don't have childcare for Serena. She just got her immunizations, and I got the application to put her in school. I used to do construction work. I've been working with my brother doing gutter work, but work has been pretty slow. We're both

looking for steady jobs, but I can see blessings in the making right now.

### A heart for giving back

We recently had a family come to our church who were in much worse shape than I'm in. Our church helped them get enough money to stay in a motel and then a shelter took them in. I took them down to the welfare office and told them about the food closet.

When I was growing up, I remember going hungry. It was hard. Now I've got those memories in my heart, and I want to give back to people who are in that same place. I refer a lot of people to the food closet. It's important to try and show someone that you care.

To me, the people who provide the food are doing what God loves—feeding people. I appreciate the food and it's a blessing to Serena and me. The world needs more people like you to make it a better place. Thank you!



*Pasha's daughter is ready to start preschool, which will allow him to go back to work.*



### INSIDE



2

Food for thought from the Executive Director



3

Food that helps so many people



4

Cheerleaders, monthly givers and volunteers

# Food for Thought

from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Two years ago we piloted a summer Kids Farmers Market to help ease the burden of families whose children no longer receive free and reduced-price meals when school is over. Setting up at a low-income mobile home park, children went home with 15-20 pounds of fresh produce...and it was a huge hit! This summer will be our third year of bringing fresh produce for children to take home to their struggling families.



Summer is an abundant time of year in our agricultural community, but for those who are hungry, it can be a stark reminder of what they don't have.

And this year, as farmers face the uncertainty of the drought's effect on our growing season, the quality and quantity of fresh produce that's available to Yolo Food Bank could be dramatically affected. But with your continued support we will be prepared.

## The need at our front door

I've never seen so many people coming through the front door of Yolo Food Bank. For many of them it's the first time they've come. They're in tight situations and don't know where to turn for help. We get them started with a couple of bags of food and give them a resource kit explaining where to get help. They remind me about the reality of our mission, and about how thankful they are that they're not in this alone.

I am eternally grateful to all the people, businesses and farmers who have supported and continue to support Yolo Food Bank. There have been some wonderful surprises this year—new organizations that have stepped up and made donations in cash or gifts-in-kind. New volunteers or donors who've come forward and let us know we're doing the right thing. This summer, your support is needed more than ever—thank you for partnering with us.

Gratefully,

*Kevin*

Kevin Sanchez  
Executive Director



## Board Member Spotlight

### Jim Durst—It's your obligation to help out



Farmer and Board Member Jim Durst has been donating fresh produce to Yolo Food Bank for 15 years.

Fifteen years ago Jim Durst, of Durst Organic Growers, was looking for more productive ways to channel some of his organic farm produce that didn't make it to market. His call to Yolo Food Bank was the beginning of a long friendship. Now Jim plants a portion of his fields specifically to gift to the Food Bank. "We also go back out into the field and glean useable food that was left behind for cosmetic reasons by our harvesters and distribute that, too," he says. "We're distributing the abundance that we've been given." Three years ago, Jim joined our Board of Directors and has been an active advocate for Yolo Food Bank among the agricultural community.

Jim remembers growing up in a rural, agricultural community where his mother taught him to help those who were in need. "My mother found out about a family that was living underneath the bridge. So she went home and packed up food and gave it to them," recounts Jim. "She thought nothing of it. If you have it and somebody needs it, it's your obligation to help out." It's an outlook that Jim has never lost.

## Paying it forward

One of the programs that Jim is most excited about is *Shared Harvest*, where farmers like himself begin to see themselves as growers for the Food Bank. "If you go back and read the book of Leviticus, it was the farmers who were instructed to leave portions of fields unharvested for the widows and children, for those in need. That has been a concept that has been pervasive in history and we need to make sure that concept does not get lost with our generation."

"I think that people who are volunteering and people who are contributing, they're paying it forward to people they will never meet," says Jim. "But they're doing it because it comes from a place in their heart of what it means to be a human."

We are grateful for the support of farmers like Jim who provide fresh, healthy produce to distribute to those who are struggling in Yolo County. To find out how you can be part of the *Shared Harvest* program, please contact Linda Zablotny-Hurst at 530-668-0690, ext. 104.

# Thank you for the food that helps so many people

My name is Angelica and my husband and I come here twice a week to get our evening meal. We moved to this area about three years ago. We used to live in the Bay Area, but when my husband had to stop working because of his health condition, we could no longer afford the rent there.

**“The Food Bank... helps so many people. I am very grateful and blessed.”**

Paying our rent is the biggest portion of our income. For people who have a low income, it’s very hard to live a normal life. You have to cut down on everything, but you still need to pay for a car and other debts.

We live very frugally. I don’t buy much, just the basic food we need. And I go to Yolo Food Bank once a month to also get some

staples. I appreciate the gifts people give to the Food Bank, it means there is always a place where you can go for help to get food.

## At least we have shelter

There are a lot of people living in this area who are really in need, and we meet a lot of homeless people when we come here to eat. Even though things are hard for us, at least we have shelter. I would bring them to my house if I had a house, but I only have an apartment, so that is a sad thing. But we experience fellowship with all the people who eat here and we get to know each other.

I really appreciate the efforts of the Food Bank to give us food here. It helps so many people who really need it. And for that I am very grateful and blessed.

*Angelica and her husband get a meal at Davis Community Meals, one of our 60 partner agencies.*



## Making your best deal!

**My Broker Donates (MBD)** is a wonderful new service that allows many of you to support Yolo Food Bank when you buy or sell a home. Our partners at MBD will match you with a caring, qualified agent who gets the best possible results for you, and also generates a large donation in your name to Yolo Food Bank.

When you contact MBD, they connect you with market-leading, experienced and caring real estate professionals in your area. You choose the realtor you like best. When your transaction closes, your broker sends part of his or her commission to MBD, *at no cost to you*. Then they make a donation to Yolo Food Bank in your name. A sale or purchase of a \$250,000 home means a contribution from our partner of more than one thousand dollars!

Working with MBD is an easy way for you to help meet the needs of the 27,000 people we serve each month in our community. If you are considering buying or selling real estate, we hope you will reach out to My Broker Donates. For more information, go to: [mybrokerdonates.com/yolofoodbank/](http://mybrokerdonates.com/yolofoodbank/)

## Porking out at Pig Day Breakfast

Yolo Food Bank held its annual Pig Day Breakfast on Saturday, March 1, to thank the community for its generous support throughout the year. The breakfast is part of the City of Davis’ Annual Pig Day Celebration at the Davis Farmers Market. Despite the rain, 750 community members joined us for a delicious, free breakfast.

The annual Pig Day Breakfast would not have been possible without the generous support of the Davis Food Co-Op and Nugget Markets, who donated the food items served at this year’s breakfast. A special thanks to the terrific volunteers from the Davis Bahá’i Community and the UC Davis Dining Services who helped with event activities and prepared a delicious breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, potatoes, coffee and juice. And, we appreciate the generosity of the Davis Bike Club who once again gave a generous donation to Yolo Food Bank.

Yolo Food Bank’s collection of eight “Piggy Banks” were at the breakfast to greet guests. Thanks to the generosity of event participants, “Chalkboard Charlie” was voted this year’s favorite piggy bank! Thank you to all who participated to make Pig Day Breakfast 2014 such a success.



*Stephanie Sanchez, agency relations coordinator and event chair, and Evon Willhoff, Davis Bahá’i volunteer, overseeing the Pig Day Breakfast and Piggy Bank vote.*

## Contact Us

1244 Fortna Avenue  
Woodland, CA 95776  
530-668-0690  
yolofoodbank.org

### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday,  
8:30 am–5:00 pm

### Warehouse Hours:

Monday (receiving only)  
9:30 am–2:30 pm  
Tuesday–Friday,  
8:30 am–2:30 pm

### Board of Directors:

Tom Richardson, President  
Terri LaBriola, Vice President  
Jim Durst, Treasurer  
Tom Muller, Secretary  
Lloyd Knox, Member  
Kari Fry, Member

### Staff:

Kevin Sanchez  
Executive Director  
kevin@yolofoodbank.org

Karen Strach  
Director of Programs  
karen@yolofoodbank.org

Corkey Mapalo  
Director of Warehouse Operations  
corkey@yolofoodbank.org

Linda Zablotny-Hurst  
Director of Development  
linda@yolofoodbank.org

Valerie Dennis  
Office Manager  
valerie@yolofoodbank.org

Damaris Carston  
Volunteer & Food Drive Coordinator  
damaris@yolofoodbank.org

Stephanie Sanchez  
Agency Relations Coordinator  
stephanie@yolofoodbank.org

April Drips  
Program Coordinator  
april@yolofoodbank.org



**STAY** connected



yolofoodbank.org

## Food Bank Heroes

# Jake and Ed Clemens: Cheerleaders, monthly givers and volunteers

Jake and Ed Clemens are cheerleaders, monthly givers and volunteers for Yolo Food Bank. Last year they participated in the hunger study, a national survey that helps Food Banks understand the depth and breadth of food insecurity in an area. Visiting sites all over the county, Jake and Ed were surprised at the overwhelming numbers of people who need food assistance in our community, particularly children and students.

Although Jake and Ed have been active in justice issues for a while now, three years ago they began regularly supporting Yolo Food Bank. Now they are weekly volunteers at the Kids Farmers Market. “You see these little kids and you want to fill up their little bag, because they’re getting food that’s really going to be used,” says Ed.

Jake remembers a time growing up when illness left her family in dire need of food assistance. “My father came home with this bag of those silver cans with no labels on them,” says Jake. “Mystery items in the can and powdered milk. It was a very difficult experience for my family.” It was an experience that left her with a heart for families who are struggling. “Nobody wants to be in that position,” says Jake. “But the Food Bank does a good job of providing help in a dignified way.”

Jake and Ed strongly believe in the value of Yolo Food Bank to help meet the needs of those who are food insecure in our neighborhoods. “This is the place where the smallest effort on someone’s part—from donating money, time or food—goes directly to the people who need it most,” says Jake.

“The Food Bank is providing the basic necessities that allow people to be productive and think about other things,” says Ed. “This is what you’re doing when you’re supporting Yolo Food Bank—you’re energizing people to help them go out and make a better life for themselves.”

You can join Jake and Ed in their commitment to fighting hunger in Yolo County by making a donation or signing up to volunteer at [yolofoodbank.org](http://yolofoodbank.org)

**“Donating money, time or food goes directly to the people who need it most.”**

—Jake Clemens



*Jake and Ed Clemens give monthly to support the work of Yolo Food Bank.*

## Upcoming Events

### Running of the Turkeys

November 27, 2014  
5K Run/Walk starting at 8am

Support struggling Yolo County families by joining our 5k run/walk beginning at 8am on Thanksgiving morning. Start your day of Thanksgiving by giving back!



## More ways to help fight hunger!

For many of our Yolo County neighbors, having enough to eat is an everyday concern. Your generous contribution of funds, food or time puts you in the lead in fighting against hunger in our community.

**Volunteer**—We rely on the critical support of more than 10,000 volunteer hours to help distribute millions of pounds of food each year. Volunteers at our warehouse help sort food for distribution or repackage bulk food items. We also need help setting up food at our Kids Farmers Markets or helping with harvesting at our Food Bank Farmer’s program. We welcome individuals over age 16, and groups.

**Host a Food Drive**—Are you part of an organization, business or church who would like to give back? Organize a food drive to support Yolo Food Bank. We are in need of non-perishable food items such as canned fruits, vegetables, meats, soups, dried beans, peanut butter, rice or boxed pasta. Call for collection barrel delivery.

For more information please contact Damaris Carston at 530-668-0690 or [Damaris@yolofoodbank.org](mailto:Damaris@yolofoodbank.org)