

**2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT** 

# FEEDING HUNGER FEEDING HOPE





## **Merced County Food Bank**

### Our mission is

**To improve** the health and well-being of Merced & Mariposa County residents affected by hunger; through the acquisition, storage, and distribution of nutritious food.

**To provide** and advocate for, increased access to, and consumption of, nutritious fruits, vegetables, nuts and other foods.

**To integrate,** facilitate and advocate for programs and services that address hunger's underlying and related issues.

We focus our efforts on the immediate distribution of food while simultaneously working on long-term strategies to address the root causes of food insecurity.

Together with our partner agencies, volunteers, and supporters, we work to end hunger by providing food directly, improving access to food, and promoting nutrition.

MCFB serves as a lifeline for our communities. As the agency that acquires, stores, and distributes food, we play a critical role in maintaining and improving the health of our community's low income, and food insecure populations.

Food makes it possible for kids to learn more in school, for adults to perform better at work, and for seniors to stay healthy and active. Food allows people to lead fuller more productive lives.

With the community behind us, we can ensure that everyone in Merced & Mariposa Counties can receive the nutritious food they need to thrive.



Together with our partner agencies, volunteers, and supporters, we work to end hunger by providing food directly, improving access to food, and promoting nutrition.



### 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# Contents

2	Merced County Food Bank	19	Federal   State   County   City
4	Letter from Bill Gibbs	20	Partnerships
6	How the Food Bank Works	22	MCFB Photos
7	2020 By the Numbers	24	Donors
8	COVID-19	28	Our Platinum Supporters (\$25,000+
10	Partner Capacity Development	29	Our Gold Supporters (\$10,000+)
11	Highlighted Programs	29	Our Silver Supporters (\$5,000+)
12	Promoting Nutrition	30	Our Bronze Supporters (\$2,500+)
13	Providing Food Directly	30	Our Emerald Supporters (\$1,200+)
14	Volunteers	31	Our Amber Supporters (\$600+)
16	Community Food Drives &	32	Thank You!
18	Fundraisers  Collaboration	33	Board of Directors
TO	Collaboration		

# Letter from Bill Gibbs on behalf of the Merced County Food Bank

Well, 2020 is behind us, and I think I can speak for all us when I say "that was one heck of a year." Looking back, words like tumultuous, scary, apprehensive and stressful seem to sum up the last nine months of the year. Hopefully, this year will be better than last. But, if not, we are ready to face any new challenges that present themselves to our community.

I'm confident saying that not only because we made it through 2020, but also because this community stepped up and helped us in so many ways last year – as they did for many other organizations and non-profits. Through that support, we developed many new relationships, partnerships and extended our capacity to our network of partner agencies.

I'm often asked how COVID impacted the Merced County Food Bank. While the answer may seem clear, it's a complicated answer; one that continues to impact us into 2021—much like many other businesses in our community.

The short answer is that COVID increased the number of people who needed our services (and the services of our partner agencies) by 100%–250% through the spring and early

Everyone was
working together
to address
hunger in our
community.

summer, and increased to roughly 350% by the end of 2020. COVID also affected our ability to acquire food resources due to disruptions to the supply chain. It also had a devastating impact on seniors who remain isolated as a safety precaution, and

as a result, many of our distributions to seniors at senior housing communities were restricted

by corporate safety protocols and we couldn't get food to them as we usually did.

Fortunately, early in the pandemic we were able to help facilitate and support a partnership between the private sector (Merced Yosemite Realty) the public sector (Merced County) and the nonprofit community (United Way & MCFB) to provide delivery of meals to homebound seniors – which continues to this day.

In addition to the extra staffing provided by Federal, State and County entities, we also received support from our community. I lost count of the number of times people walked through the door and said "I just got a stimulus check, and I'd like to share it with the food bank" or, they wanted to volunteer because they knew we needed help. Those actions not only demonstrated what a loving and giving community this is, but helped boost the morale of the staff, troops and volunteers when we shared those stories with them; because it showed everyone was working together to address hunger in our community.

MCFB was also actively working to assist our partner agencies through this tumultuous time. Normally, food banks across the nation have what's called a "shared maintenance fee" in other words, a cost to buy food at the food bank. Those fees help pay for our storage and distribution costs, and represent about 12% of our budget. Knowing that COVID was going to hit our partner agencies harder than it hit MCFB, we worked with several of our Foundation supporters (Central California Alliance for Health, Central Valley Community Foundation) and the United Way of Merced County to raise funds to offset the



shared maintenance fee for our pantry partners from May 2020 through April 2021. Essentially, we eliminated costs for our partner agencies for a year, so that cost was not a barrier to them getting food into the community.

In addition, we raised money to enhance our parent agency's storage and distribution capacity. Money was used to buy refrigerators, freezers, forklifts, pallet jacks, and a 24ft refrigerated truck for our partners.

In addition to Foundation and community support, our public partners really stepped up and helped in 2020. The County worked with us closely to coordinate FEMA assistance, PPE gear, National Guard support, and provided funding for an additional distribution vehicle, PPE gear, and a racking system for the warehouse. The City of Merced is also supporting MCFB

through various programs that supported additional COVID staffing and food costs.

The effects of COVID are still with us; unemployment, underemployment, higher food costs, and higher rates of food insecurity. The housing crisis of 2008, showed us that the Valley will lag behind urban areas during a recovery, so we need to stay committed to fighting hunger in 2021 even if it looks like the rest of the state or country is returning to pre-COVID normalcy.

All of us at MCFB and partner agencies are very thankful for the support, encouragement, and involvement from all of our friends, supporters and community. Whatever 2021 brings, I am confident that all of us can handle it together—as we did in 2020.



All of us at MCFB and partner agencies

are very thankful for the
support, encouragement and involvement
from all of our
friends, supporters and community.

Appreciatively yours,

Bill Gibbs

Bill Gibbs, Executive Director

### How the Food Bank Works

The process of acquiring, storing and distributing food to our hungry neighbors requires a dynamic infrastructure and sophisticated management.

The Merced County Food Bank (a member of the Feeding America Network), secures donations from food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, shippers, packers, growers, and from government agencies, individuals and other organizations.

Donated food is stored at MCFB's 30,000 square foot warehouse that has over 7,000 square feet of refrigerated and frozen storage. Food is inventoried, inspected, and categorized. MCFB then distributes donated food and grocery products to over 100 food bank partner agencies.

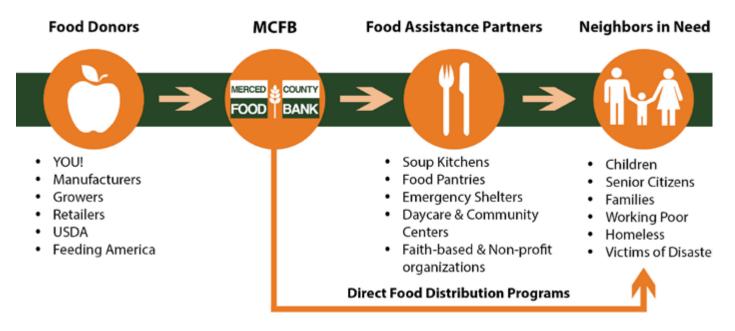
Partner agencies, in turn, distribute food and grocery items through their food pantries and meal programs that serve families, children, seniors and others at risk of hunger. Last year, MCFB distributed over 8,400,000 pounds of food.

In addition to distributing food to partner agencies, MCFB also directly serves the public through our Senior Brown Bag Program, USDA distribution sites and through other Food Assistance Programs.

MCFB also supports programs that improve food safety and security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that addresses hunger and its underlying issues.



Merced County Food Bank Warehouse



# 2020 By the Numbers

371,000

individual distributions were provided by the Food Bank. 16,000+

meals served each month

8,425,000

pounds of food were delivered throughout Merced & Mariposa Counties

2,000,000+

pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed. 132,418

COVID relief boxes distributed

91,327

Senior Brown Bags were delivered to seniors

14,211

hours of work done by volunteers

100

non-profit partners relied on us to supply food for their food programs 75,000+

children received healthy nutritious food

7,000+

seniors received supplemental food bags

\$1

provides 5 meals

3,632

volunteers who contributed their time to fight hunger

Together, we changed many lives!

# COVID-19

s the pandemic unfolded in the spring, Amany challenges were presented to us. First, was the disruption to the supply chain. Food banks get much of their food from our corporate Feeding America partners such as Walmart, Costco, Save Mart, Target, etc. and private entities like McLane Company, Yosemite Wholesale, and Grocery Outlet. Secondly, we acquire and share food within the family of 48 food banks throughout the state. When we share food with each other, the cost is roughly 8-10 cents a pound for food. We also receive some food support (about 18%) from federal funding sources. Lastly, when needed, we purchase food on the wholesale market with dollars that are donated to us.

During the early stages of the pandemic there was a massive buying spree at all of our Feeding America and private partners. That surge in purchases meant our partners didn't have much to donate to MCFB. Our donations were about 10% of what they were year over year for the same time period. Consequently, the food bank-to-food bank trading ceased because each food bank needed all their products to feed people in their communities. The wholesale market was quickly depleted by the major retailers purchasing product to restock their shelves. The retail market was then inundated with orders from major retailers, wholesalers, and nonprofits like MCFB.

The resulting massive long-term purchase contracts by industry leaders did three things. First, it depleted the supply of available food through the spring and into the fall. Even now, it's hard to find canned vegetables in bulk. Secondly, it drove the prices of food up significantly. Lastly,

it disputed the supply chain and caused 4–6 month delays on ordered products, if you could even get items.

Concurrent with the food supply issue was the subsequent massive layoffs as a result of COVID restrictions. In January 2020 the statewide unemployment rate was about 3.9%; by May it was 15.5%. In Merced County the January 2020 unemployment rate was about 7.8% and by May it was 17%. As a result, MCFB and our partner agencies began to see significantly more people needing food resources. Many of them had been laid off and had submitted unemployment paperwork, but had to wait months to get any income. Many times, both wage earners in a household had lost all their income.

The problem was so large that the state mobilized the National Guard to assist food banks with the distribution of food. Many of you who drove by the Food Bank between April and October saw the lines of people seeking assistance. During that time period, we had the National Guard, California Conservation Corp, Civil Air Patrol and the Air National Guard here assisting with food distribution in addition to our regular volunteers.

In April we were serving approximately 300 people a day at the Food Bank. By September that had risen to 1,000–1,200 a day—that's in addition to our normal 38 weekly food distributions throughout the County. During the peak, we had over 40 people a day helping in the warehouse when we normally had seven.





Merced County Food Bank | August 21, 2020

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# **Partner Capacity Development**

CFB was also actively working to assist our **IVI** partner agencies through this tumultuous time. Normally, food banks across the nation have what's called a "shared maintenance fee" in other words, a cost to buy food at the food bank. Those fees help pay for our storage and distribution costs, and represent about 12% of our budget. Knowing that COVID was going to hit our partner agencies harder than it hit MCFB, we worked with several of our Foundation supporters (Central California Alliance for Health, Central Valley Community Foundation) and the United Way of Merced County to raise funds to offset the shared maintenance fee for our pantry partners from May 2020 through April 2021.

Essentially, we eliminated costs for our partner agencies for a year, so that cost was not a barrier to them getting food into the community. In addition, we raised money to enhance our parent agency's storage and distribution capacity.

For instance, we purchased twenty-five 52" wide stainless steel commercial freezers and refrigerators to distribute to our partner agencies to increase their capacity to store frozen and refrigerated foods at their pantries.

We purchased a used 24-foot refrigerated box truck with a lift gate and provided it to an agency who provides food to low-income people in the Le Grand/Planada area. This increased their distribution capacity and extended the life of their program because their old truck was about to be out of compliance with air quality standards.

We also provided a new refrigerated van to a Merced Church pantry that was expanding their distribution area but lacked the finances to purchase a vehicle. We also provide funds for another church pantry to help pay for a new cold-box unit on site for their distribution. We also now have another refrigerated van available on an as-needed basis for partners who just need a vehicle just for a specific day of distribution.

The aggregate effect of the enhanced capacity of our partner agencies revealed itself in two primary ways in 2020 and early 2021. First, partner agencies were able to stay open and feed people because there was no cost to acquire food due to the elimination of the shared maintenance cost - which we will be eliminating again this year 2021.

Secondly, with the added free equipment like new cold boxes, refrigerated trucks, refrigerated vans, forklifts, pallet jacks, refrigerators and freezers, carts and other materials, our partner were able to expand their storage and distribution capacity—which resulted in approximately a 24% increase in food being distributed to those in need.

> Essentially, we eliminated costs for our partner agencies for a year, so that cost was not a barrier to them getting food into the community.



# **Highlighted Programs**

### Senior Brown Bag Program

The Senior Brown Bag Program provides supplemental nutritious groceries twice a month to over 3,500 seniors at 16 distribution sites in Merced and Mariposa Counties.

There is no cost to the individuals served and eligibility is determined by using the federal income guidelines for poverty. The Senior Brown Bag program is designed to help those whose main source of income is Social Security, and who normally have to choose between nutritious foods and crucial medications.



Next to children, seniors are the most vulnerable group at risk of hunger. Senior food insecurity has risen as a result of the recession. The number of seniors at risk of hunger in 2019 was 68% higher than in 2009. Pre-seniors between the ages of 55 and 64, are particularly vulnerable as they are not yet of retirement age and thus ineligible for safety net programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Currently, in Merced and Mariposa Counties there are over 21,000 seniors whose income is at

or below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines which is equal to \$1,286 a month or less.

Without the Senior Brown Bag Program, many seniors in Merced and Mariposa counties would be extremely isolated and at increased risk for malnourishment and illness.

Senior Brown Bag Program participants are also provided with opportunities to volunteer at their food pickup site, which offers them social connections and a sense of belonging and purpose as they contribute to the Food Bank. Every month, more than 200 volunteers gather at the various Senior Brown Bag sites to sort, bag, and distribute food to their peers. Many participants have built new friendships and a sense of community by volunteering.

Unfortunately, countless seniors are forced to make difficult but unavoidable choices such as whether to purchase their medications, pay for their housing, and/or pay their utilities. Buying food, especially nutritious food, is often last on their list.

### **Emergency Food Assistance Program**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (also known as USDA Commodities) is a federal program that provides monthly food packages to individuals and families who meet income guidelines set by the federal government.

The Food Bank administers the program and distributes USDA-provided food to nearly 8,000 individuals at more than 24 distribution sites every month throughout Merced and Mariposa Counties.

## **Promoting Nutrition**

### Fresh Produce Supports Health

Good nutrition is at the heart of our programs. Our Farm Fresh initiative is based on an understanding of the crucial role fruits and vegetables play in promoting health and reducing diet-related illnesses in our community.

Last year, we offered our pantry participants 49 unique types of fruits and vegetables. We distributed over 2,000,000 pounds of fresh produce. During 2021, our goal is to increase that to 3,000,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed through the Senior Brown Bag, USDA commodities, Green Bag and Pantry programs.

We distributed more produce than ever before—over 2,000,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

We provided participants between 6-10 types of fruit and vegetables each week.

"I'm trying to move to a healthier diet, but I can't afford to purchase fresh vegetables or fruits. The produce I get through the Food Bank helps me and my family live a healthier life."

Maria, pantry participant, Atwater



### 49 Produce Items Distributed 2020

Potato | Orange | Watermelon | Onion | Apple Sweet Potato | Carrot | Pear | Celery Stone Fruit | Honeydew Melon | Cabbage Corn | Tomato | Sweet Bell Pepper

Cantaloupe | Summer Squash | Bok Choy | Cauliflower | Broccoli | Cucumber Grapefruit | Spaghetti Squash | Strawberries | Raspberries | Blueberries Butternut Squash | Eggplant | Mushroom | Brussels Sprout | Green Onion Acorn Squash | Banana | Beet | Lettuce | Mango | Kiwi | Radish | Kale Pineapple | Lemon | Lime | Collard Greens | Dandelion Greens Pomegranate | Lettuce | Spinach | Cilantro | Persimmon



# **Providing Food Directly**

### **Pantry Network**

Our pantry network is the cornerstone of the Food Bank's programs. It brings food directly into neighborhoods that need it most and provides weekly distributions of free food to low income families and individuals. Our goal is to make food easily accessible, culturally appropriate, and available in a dignified manner. That's why our pantries are located in easily accessible locations like schools, churches, and community-based organizations. Each week participants access fresh produce, protein, and other staples.

A typical pantry might offer carrots, potatoes, strawberries, oranges, and lettuce, along with chicken, pasta, and bread. As a result, we're addressing the problem of hunger on a grassroots level, involving the greater community in the effort to ensure that no one has to worry about their next meal.

**70% of our food** goes out to 83 community sites that distribute USDA, Senior Brown Bag, and Drought Relief Boxes.

30% of our food goes out to 53 pantries that serve 6,000 families each month.

Last year, we added two more pantries to our network.

6,000 families received fresh groceries each month at our pantries.

We distribute food through 53 pantries, throughout Merced & Mariposa Counties.



Packing up for pantry | September 2020

### Volunteers

rom school children to retired seniors and  $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$  everyone in between, the community came together this past year to volunteer at our warehouses in record numbers. The Food Bank relies heavily on our volunteer supporters help to sort, glean, and pack food for those at risk of hunger. Every volunteer is critical to the Food Bank's ability to distribute such a high volume of perishable and non-perishable foods.

Last year volunteers provided 14,211 hours of service—the equivalent of 6.75 full-time staff, increasing our staff capacity by 67%.

Terry Ruscoe, Brandon Ruscoe, Jared Ruscoe and staff members of their company Better Homes & Gardens Everything Real Estate, deliver hundreds of boxes of food to Merced senior residents who may not otherwise have enough food during these difficult times.

"We are very fortunate that our community has supported us to the extent that we are now, in turn, able to support our community."

Terry Ruscoe



The Ruscoes packing up for Senior Bag delivery | 2020–2021



UC Merced Student Volunteers come every year to support the Merced County Food Bank



High School Student Volunteers from Stone Ridge Christian School



Merced County Fair Annual Food Drive Volunteers

# **Community Food Drives & Fundraisers**

### **Food and Fund Drives**

It's hard to miss our food drive barrels, often full of cereal, tuna, and other high quality items thanks to our generous community. Food and fund drives are one of the most direct ways the community can partner with the Food Bank.

We are so thankful for all the families, colleagues, schools, and faith-based groups that hove rallied around the cause of collecting food and raising funds.

Every year. key supporters and campaigns generate significant support for the Food Bank.



Getting ready for the Save Mart Food drive

### Here ore some of our partners from 2020

- \* Sharing the Harvest wifh Grateful Hearts Party
- \* Central California Alliance for Health
- ♦ Pick-n-Pull
- \* Merced Co. Assoc. of Realtors
- \* US Postal Service Food Drive
- \* County Fair Food Drive
- \* Dollar Tree Food Drive
- \* Curves Merced Food Drive
- ◆ PG&E Food Drive
- \* Merced Facility Associates Food Drive
- \* Family Dollar Food Drive
- \* Save Mart Food Drive
- \* Dollar General Food Drive
- \* Springfield Financial Food Drive
- \* Holt of California Food Drive

- \* Foster Farms Food Drive
- \* Image Masters Food Drive
- \* American Automobile Association Food Drive
- Village Landing Food Drive
- ♦ Village Terrace Food Drive
- \* Northwood Village Food Drive
- Supreme Lending Food Drive
- \* Merced County Office of Education Food Drive
- ◆ UC Merced Food Drive
- ❖ Gracey Elementary Food Drive
- ★ Travis Credit Union Food Drive
- \* Harmony Elementory Food Drive
- ⋆ Divine Model Food Drive
- \* Merced Fuel & Food Drive





A huge thank you to our friends at Atwater Rotary Club for coming by and surprising us with such an act of kindness. They have been longtime supporters of the Senior Brown Bag, and we extend our gratitude for such generosity.



Generous with their time, money committment to improving our community, Rob and Andrea Baptie of The Hate Dust Project have been long-time supporters of the Merced County Food Bank.



"Working with the Food Bank's Senior Brown Bag Program firsthand, only deepened my commitment to ending hunger.

Good, healthy food should be available to all of us, and the Food Bank works to make that a reality."

> Erik Ekizian Rotarian & Sharing the Harvest with Grateful Hearts Party Chairman

### Collaboration

2020 was a year of collaboration between MCFB and other organizations who all share the desire to fight hunger. We began the year working closely with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to help increase access to, and availability of nutritious food for seniors. MCFB and AAA work closely to help ensure our seniors are provided the food and nutrition resources they need to live healthfully. Covid-19 presented many challenges for our seniors and MCFB partners. Working together, we developed new programs and services to ensure our seniors continued to have access and receive nutritious food.

MCFB and UC Merced continued to work together to address student food insecurities and food waste projects. In 2020, MCFB, UC Merced, and Blue Strike Environmental joined forces on a Cal Recycle grant that rescued over 495,000 pounds of edible nutritious food destined for the landfill.

MCFB also partnered with Merced County Department of Human Services Agency to increase Cal Fresh outreach and education in low-income communities, MCFB and Public Health previously partnered to develop the first Gleaning Program at MCFB; entitled Picking for Purpose. We also are working on a new project with Public Health that increases MCFB's, and our partner agency's capacity to create and implement nutrition guidelines for food pantries and programs.

During 2020 MCFB increased our engagement with the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB). MCFB joined CAFB and other rural and remote food banks for a state-wide needs assessment for rural food banks to elevate the

unique needs of rural communities to stakeholders in the hunger community. In addition, MCFB and CAFB joined forces to develop and implement new outreach, engagement and distribution of food and PPE items for migrant agricultural workers in our community.

### Collaborative Project

Picking For Purpose promotes the highest use of wholesome unmarketable food and reduces hunger and waste by using technology, social media and strategic investment to help bridge the hurdles that result in food waste.

## PICKING FOR PURPOSE



# Federal | State | County | City

overnmental entities not only play an Jimportant role in times of crisis, but they are also an important component of local community responsiveness. For instance, since April 2020 it has been nearly impossible for MCFB to buy food in bulk at reasonable costs, and when we could find some, often our order was cancelled weeks later for unknown reasons.

Much of the food we have been getting since April has come through the USDA and the California Department of Social Services. There are three main programs that many people are not aware of.

First is perhaps the least known, but one that had a significant impact on our community. It was called the Trade Mitigation program—a result of the tariffs placed on China. Essentially, the USDA bought the food meant for China and distributed it through the food banks throughout the United States. These products were Grade A items and went directly to our low-income food insecure neighbors. Nearly two million pounds of high-quality protein and canned goods came through this program and into our community in 2020.

**Second** is the CA State emergency food box program (containing shelf stable dry goods) which is an on-going program.

**Third** is the USDA Farmers to Families program that started in May 2020 and continues to provide 30lb boxes of produce, dairy and protein items.

Merced County worked very closely with MCFB and many other nonprofits throughout the 2020 year. We worked with them through Cal OES, FEMA, and numerous local departments. No matter how difficult a situation was (like cajoling the National Guard to come help us) or working with FEMA to try and help us purchase food or get PPE gear, the County was always eager to help us; flexible in the manner they could assist us; and even went so far as to assume risk on a FEMA loan for food purchase on our behalf. In addition to all the equipment support, legislative and technical assistance, the County provided substantial direct funds to purchase food and equipment to help us distribute more food.

Likewise, the City of Merced was equally supportive of MCFB and our partner agencies who were addressing food insecurity during 2020. City staff and leadership provided significant financial support for staffing, food purchases and PPE gear to MCFB during 2020 and have we have began discussing ways we may be able to work closer together in 2021.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to Congressman Jim Costsa's office for assisting MCFB to acquire hundreds of thousands of pounds of food through the USDA programs, well as his tireless advocacy and assistance in fighting hunger. We'd also like to acknowledge Assemblyman Adam Gray and Senator Anna Caballero for their support of hunger programs in the 2021/22 CA state budget.

Without these programs we would not have been able to provide the nearly 8,500,000 pounds of food distributed in 2020.

# **Partnerships**

Our donors, corporate and business partners sustain and grow our food distribution programs through generous donations of funds, food, and volunteer time that serve thousands of families, seniors, and individuals each week.

- A.V. Thomas Packing
- 510 Bistro
- A.A.H. Massage
- AARP
- Adobe
- Advanced Physical Therapy
- Americold
- AmeriPride Services
- Ameriprise Financial
- Anabell
- Applebees Atwater
- Applebees Merced
- AT&T
- \* Azhderian & Co
- Bali Learning Center
- Basin Gold Cooperative
- Bear Creek Properties
- Bell Carter Packing
- Bella Luna
- Ben Silva Farms
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Berliner Cohen LLP.
- Bible Christian Nineveh Outreach
- Big Lots
- Big Tree Organics
- Blue Devil Youth Football
- Blue Diamond
- **BNSF** Foundation
- **Bowles Farming**
- Branding Iron
- ⋆ Brent Redmond
- \* Burroughs Family Farm
- ◆ C & F Foods Inc.
- \* C Plan Wash. St.
- Calif. Assoc. of Food Banks
- California Healthy Harvest

- Callister, Hendricks & Spencer
- Calvary Temple
- Campbell Soup Supply LLC
- ★ Cargill Meat Solutions
- \* Carlos Vieira Foundation Carlos
- C Lourenco Dairy Carrows
- \* Central Calif. Alliance for Health
- \* Central Valley Community Bank
- \* Chad Ranch
- \* Christina's Boutiques
- Citadel Enterprises, Inc.
- \* Cloud Rest Security Trust
- Community Foundation of Merced County Congregation
- \* Etz Chaim CORE Business Interiors
- ⋆ Costco
- CropMobster
- \* Curves Merced
- Del Monte
- Dickinson Frozen Foods
- Dignity Health Medical Group
- Merced
- Dignity Memorial
- Dimare Fresh
- Dole Packaged Foods
- Dollar General
- Dollar Tree Atwater Bellevue
- \* Dollar Tree Atwater Commerce
- Dollar Tree Los Banos
- \* Dollar Tree Merced
- \* Doreva Produce Company, Inc.
- \* Dr. Clifton Lauritzen
- \* Dr. Mani Nallasivan
- \* Dr. Thanh Nguyen
- ⋆ Driscoll's
- \* Ekizian Family Chiropractic Center

- ♦ El Portal Imaging
- **Englehart Foods**
- Family Dollar
- Feed America
- Fitness Addiction
- Five Ten Bistro Florencio's Mexican Restaurant
- Food 4 Less Atwater
- Food 4 Less Merced Foodlink
- FoodMaxx
- FoodMaxx Merced
- \* Foster Farms
- Fresno Community Food Bank
- Frito Lay
- Gary Lorenzo Farming
- Garcia Farms
- Gateway Kidney & Hypertension
- Golden "C" Natural Foods
- Golden Valley Produce
- Gonnella Realty
- Gourmet Foods
- Grimmway Farms
- **Grocery Depot**
- **Grocery Outlet**
- H.J. Heinz company
- Harvest Time
- Hershey
- Highland Wholesale
- Hilmar Cheese
- Hoffman Electronic Systems
- Hollister Food Bank
- Holy Royal Arch Mason
- Hong Kong
- Hoogendam Dairy
- \* Horizon's Unlimited
- \* Hunter Farms



- IBEW, AFL-CIO
- **Image Masters**
- Initiative Foods
- International City Mortgage J.
- Marchini Farms
- J.P Zopolos & Associates
- Jack's Bean Company, LLC
- Jasper Wyman & Sons
- Jenmax Foods
- Joe on the Go Café
- Johnson Plumbing
- Joseph Farms Cheese
- \* Kashiwase
- Karyn Johnson
- King's Asian Cuisine
- La Hacienda 2
- Label Technology
- Laird Manufacturing
- Larrisa Sherman
- Leap/Carpenter/Kemps
- Lettieri Brisbane CA
- Lockheed Martin
- Ludford's Inc.
- Mariana's Mexican grill
- McLane Company, Inc.
- Merced County Office of Education
- Merced Co. Assoc. of Realtors
- Merced College Foundation
- Merced County Community Action Agency
- Merced County Fair
- \* Merced County Farm Bureau
- Merced County Mosquito Abatement Dist.
- Merced County Sheriff's Posse
- Merced Heart Associates
- Merced Floral
- Merced Rescue Mission
- Merced Rotary Club All Star Football Game
- Merced Rotary Club Foundation
- Merced Rotary
- Merced Sunrise Rotary
- Merced School Employees Federal Credit Union

- Merced Sun-Star
- Merced Unified School District
- Merced Yosemite Realty
- Mi Pueblo
- Micheal Foods
- Mily's Ice Cream
- Mininger Farms
- Modern Air Mechanical
- Morgan Woolfe
- Morning Star
- Musco's
- My Job Depends on Ag
- Nations Lending
- Needmore Farms
- North Merced Rotary
- Nutra Blend, LLC
- Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
- Patelco Credit Union
- Pazin & Myers Inc.
- Peraino's Jewelers
- Perceptor Epsilon Zets
- Playhouse Merced
- Piccolo Ranch
- Pick-n-Pull
- Pinocchio's Restaurant
- Pocket 8's
- Quality Well Drillers
- Rabobank
- Rancho Piccolo
- Razzari Auto Center
- Realty Executives
- Rotary International
- Rotary Los Banos
- **Rotary Winton**
- Rotary Atwater
- Salon DiCapelli
- Salvadori Realty
- San Filippo & Sons inc
- Save Mart Foundation
- Save Mart Atwater
- Save Mart Los Banos
- Save Mart Merced
- Second Harvest Food Bank Manteca
- Seivert & Associates

- Shannon Pump Co.
- Shergill Logister Inc
- Sheharis Transport
- Sierra Pacific
- Spaletta Law PC
- St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
- Stewart Family Foundation
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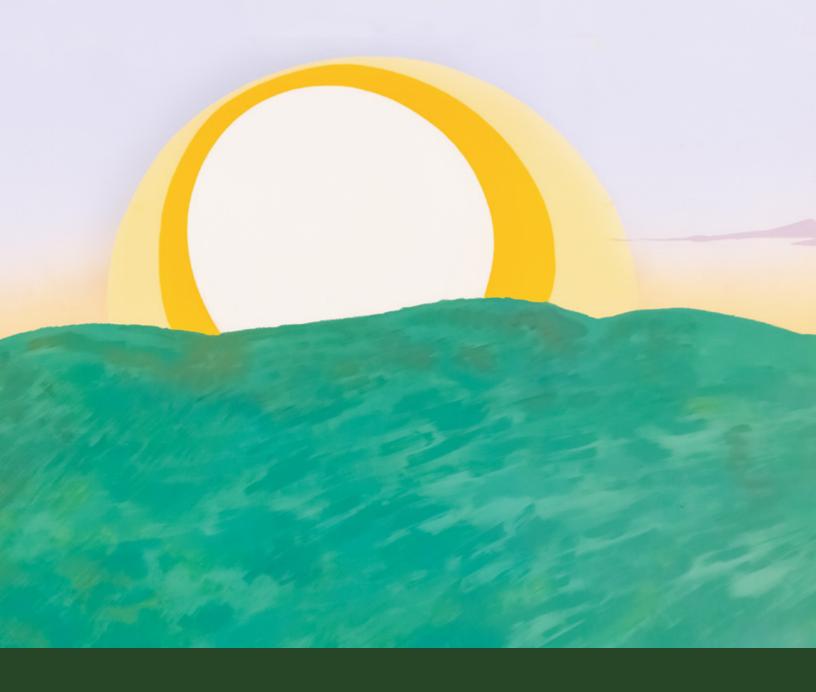
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