

To All EHSD Staff --

The annual Holiday Food Fight is here, and in 2020 the need has never been more starkly obvious. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties is being overwhelmed by the thousands of struggling families in our communities that have been devastated by the Covid pandemic, and by the ravages of the wildfires. Many, many people have lost their jobs, lost their small business, lost their homes as well as their jobs in the wildfires. Unemployment insurance and emergency funds replace only a small percentage of lost income, and these resources will be expiring soon. So many of our families are months behind in rent payments and deeply in debt. The Food Bank is the resource they rely on in order to meet the nutritional needs of their children. It's especially difficult for those children who no longer receive school meals.

We in EHSD are fortunate because we have avoided furloughs and layoffs. As this holiday season approaches, I am asking our EHSD family to dig deep and share your compassion with those who have been so seriously impacted in this extraordinary year. Any donation matters and contributes to putting good, nutritious food on many tables this holiday season.

You can visit the **EHSD Donation page** to make your contribution. You can also direct others outside of EHSD to contribute to the Food Bank at the same link or at the <u>Holiday Food Fight</u> <u>link</u>. If you need help, the Food Bank created a <u>tutorial video</u> to walk you through the online donation process.

My best to all of our EHSD family --Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director

"Service and Organizational Excellence"

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