



EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 • (925) 608-5000 • Fax (925) 313-9748 • www.ehsd.org

To: All Staff, Code 2A

Date: November 18, 2021

From: Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director

Subject: 2021 Counties Care Holiday Food Fight

This week marks the launch of the 17th annual **Holiday Food Fight**, a friendly competition between Contra Costa and Solano to raise money for our Food Bank that serves both counties.

Last year's need for support was starkly obvious as we grappled with Covid's impact on everyone, particularly on thousands of families who were already struggling, and even more who faced new financial hardships resulting from the pandemic. In 2020, Contra Costa County raised more than \$70,000, providing 140,000 meals. In particular, EHSD came through with astounding generosity by raising the most in donations from the County's large departments (301+ employees). THANK YOU!

In 2021, we may have a more hopeful outlook as we prepare for the holiday season and the coming year. Yet the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano continues to respond to an overwhelming demand from our community members who are still working through the financial devastation of being underemployed, losing their jobs, small businesses, or homes.

Unemployment insurance and emergency funds replace only a small percentage of lost income, and we are seeing the expiration of many of these resources. So many of our families are months behind in rent payments and deeply in debt, relying on the Food Bank to meet nutritional needs.

At EHSD, we can be grateful that, through the pandemic, we have avoided furloughs and layoffs. We have the opportunity to show our compassion and dedication that we bring every day to our human services work. As this holiday season approaches, I am asking our EHSD family to again dig deep to help those who have been so seriously impacted during this extraordinary time. Every donation matters and contributes to putting good, nutritious food on many tables.

I encourage you to consider how you might support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano through this year's Holiday Food Fight. Below is an FAQ and a flyer, including the donation link.

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

2021 Holiday Food Fight - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I donate to the Holiday Food Fight?

You can easily donate on the [EHSD page](https://give.foodbankccs.org/team/325286) on the Food Bank's website (<https://give.foodbankccs.org/team/325286>).

Why money instead of canned food? - The Food Bank stretches every dollar so it can increase its buying power to purchase fresh, nutritious vegetables and fruits.

How many meals will each \$1 donation buy? – Two.

Are there other ways to support the Food Fight aside from donating online?

Definitely. Participate in any activities and fundraisers at your EHSD building. Post a message of support and the donation link on your social media if you would like. Re-gift a usable gift card by donating to the EHSD Gift Card Drawing, request a donation from a business, or buy a ticket for a chance to win (read on for more info).

Does my Food Bank donation count toward the Holiday Food Fight if I made it through the Combined Charities Campaign for 2020? Yes. Please forward a record of your Combined Charities Food Bank Donation form/confirmation to EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us.

Does EHSD need gift card donations this year?

YES! We are gathering usable gift cards for restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, coffee shops, movie theatres, sports venues, retail shops or online shopping, to include in the **EHSD Gift Card Drawing**. You can also help by asking a business owner to donate a gift card to the cause (we can provide a Food Bank donation receipt for tax purposes). Email EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us by Friday, December 10th if you want to donate, or drop off to Community Relations at 40 Douglas.

When is the EHSD Gift Card Drawing? Thursday, December 16th. More details to come.

Do donations from EHSD retirees count toward the Food Fight total? Yes.

How can I see the Food Bank is supporting those in need during these challenging times?

Check out this [Food Bank video](#).

When does this year's campaign end? December 31st, 2021.

Can I send a donation by check instead of donating online? Yes. Send to Deb Johnson/Community Relations at 40 Douglas Drive, Martinez.

Do outside donations count toward a Department's total in the competition? Cash and check donations from non-staff members do count. Send them to Deb Johnson/Community Relations at 40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, for tracking.



Counties Care
**HOLIDAY
FOOD FIGHT**



**WHO WILL WIN THE
HOLIDAY FOOD FIGHT?**



NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 31, 2021
EACH \$1 DONATION = TWO NUTRITIOUS MEALS!
DONATE ONLINE
<https://give.foodbankccs.org/CCC-Employment-and-Human-Services>

