In 2008, Farm to Pantry was launched to serve a need in our community: to provide a continuous supply of fresh, healthy produce to the most vulnerable community members who lack access to these choices by rescuing produce that would go uneaten. Since then, over 204 tons of produce have been gleaned and distributed. Through the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers, Farm to Pantry achieved a lot over the past year with a 73% increase in the amount of healthy, fresh produce to more community members through more volunteers and partners. We invite you to explore more about our passionate goals through our Stories of Impact. #ClosingTheHungerGap.

Impact:
Our sponsors’ generosity helped increase gleaned produce by 73% over the last year. That’s over 204 tons to date!
Community Spotlight:

Enriching the Young Mind

Schools are in their transformational stage in focusing on healthy food choices as well as providing a valuable service to their community. How do they bring those two key concepts together to make a powerful combination? Farm to Pantry Student Gleaning and Nutrition Education Programs nourish these young minds to do just that. Relationships with local schools and community programs provide hands-on, outside the classroom experiences that allow educators to deepen their curriculum. Educators love the canvas the home gardens and larger farms bring. Elementary students arrive with such anticipation. And yet they apply science and math concepts to their gleans, not to mention the value of teamwork and problem-solving. Students then take gleaning and service to a much more complex level. They use the gleaned produce to create other healthy foods to last beyond the growing season. From nut butters to preserved tomatoes and beyond, these students also gain valuable life skills as they enter adult life.

Impact:
Over 417 metric tons green house gases reduced which is equivalent to removing 88 cars from the road in a year.
Community Spotlight:

Cultivating a Healthy Community

Providing fresh, healthy food to the needy in our community is core to Farm to Pantry’s mission. And we accomplish this in a variety of ways. Becoming Independent (BI) is a community based service organization that helps people with disabilities live meaningful and productive lives. This close knit partnership allows our staff and volunteers to collaborate with BI clientele -- gleaning, logging and delivering the same healthy food we’re passionate about. Yes, BI members gain life skills by working with our adult team members. Better yet, they also learn the lifelong importance of also serving the community they live in. Us? Well, we have the honor of cultivating a personal, long-term relationship with each BI team member and watch them grow and develop as lifelong contributors. It’s pretty heartwarming.

Impact:
Over 1.6 million servings of healthy produce throughout Sonoma County
Impact:
A 25% increase in volunteer hours which created more gleaned produce for our community in need

Community Spotlight:
Expanding Our Sonoma County Footprint in a Multitude of Ways

Our volunteers are a dedicated crew. They each exhibit the passion of ensuring that the community in need gets access to healthy fruits, nuts and vegetables. That passion has led to over 204 tons of surplus fruit, nuts and produce -- or, 1.6 million servings. We humbly admit we couldn’t do this on our own. Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) has a simple mission -- to end hunger in our community. Our collaboration is growing stronger everyday. As the largest hunger-relief organization serving north coastal California, REFB provides an amazing vehicle to nourish the community with the produce. REFB’s Chef Don and his team use the gleaned produce our volunteers diligently harvest and create healthy meals that are then sealed in individual servings and frozen for distribution to food pantries throughout Northern California. Peppers are included in meatloaf with roasted acorn squash accompanying. Lasagna stuffed with a variety of vegetables. Just a few examples of the incredibly rich work that continues day after day, year after year.