



FOOD ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

SFBFS is expanding Food Assistance in Oak Park

We need your help!

Many areas of Oak Park are characterized as food deserts – areas where families do not have access to fresh, nutritious food. In order to help families who struggle to get to our Oak Park building to receive emergency food supplies, SFBFS is taking the Food Assistance program into those neighborhoods.

We do this with a mobile food distribution. Unlike food service through a window, where little opportunity exists to engage our clients, our mobile food distributions are held in an outdoor setting much like a farmers' market. Not only do clients get a chance to select the food they want, but they also have access to a community resource table focused on health and nutrition, free health screenings and cooking demonstrations where they can learn how to prepare the food they are receiving with simple recipes they can take home. All of this is done in a festive atmosphere.

SFBFS hosts mobile distribution events in the early evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Saturday mornings, with daytime services coming soon. This is where we need your help. As we add mobile food distribution sites in Oak Park we will slowly phase out our window service of Food Assistance in our Oak Park building, presently managed by Gabriel Hall. However, based on our mobile food distribution experience in North Sacramento, we expect to serve more families in Oak Park than we are currently doing through our window service. Please note, SFBFS will eventually transition its Food Assistance program to an entirely mobile system. Gabriel will remain an employee connected to the Food Assistance program, but will provide service to clients through mobile distributions after the transition is complete.

Please consider being a part of this positive transition. Mobile distributions are fun and take place outdoors. And, it's easy to build a great camaraderie with our mobile clients. If you aren't sure about joining the mobile team, come see us at one of the distributions. You appreciate the improved service delivery in no time. We have schedules available so you can select a day and time that's convenient for you.

If you like the idea of coming to our Oak Park facility to volunteer, then we will still have plenty of work indoors, pre-bagging USDA and produce in our warehouse to prepare for mobile food distributions. We don't have all of the details figured out on how we will manage scheduling, but we will keep you updated. Regardless of what choice you make, we need your help and greatly appreciate whatever support you can give us. The Food Assistance team thanks you.

Our Food Assistance team members, Marshall Graves, Kathleen Babin, Gabriel Hall, Catherine Thompson, Rachel Marine, Molly Lawrence, Geno Lopez and Robin Simpson would be happy to answer any questions you have.