



Mission Statement

The Berkeley Food Network seeks to end hunger and poor nutrition by using innovative, community-centered solutions to build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system.

At the Berkeley Food Network, we will also remember 2020

as the year we were forced to grow up more quickly than we could have ever imagined. Looking back at the tumultuous year, we are proud of how we were able to step up quickly to address rapidly expanding food insecurity by ensuring that our neighbors in need had regular and reliable access to healthy food. Many of these neighbors sought help in providing food for their families for the first time this past year. We were able to prove that our flexible and agile approach to food distribution-envisioned when we launched four years ago but never fully tested until now-works.

We are humbled, too, by the outpouring of support we received from all corners of the Berkeley and Albany communities, as donors and volunteers alike stepped up to help us do this very important work. Our community understood that the first priority when an emergency like this hits is to make sure people are fed. We could never have succeeded without the involvement of everyone in our community.

But the urgency is still with us. Even now, as people are getting vaccinated, returning to school and work, and beginning to socialize again, we continue to feed as many people as we were at the end of May 2020, which is three times as many people as we were feeding at the end of February 2020. We believe that it will be a long time before those who have faced hunger for the first time, as well as those who have long hovered near food insecurity, will no longer need help accessing food. We are in it for the long haul.

Here, in our 2020 Impact Report, we look back at what we accomplished and learned over the past year and share with you a glimpse of how BFN has changed and will be stronger for it moving forward, as we deepen our commitment to ensure that everyone in our community has reliable and equitable access to the healthiest foods.



Values Community Sustainability Collaboration Innovation Equity

The year 2020 will forever be remembered for the health and economic crisis brought about by COVID-19, for racism and inequalities being laid bare, and for the chaotic politics that resulted.



Last year was, for all of us, an unprecedented year. For some, COVID-19 meant our lives were inconvenienced and unsettled. But for others in our community, it meant we could no longer feed our families.

In 2020, as a result of the devastating effects of COVID-19, Berkeley Food Network saw an unparalleled demand for food. When the pandemic hit, we started scrambling to quickly ramp up as we saw food insecurity increasing dramatically.

But before we had even drawn up our plans something else unexpected happened—the donations started pouring in. The Berkeley community stepped up, before we even had time to ask!

The community's spontaneous generosity reinforced my firm belief that we live in an empathetic, social justice-driven city. It is because of you, our generous donors, volunteers, and partners, that I am confident Berkeley Food Network can achieve our bold ultimate goal of creating a Berkeley where nobody goes hungry.

When BFN was launched four years ago, we were determined to not only build a network and program that got food to hungry people quickly, but also to create something greater—an innovative, nimble system with the capacity to respond immediately in a crisis.

Painfully, that crisis was not some distant, unidentified event. **COVID-19 tested us and forced us to quickly pivot into emergency mode. We were ready.** With your generous support we were able to feed three times more people in 2020 than 2019, build out our infrastructure, and triple the number of our network partner organizations.

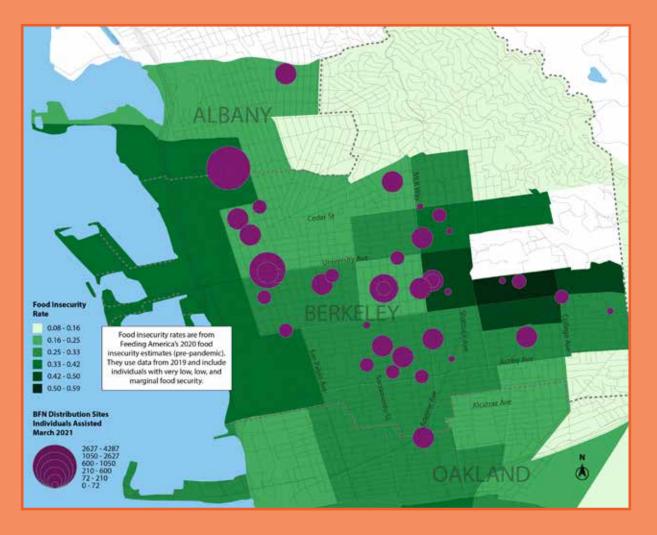
With your continued help, we can realize our ambition of creating a city where nobody goes to bed hungry and everyone has access to nourishing food. By furnishing healthier food choices, we will contribute to better health in our community by reducing symptoms of the diseases associated with poor diets. The ways in which we achieve these goals will strengthen a more just food system.

Over the coming months and years, I look forward to updating you about our ambitious plans—and their successful execution. We will always be looking ahead, strategizing what we can do more efficiently, compassionately, and impactfully. We are excited for you to join us in our journey to build a more equitable and healthier Berkeley.

Herrich **Deborah Lewis**

Board Officer, Chair

Berkeley Food Network Bringing Food to People



Our Work In 2020

In 2020, BFN not only met the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis, but we also scaled quickly and set ourselves up for more success in the future. While we have always prioritized the reliable and respectful distribution of the highest quality food possible, as the pandemic exposed the deep inequities in our health and in the food system, we have doubled down on our commitment to ensuring that everyone in Berkeley has fair and equitable access to the healthiest food we can source.

Here is a snapshot underscoring how BFN grew and changed in 2020—and how we are well-positioned for the future.

Pantry Programs

With the advent of the COVID-19 crisis, Berkeley Food Network had to quickly pivot and adjust its pantry programs. Not only did significantly more people suddenly need access to our food, but for health and safety reasons, we could no longer offer our farmers market-style client-choice distribution model and switched to pre-packed grocery bags.

What We Did

- Increased the number of people served from 1,600 a week at the end of February 2020 to 5,000 a week by the end of May 2020. We continue to serve that many people every week.
- Increased the number of mobile pantry distributions from **11 in mid-March to 55** at the end of 2020.
- In summer 2020, using COVID-19 safety protocols, began a return to our farmers market-style distributions at our on-site pantry and with partners who were comfortable with the shift.

What We Learned

- Our flexible and agile approach works. Distributing food through partnerships with other organizations in Berkeley and Albany allows us to serve more people.
- Our assumptions since we launched in 2016 are sound. Our clients want and need high-quality produce and proteins and culturally appropriate foods. Clients also want to choose their own food.
- Many people who don't consider themselves food insecure actually are not able to purchase healthy food every week.

What we will be doing in 2021

- We will return all our pantries to client choice. This approach to food distribution allows people to select only the food they want which, in turn, reduces food waste.
- We will expand the choices of healthy and culturally appropriate foods.
- We will expand our home delivery service for seniors.
- We will expand our outreach to hard-to-reach communities in Berkeley and Albany who find it difficult to access healthy foods.



Multicultural Institute

From its inception, our on-site pantry served many of our day laborer neighbors, most of whom are from Mexico and Central America, and often don't speak Spanish or English. With the onset of COVID-19, many of these clients lost work and were more dependent on our services than ever. We quickly created a partnership with our neighbor, the Multicultural Institute (MI), which works with and better understands the needs of the day laborer population. Our weekly pantry distributions at MI provided food for as many as 450 people a week, and included more desirable foods such as black beans, corn, chicken, and verdolagas.

BUSD Grocery Bag Program

When the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order closed schools and forced Berkeley Unified School District students into online learning, we were no longer able to send pre-packed grocery bags to nearly 500 BUSD families and staff at all 17 BUSD sites. Instead, we promptly shifted to partnering with BUSD Nutrition Services to bring grocery bags to the free breakfast and lunch pick-ups at six BUSD sites. By the end of the school year, we had increased the number of families receiving bags from BFN to 600. Through our ongoing partnership with Nutrition Services, we have adjusted our bag counts and days and time of delivery to match need. As school shifts to inperson instruction again, we are working with school sites once again to get food to families and staff who need it.



Our Work In 2020



Food Sourcing

With increased hunger in our community came the need to source more food. By the end of April 2020, it became clear that there were serious glitches in the food bank food sourcing system that slowed down BFN's access to food for our clients. As a result, we recognized the need to diversify our food sourcing in order to ensure that we would be able to continue to bring enough healthy food to the people we were serving. In addition, we were learning from our partners and clients about which foods they had the hardest time affording and that were the most culturally desirable. That propelled us to expand our food purchasing processes and systems.

What We Did

- We expanded food sourcing, bringing in new vendors of organic produce and shelfstable items, such as cooking oil and canned beans, that our clients want, but which can't be sourced from the food bank.
- We grew our Food Recovery Program by 16-fold, from an average of 1,450 lbs/month to 24,500 lbs/month.
- We created 40,000 meals in our Hub Kitchen.
- We increased staff from **2.5 to 9**.
- We purchased additional refrigeration, a new van, and a forklift to handle growing demand.

What We Learned

- It is important to diversify our food sourcing in order to maintain a minimum level of healthy foods in our inventory.
- We can source high-quality, locally-produced foods, such as organic produce and fish, for reasonable prices.
- We need a skilled and hard-working staff to do the work of feeding 5,000 people a week.
- Volunteers are integral to the smooth operation of our food distribution programs.

What we will be doing in 2021

- We will expand and diversify our food sourcing to include more locally and sustainably produced foods, emphasizing produce and proteins.
- We will expand our food recovery program by 40%.
- We will produce **50,000 meals** in our Hub Kitchen.
- We will begin to source food for other food assistance organizations in Berkeley to use in their pantry and prepared meal programs.



University Village

We began a Mobile Pantry partnership with the Bear Pantry at University Village in December 2018, serving 60 households of students with families. With COVID-19, the great need for food assistance among the University Village residents was thrown into stark relief and we worked with the Bear Pantry to source enough food for 800 families—as many as 1,700 people to receive food twice a month. The Bear Pantry now runs its own pantry using BFN-sourced food, including excess food recovered from Trader Joe's.

ALBA Farms Partnership

We are purchasing produce from the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) in Salinas Valley, which trains low-income farmworkers and aspiring farmers on a 100-acre training facility. In October, we made our first purchase of beautiful, organic vegetables for our on-site pantry and distribution partnerships. By directing money toward local organizations, we can support farmers of color while simultaneously accessing super-fresh, nutritious produce for the communities we serve.



Volunteers

Volunteer Spotlight

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, **Priscilla**, originally from Brazil, was finishing up her PhD in food processing at Berkeley and conducting research at the United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA). And that wasn't all—she was also recently married and had a young child.

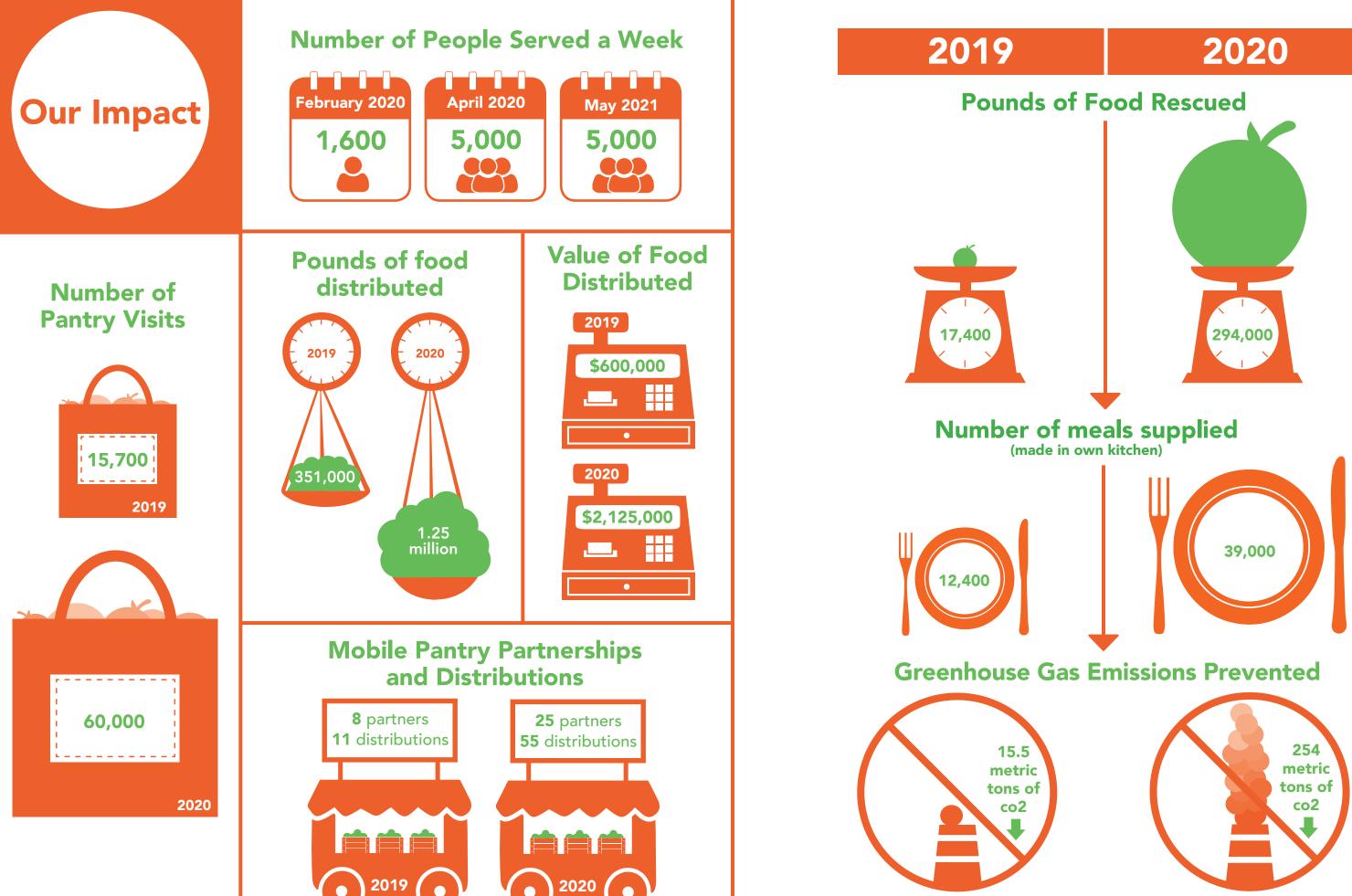
When the USDA closed down due to COVID-19, Priscilla was seeking another meaningful use of her time. She quickly realized, given her professional focus on healthy foods, that volunteering at Berkeley Food Network was a perfect fit.

"I first came here to get food for our family and then I asked if they needed volunteers," she says. "I began volunteering last April and have been coming in two or three times a week ever since."

Priscilla often works in the pantry, stocking and distributing food to clients. "I really love volunteering here. It's good to feel helpful, and as a bonus, everybody that works here is so nice!" It is in large part because of our treasured team of volunteers that Berkeley Food Network was able to scale quickly and serve three times more food insecure members of our community in 2020. Our more than 200 active volunteers, who range in age from 14-85, are extraordinarily dedicated, upbeat, talented, and generous. Thank you!



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The fact that BFN comes to Strawberry Creek Lodge is huge. I have a shoulder impingement and injured my knee, so I can't carry stuff far—and they even bring the food right to my room!

I love that BFN has quinoa—it's expensive, and can be hard to get at the store. I also like the shredded cauliflower. As a senior it is important to be able to get a variety of foods to keep you strong.

–Pam, former BUSD literacy specialist





1 lost my job in the pandemic, and a neighbor told me to check out BFN because they have fresh vegetables. She was right—the produce is so fresh! When I went last time, I got carrots so fresh, it was like someone had just pulled them out of the ground—those carrots were so exciting!

– Robin, former BUSD substitute teacher

Partners

Partnering with the Berkeley Food Network has contributed immensely to the services the YMCA Early Childhood Impact (ECI) program is able to provide lowincome families of young children ages birth-five. Food is one of the pricier expenses families have; hosting mobile pantries directly from our childcare centers helps us address needs around food insecurity and access.

—Leilani Ison, Nutrition Specialist, YMCA East Bay











DOROTHY DAY

BERKTLEY









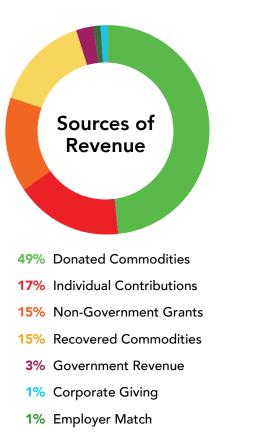
Food Bank Albany High School All In to End Poverty - Alameda County Public Health Department Bay Area Community Services Berkeley Bowl Berkeley Bowl Berkeley City College Berkeley Food and Housing Project Berkeley Head Start Berkeley Neighborhood Food Project Berkeley Technology Academy

Alameda County Community

- Berkeley Youth Alternatives Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency Berkeley Unified School District Center for Food, Faith, and Justice City of Berkeley Nutrition Services Division
- Congregation Beth El Homeless Meal Consider the Homeless! Cooking and Gardening Program at Berkeley Public Schools Daily Bread Dorothy Day House Downtown Streets Team Ecology Center Food Not Bombs, East Bay Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Harriet Tubman Terrace
- Harriet Tubman Terrace Healthy Black Families

HelpBerkeley Indigenous Permaculture John Muir Elementary School PTA Kerry's Kids Leah's Pantry Liberty Hill Baptist Church Pantry Loaves and Fishes Newman Hall Lutheran Church of the Cross M.A. Mother's Kitchen Malcolm X Elementary School PTA Multicultural Institute North Berkeley and South Berkeley Senior Centers OLIO Pantry **Olson Family Farms** Pan de Cielo Phillips Temple CME Church Pantry **POOR Magazine** Self Help Hunger Program Slow Food, East Bay South Berkeley Community Church Meal Program St. Mark's Episcopal Church St. Mary Magdalen Parish Meal PRogram St. Paul AME Church Strawberry Creek Lodge Residents' Association and Foundation UC Berkeley Basic Needs Center University Village Bear Pantry





Account Type	12/31/20
Cash	\$602,120.72
Fixed Assets	\$177,135.65
Net Income	\$552,657.24
Grants Receivable	\$614,187.99
Loans	\$0

Financials



- 55% Programs: Food Sourcing & Distribution
- 17% Supporting: Management
- **12%** Programs: Research & Education
- 10% Programs: Volunteering
- 6% Supporting: Fundraising

12/31/19	% Change
\$63,058.15	854.9%
\$152,445.98	16.2%
\$126,590.60	336.6%
\$308,635.49	199%
\$27,500	-100%

Donors

Businesses, Corporations, and Corporate Foundations

The Bayer Fund Clif Bar Family Foundation East Bay Community Energy John Snow, Inc. La Tourangelle Moran Engineering North Berkeley Wealth Management Perforce Foundation Star Grocery

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Adobe Apple Autodesk Bayer Blue Shield of CA Chevron Deacon Construction Dolby Dropbox **Durfee Foundation** Franklin Templeton Fremont Group **Gates Foundation** Genentech Google Kazan-McClain Partners' Foundation LinkedIn Mal Warwick Associates Microsoft

Natixis Investment Managers Palo Alto Networks PayPal PG&E Price Waterhouse PwC US and Mexico Salesforce Sirius VISA

Foundations

Crescent, Porter, Hale Foundation Kaiser East Bay Community Benefits Program The San Francsico Foundation Share the Spirit Sunlight Giving Foundation

Government

Altamont EAB CalRecycle Chancellor's Community Parternship Fund Small Business Administration StopWaste

Organizations

Alameda County Community Food Bank Blue Shield of CA John Muir Elementary School PTA Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church St. Clement's Episcopal Church St. Mary Magdalen Parish Meal Program

Individuals and Family Foundations

- Anonymous (27) Hilla Abel and Asaf Shor The Abeles Foundation Kenny Abiko Steven Ackerman Richard Adam Sally Adams James Agate
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nan and Steven	Susan Snyder
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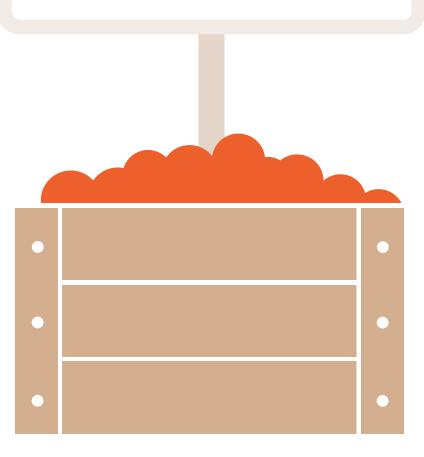
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In just three years of operating, Berkeley Food Network has filled a much-needed void for the city of Berkeley. Its community-centered focus and innovative approaches to getting food to people where they are has meant that our neighbors—both housed and unhoused—are not going to bed hungry anymore. BFN impressively ramped up when the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order came, meeting the needs of the newly food insecure, while continuing to provide healthy and culturally appropriate food for its regular clients. We in Berkeley are lucky to have such a great organization leading our efforts to solve food insecurity in our community.

-Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín



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berkeleyfoodnetwork.org

Mailing Address 1569 Solano Ave, #243 Berkeley, CA 94707

Warehouse Address 1925 Ninth Street Berkeley, CA 94710