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.

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.

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.

Sara Webber
Co-Founder and Executive Director
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.

Deborah Lewis
Board Officer, Chair
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.

### Pentacle 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 client-choice distribution model and switched to pre-packed grocery bags.

#### 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.

### 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 in-person instruction again, we are working with school sites once again to get food to families and staff who need it.

### 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.
### 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 shelf-stable 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.
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!

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!”
Our Impact

Number of People Served a Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>February 2020</th>
<th>April 2020</th>
<th>May 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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Pounds of Food Distributed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of food distributed</td>
<td>351,000</td>
<td>1.25 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Food Distributed</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$2,125,000</td>
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</table>

Mobile Pantry Partnerships and Distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pantry Visits</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 partners 11 distributions</td>
<td>25 partners 55 distributions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metric tons of CO2 prevented</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pounds of Food Rescued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 partners</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>294,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 distributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of meals supplied (made in own kitchen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 partners</td>
<td>12,400</td>
<td>39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 distributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions Prevented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 partners</td>
<td>15.5 metric tons of CO2 prevented</td>
<td>254 metric tons of CO2 prevented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 distributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I 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

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
Partnering with the Berkeley Food Network has contributed immensely to the services the YMCA Early Childhood Impact (ECI) program is able to provide low-income 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
Frances Dinkelspiel and Gary Wayne
Diana Divecha
Stephen DiVerdi
Gregor Dodson and Caitlin Murphy
Vanessa Doherty
Halle Donaldson
Jennifer Donner
Barbara Dornfeld
Linda Dow and James Morgenstern
Burt Dragin
Irene Drapeau
Michael and Karen Dreyfus
Lori Droste and Carrie Gray
Fritzi Drosten
Fredrica Drotos
Carol Drucker
Gaspard Duchene
Miakela Dunitz and Evan Smith
Nazila Duran
Lauren Dutton
Birch Early
Nancy Eichler
Victoria Eisen and David Wampler
Ingrid Ekstrom
Rick Elephant and Diana Jacobs
Kirsten Elliott
Nikki Elliman
Celeste Elsby
Diane Eliy
Bob Epstein and Amy Roth
Jamie Epstein
Marianna Erkils
Chris Ertel and Johanna Buurman
Ellen Evangeliste
Carrie Evans
Peter Ewell and Helga Recke
Miranda Ewell
Robert Fabry
Regina Fa-Kaji
Marcia Falk
Chuck Fanning and Melinda Haag
Debra Farb and Eric Sippel
Mary Pat Farrell and Michel Thouati
Bev and David Farrell
Paul and Colleen Farrell
Paul, Colleen, Brenn and Cedric Farrell

Gabriela Giacchino
Robert Gill
Christina Gilliss
Catherine Gilliss
John Gilman
Kara Gionfriddo
Nicholas Glass and Mary Jo Bauman
Harold Goelling
Gogoji Family Foundation
Stephen Goldbart and Estelle Frankei
Patricia Goldberg
Tracey Goldberg
Lana Golden
Steve and Susan Goldenberg
Barbara Goldstein
Edith Goldstein
Susan Goldstein
David Golightly
Ingrid Good
Rob and Susie Goodin
Maggie Goodman
Sally and Richard Goodman
Katherine Gora
Lynn Gordon
Azare Grant
Joan Grant
Alisha Graves
Pamela and Timothy Gray
David Greenbaum and Heidi Rosenfelder
Bruce and Diane Friend
Dan and Mary Friessen
Christopher Fryer
Jill Fujisaki
Ellen Fullman
Ellie and Dan Fund
Rob Gailey and Sara Brody
Gwyneth and Mark Garbath
Shannon Ganea
Victoria Gallogly
Nancy Galloway and Andy Morse
Christina Garcia
Ann Gamier
Julie Garren
Dr. Maryl Gearhart
Ben Gellis
Katya Gerwein

Bonnie Hampton
Claudia Harrison
Keith Harrison
Danielle Hartzell
Christine Hastorf
Rebecca Hathaway
Seena Hawley
Ben Hays
Katie Hazen
Serena Haslapp
Ken and Christina Hecht
Kye Heinstei
Lynn Henderson
Robin Henke
David Hillis
Lassen Hines
Sara Hinkley
Bill Hirsch and Betsy Crabtree
Michelle Hirsch
Patrick Hitchcock
Gary and Jennifer Hoachlander
Hannah Hoban
Jane Hobberman
David Hodgson
Lawrence and Barbara Hohlt
Judith and Thomas Holland
Robert Holloway
Cathryn Holmes
John and Barb Holzrichter
Lauri Horn
Frances Horstein
David Horsley
Bronwen Horton
David Hoskins
LeRoy Howard
Elaine Hsu
Susan Husb
Paula Hudas
Chris Hudson and Cindy Chang
Carly Hyland
Kathleen and Robert Hynes
Patrice Ignelzi and Bruce Smith
Carmelina Ignelzi
Susan Ireland
Phyllis Isaacson
Nancy Isaksen
Edith Jackson
Mary Jacobs
Sara Jacobs
Susan Jacobs
Veta Jacqulin
Chuck and Locke Jaeger
Donna Jaffe
Anita Jain
Lovell Burnis
Madeline and Bill Jay
Upendra Kamanu Jeyjala
Harley Jensen
Robert Jensen
Sandra Jensen
Carole Joffe and Fred Block
Ted and Pam Johann
Diane Johengen
Catherine Johnson and Roger Pearson
David Johnson
Hannah Johnson
Kathleen Johnson
Mary Katherine Johnson
Mary Reed Johnson
Heather Jones
Ken Jones
Steven Jones
Nelcie Jorgensen
Yatish Joshi
Daniel Jung
Kenneth Jung
Elana Juvenon
Hannah Kahn
Olabd Kahn
Raymond Kaliski
Paula Kallenberg
Jason and Katie Kaneko
Sarah Kansa
Members of Kappa Kappa Gamma
Karen Kashima
Eric Katerman
Michael and Vanaja Katten
Nathan Kaufman
Joel Kaufmann and Susan Blake
Cynthia Kazdan-Leap
Susen Kegeles
James Keleman and Karen Matza
Meg Kellog
Soile Keranen
Kristina Kessel
Joan Kibby
Sheldon Kimberly
Linda Kindler
Sara Knight
Harmon Knutson
Lynne Eve Komaromi
Ruth Koroff
Donna Korones
Dafna Kory
John and Jane Kotowski
Jules Kragen
Liz Kramer
Jackie Krentzman and Larry Munn
Daniel Kroll
Thomas Kuhn
Nadide Laluk Kulun
Amal Kumar and Apama Ramesh
Ron Kyle and Doris Balabanian
Lydia Laszlo
Virginia Landin Nelson
Brian and Sandra Lanes
Julia Lang
Jocelyn Larkin
Susan Larkin-Swinkels
Amy Larson and Robert Uhlaner
Helen Lau-Cheney
Kim Laughton and Steve Maupin
Deborah Laurer
Jaime Lawton
Meagan Le
Nicholas Lee
Raldia Lee
Sonya Lee
Eric Leensn
Anneke Lenssen
Aidan Leonard
Robin Leong
Esther Lerman
Catherine Lerza
Peter Lester
Tasha Leverette
Susan Levine
Richard Levinson
Alan Levy and Diana Burden
Deb Lewis and Marty Myers
Dan Lieberman
Andrea Linsky
Ted Lobman and Caree Brown
John Long
Kat Lopez-White
Martin Lorber
Jill Lovers
Vanessa Lowe
Carisa Lubeck
Jessica Lucana
Ann Ludvig
Wendy and Brian Lukas
Andy Lurie
Liza and Bobby Lutzk
Hannah Lyons
Jimmy, Denise and Geena Lyons
Christine Ma and Jeremy Reiter
Peter Macfarlane
David Madison
Pamela Maffei
Thomas Magrina and Jaime Mann
Arabelle Malinis
Cathy Ann Mallman
Chris Mammes
Rene Mandel
Deborah Mann
Bruce Mansdorf
David Marcus
Helen Marcus
Olivier Marie and Lynn Van Housen
Laura Martin
rishia Mars
Chris Martin and Petronella Van Berry
Chris and Sarah Martinak
Jill and Piero Martinucci
Marjan Mashacci
Francine Masiello
Jenny Mason
Sarah Matsumoto
Nanou and Teale Matteson
Bonnie Mattison
Helen Matzger
Ben Mauk
Jacquelyn McCormick and Michael Salkin
Laura McCrea
Patrick McDermott
Trish McDermott
Jill and John McDonough
Roxanne McGovern
James McGrath
Stephanie McKown and John Brennan
Susie Medak and Greg Murphy
Richard Meiss
Robin Mencher
Karen and Michael Meyash
Elizabeth Meyer
Selma Meyerowitz
Elisa and Erick Mikten
Joni Miller
Pamela Miller
Phillip and Laura Miller
Samantha Miller
Susan Miller-Davis and Jonathan Davis
Rebecca Mills
Linda Minor
Jennifer Mitchell
Henry Mitchell
Kristi Mitchell
Jay and Sarah Miyazaki
Nancy Moffett
Daniel Mogulof
Mia Mok
Dave Moore
Hank Moore
Susan Moore
Jim and Dana Moran
Sarah Morgan
Donna Moriguchi
Gina Morris
Janell Morris
Whitney Morris
Fred Morse
Sherie Mueller
Dennis Mulqueeney and Patricia Rossi
Katharine Murphy
Brett Mykrantz
Fred and Julie Nachtwey
Dave and Joya Nagle
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Laurie Nash
Alice Neels
Colleen Neff
Sheryl Negrin
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Jay Nitschke
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David Noriega
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Shawn Norris
Richard Nosek
Alex Novet
Dotty Nowak
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Ludoteca Nunis
Evelyn Nussenbaum
Jennifer Nutt
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Taeko and Renee Okamura
Linda Olinenbaum
Karen Olson
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Theresa O'Neil
Eddie and Amy Orton
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Xochilt Osegueda
Marilyn Ostendorf
Susan Overton
Curtis Owenway
Ben Ovdinsky
Stewart and Rachelle Owen
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Pat Pandolfi
Gina Papen
Irina Paperno
Roz Parenti
Kevin Parichan
Jessica Parker
Cheryllyn Parsons
The Partnership Foundation
Amy Pausen
Glenda Pawsey
Daniel Pearlman
Sarah Pendergrass
Sadhu Pennathur and Edward Messerly
Barbara Pennington
Michael Perlstein
Jessica Pers and Bob Stein
John Pfeiffer
Nicholas Phelps
Megan Pillsbury
Toni Pinck
Andy Pollack and Debbie Jordan
Michael Pollan and Judith Belzer
Green Poole
Amanda Posner
Margaret Preston
Sharon and Mark Priven
Patti Prunhuber
Mary Purcell
Alicia Queen
Richard Quint
Karina Racz
Leslie Radin
Jerome Rainey
Andrea Ramiza
Asha Rao
Matthew Raphael
Juan Reygoza
David Rees
Reilly family
Heather Reilly
Gabrielle Reiner
Echa and James Reiter
Leslie Retallick
Abigail Reznick and Miles Ehrlich
Alexander Reza
Lisa Ricci
Christie Riedell
Dana and Steve Rieger
David and Carla Riemer
Shari and Steve Rivas
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Jessica Rivera
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Raine Robichaud
April Robinson
Jeffrey and Sarah Robinson
Kit and Ahri Robinson
Catherine Roha
Kim Rohrer
Bill Romani
Patrick Romani
Elizabeth Romo
Irene Rosenthal
Donna Ross
Duffy Ross
Yehudit Rothman
Judl Rotman
Mandara Roy
Marion Rubin
Julie Rubio
William Runyan
Mike Russell
Ellen Rutnick
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Nikki Sachs
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Julia Sadowski
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Holly Schneider
Barbara Scheifer
Susan Scherer
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Leslie Schibsted
Alexander Braun Schoenfeld
Azimat Lane Schulz
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Madeleine Scott
Margaret and Conte Seely
Carol Seidel
Tina Self
Mary Jo Senica and George Banarowski
Ira Serkes
Randall Serrurier
Melissa Severini
Rita Shaby
David Shames
Pat and Merrill Shanks
Alice Sheehan
Cary Sheldon
Leah Shellada
Brian Shillinglaw
Philip Shiu
Kent Shultz
Abby and Jacob Shusterman
Lisa and Mel Sibony
Alana Siegner
Jennifer Sime
Margaret Simpson and Douglas Booth
Martha Singer and Richard Jennings
Brett Singer
Amrita Singhal and Michael Tubach
Lisa Sirkun
Randall Skattum
Skoble-Schiller
Rochelle Slamovich
Dan Slobin
Martha Sloss
Lucy and Tim Smallreed
Anne and Jay Smith
Corless Smith
Lauren Smith
Ramon Smith
Sally Smith
Ann Smulka and Rob Blackburn
Larry Snyder
Susan Snyder
Todd Soo-Hoo
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 Arreguin