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For Immediate Release

**CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION AND SYSCO CORPORATION PARTNER TO AID HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S FOOD FOR PEOPLE FOOD BANK DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

As California continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Fire Foundation and Sysco have joined forces to help communities impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Together the California Fire Foundation and Sysco Corporation have gifted over \$5,000 in relief effort to the Food for People Food Bank in Humboldt County that coordinates the distribution of food countywide through a variety of hunger relief programs.

"As California firefighters are on the front lines of wildfires and other natural disasters, so too are the many organizations supporting families and communities through the COVID-19 pandemic," said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation. "Our foundation has already supported communities heavily impacted by disaster, and thanks to the support from Sysco, we are proud to continue that commitment and aid the Food for People Food Bank in their ongoing efforts to help their communities."

Volunteers at the Food for People Food Bank have been working tirelessly to ensure impacted communities receive the food they so desperately need and address the needs of those who are experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

"So many are suffering in our community due to this unprecedented crisis and we have seen the need for our service increase dramatically," said Anne Holcomb, Executive Director of the Food for People Food Bank in Humboldt County. "We understand the long-term consequences of hunger and poor nutrition and thanks to the generous aid from California Fire Foundation and Sysco, we can continue our commitment to creating a stronger and healthier Humboldt County."

In the past few months, Food for People has created drive-through food distributions to serve people quickly and safely. They have coordinated with local schools to ensure students receive food through their Backpacks for Kids program, despite school closures due to COVID-19 and worked with their network of volunteers to deliver food safely to fragile seniors and homebound individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness caused by COVID-19.

"As leaders in the food and service industry, we recognize the specific needs of organizations such as the Food for People Food Bank," said Spencer Richins, New Business Development, Sysco Sacramento. "We



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are grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate with the California Fire Foundation and aid their ongoing efforts with the state's non-profits providing much needed relief in these most difficult of times.”

This aid from the California Fire Foundation is part of their ongoing commitment to provide funding and support for community-based organizations that are on the front lines helping those facing the greatest risk from COVID-19.

About:

The California Fire Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, provides emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect. Formed in 1987 by California Professional Firefighters, the California Fire Foundation's mission includes survivor and victim assistance programs and a range of community initiatives. [cafirefoundation.org](http://cafirefoundation.org).

Sysco is the global leader in selling, marketing and distributing food products to restaurants, healthcare and educational facilities, lodging establishments and other customers who prepare meals away from home. Its family of products also includes equipment and supplies for the foodservice and hospitality industries. The company operates more than 320 distribution facilities worldwide and serves more than 650,000 customer locations.

Food for People is the designated Food Bank for Humboldt County and coordinates distribution of food countywide through a variety of hunger relief programs. The nonprofit food bank for Humboldt county has supported the community since 1979, providing child food nutrition education, senior home bound programs, free produce markets, emergency food programs and disaster relief. [foodforpeople.org](http://foodforpeople.org)

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