



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

Until everyone's fed

Dear Mr. Smith,

Whether you've been a Food Bank supporter for two months or 20 years, you've heard me say it: "Community is our middle name."

With you - in community - we've accomplished a lot in my two decades at the helm of Alameda County Community Food Bank: increased the volume of nutritious food we provide by literally *millions of pounds a month*, taken brave political actions, advanced racial equity, and driven innovations that enable us to rise to any challenge - and there have been plenty during the last year.

Community strength has equipped us to respond powerfully to the COVID-19 crisis. *Thank you.*

This issue of Community Harvest - landing in your mailbox around the 1-year anniversary of Governor Newsom's first shelter-in-place order - is a testament to that impact, which many of you have made possible. Enclosed is a different newsletter than in the past. Instead of articles we write about you - our community - we've invited staff, volunteers, partners, and clients to tell their own stories directly.

ACCFB's strengths are plentiful: amazing staff; incredible Agency Network; skilled, diverse Board; great reputation; and solid financial position (empowered by partners like you). It is because of these strengths that - you may have heard - I feel comfortable stepping down after 20 years in the world's greatest job. (I'm leaving later this year.)

Yes, it's true. It's time to give another fortunate Community leader a turn at the helm of ACCFB.

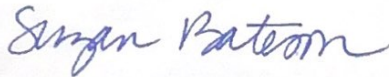
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Many great things brought me to this decision. Another factor also influenced me: recovery from the pandemic's economic impact will last for many years, and thus the timing seemed right to transition to another energetic leader to guide ACCFB *all the way through* this era.

As I say in my final (!) Community Harvest piece inside: This is not a goodbye. Even once the new leader is here, expect to hear me cheering - *very loudly* - from the sidelines. I care far too much to do anything but.

With much gratitude and even more affection,

Suzan Bateson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzan Bateson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director