

The Brown Bag Bite

A quarterly newsletter from the Mercy Brown Bag Program

Volume 2: Issue 2

February 2025



*Clorox volunteers helping pack bags for our AAA event!

An update from the Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Mercy Brown Bag ended the calendar year in a whirlwind, and we have much to report. Our deepest gratitude and thanks to those of you who have worked by our side this past quarter to:

- Launch our Chapman expansion project, that will enable us to take on building pallets of food for the mobile grocery AND gives us 20% added capacity!
- Implement a recyclable bag project that saves 5,000 brown bags from landfills every month, and \$1500 from our budgets that can be used to instead purchase needed food!
- Pass our single audit in September for FY24 with zero issues noted.
- Establish new corporate relationships with Clorox, Amazon and Target, who all helped with the holiday box packaging and administering, and Costco, who is donating food recovered from their new Pleasanton store
- In the final months of 2024 we staffed the Brown Bag Advisory Council with 6 diverse, eminent members of the East Bay community providing us with strategic advice and counsel. Thank you to these important new stakeholders!

Unfortunately, the need continues to grow in our community. Another landmark was passed in December when we passed 10,000 unique individuals served. Your support and help is more critical and needed than ever. Thank you for all you do!

Yours in community, *Janice*

Brown Bag By the Numbers

2,370,752

Pounds of Food
distributed in 2024

134K

Bags Distributed
in 2024

10,454

Elders Served
monthly in 2024

75%

Growth
in 5 years

Who we serve!

We are thrilled to highlight one of our valued recipients at Lakeside—Willena J! At 65 years old, Willena lives on just \$900 a month, as do many of our recipients. She arrives early for every distribution, sharing that it's one of the few times she leaves her home.

Willena is also an enthusiastic supporter of our new reusable bag program. For Willena, the reusable bags provide added convenience, giving her one less thing to worry about when picking up her groceries. Thanks to this initiative, we've saved over 5,000 paper bags each month!

We are so grateful to Willena and all our recipients who help make these programs a success!



Partnership Highlight!

We're excited to announce two new partnerships with



&



Every Friday, Armando, our Warehouse/Driver Associate, picks up high-quality donated goods from the Pleasanton Costco. This initiative is part of the Alameda County Community Food Bank's Food Recovery program, which collects nutritious food from local grocery stores and retail locations to support neighborhood food pantries and meal programs.

At the end of last year, we were also thrilled to welcome Clorox team members who volunteered to pack food for the community.

We're grateful for both partnerships and look forward to their continued growth in 2025!

Holiday Gifts for Home-Bound Seniors

MBBP teamed up with the Area Agency on Aging and SOS Meals on Wheels to pack Holiday Boxes for isolated seniors across the county. Corporate volunteers and Alameda County supervisors delivered the gifts to recipients' homes. Highlighting the power of community, these boxes made the season brighter for many!



Amazon Fremont team members helping wrap packages for home-bound seniors!

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Mark Hess!

Mark is a star volunteer who has been serving with us for 8 years! He was drawn to the organization through his church, Creekside Community in San Leandro, after participating in fundraising events.



Currently, Mark serves the very important role of driving bags full of groceries to a selection of our smaller sites, and is always there to lend a helping hand to our drivers and site coordinators. Though a recent battle with bone marrow cancer changed the ways he is able to volunteer, he's already eager to amp up his schedule again. Mark finds deep fulfillment in the connections at MBBP, urging others to consider volunteering as a way to nourish both the soul and community. We are so thankful for the strength and commitment that Mark brings to our program!

Be sure to read Mark's full interview on our Blog at <https://mercybrownbag.org/blog/>

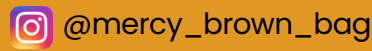
Donate today and become a part of a greater mission to fight senior hunger! Consider setting up a recurring donation to help keep our service consistent for thousands of Alameda County seniors.



Send checks to:
 Mercy Brown Bag
 Program
 3431 Foothill Blvd.
 Oakland, CA 94601



Join us on Social Media!



Partnership Highlight!



We Pick & Deliver
 Oakland Gleaners

We're excited to announce our partnership with Oakland Gleaners, a group dedicated to collecting surplus fruit from local homes and delivering it to food organizations in need:
oaklandgleaners.org

How to help:

- Pick and deliver:** You pick the fruit and deliver directly to MBBP.
- Pick and they'll deliver:** You pick, the Oakland Gleaners can collect.
- Let them pick:** Oakland Gleaners picks the fruit and delivers to us.

Apples, oranges, lemons, pears, plums, persimmons, and more are accepted.

Get involved today and support us by providing fresh produce to those in need.
 Contact us for more details!



Castro Valley Berkshire Hathaway Supports MBBP

We are so grateful for the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Community Foundation, who awarded us a generous grant in February! This funding allowed us to purchase an electric pallet jack for our driver Emmalaine (pictured left), who was able to personally thank the team at BHH!

Thank you to our generous donors! (10/01/24 - 02/19/25)

Your contributions enable us to regularly feed over 10,000 low-income seniors in the East Bay - twice a month with fresh, nutritious groceries!

We cannot do this without you.

Organizations

- Alameda County Waste Management Authority
- California Bank and Trust
- City of Hayward
- City Of Oakland
- County of Alameda
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Fremont Bank Foundation
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- St. Mary Magdalen Church
- St. Monica Catholic Church
- Target Community Impact
- The Catholic Community of Pleasanton
- The Crescent Porter Hale Foundation
- Berkshire Hathaway/ Drysdale Community Foundation
- The Koret Foundation
- Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation

Individuals

- Adriene M. Iverson
- Alex Handlers
- Alvin Tenpo
- Amalie Sorenson
- Anita Dolores Marquez
- Anne Marie Dolan
- Audrey Rosenberg
- Aulani Cler
- Brandon Biggerstaff
- Burton J. Rigley
- Carlos M. De Luz
- Ceil Roberts Tilney
- Constance Callahan
- Cynthia A.W. Puppione
- Cynthia Darbo
- Dagmar Serota
- Dale D. Wong
- Debbie and Vince Rocha
- Diane C. Lawrence
- Donald V. Potter
- Doris N. Seyranian
- Lillian Cadenasso
- Edith H. Christensen
- Edward Lucchesi
- Elizabeth Anhorn
- Frank G. Nicewicz
- Fred J. Cattaneo
- Gary Gerber
- George P. Sabatte Jr.
- George T. Pohley III
- Georgia H. Burke
- Gertrude McCulloch
- Gregory Lemos
- Hope Krauskop
- James J. Marchiano
- James Manning
- Janet Lockwood Garin
- Janice Roberts
- Jeannette M. O'Sullivan
- Joan A. Porter
- Joanne V. Goheen
- John F. Morgan
- John P. Ritchie
- Juanita & Fred Hall
- Judith L. Martin-Holland
- Judith M. Stanley
- Kathleen Nichols
- Kim Aquino
- Krista Lucchesi
- Lawrence P. Nejasnich
- Lenore Gunst
- Lisa Thompson
- Lorraine Heinemann
- Louis Labat
- Lovella Aldridge-Barney
- Madeline Claire Smoley
- Margaret Mills
- Margo K. Logan
- Marilyn McCabe
- Martin DePorres Coleman
- Jesse Bean
- Mary Dang
- Mary Hester
- Mary Lemionet
- Mary Louise Zernicke
- Mary M. Giachetto
- Matthew D. Werner
- Maureen Sirhall
- Meredith Bradshaw
- Michael Zabriskie
- Mindy Creson
- Miranda Melone
- Misha McKinney
- Pamela Burke
- Patricia McFadden
- Paul Wuerstle
- Pauline Borghello
- Pegeen Brosnan
- Raja Sekaran
- Raymond R. Marchetti
- Rebecca L Anderson
- Robert A. Docili
- Wayne D. Mara
- Robert J. Grassilli
- Robert P. Tiernan
- Ruth Poole
- Sanjeev Chakrad
- Sean & Ellen Rhatigan
- Sheridan Adams
- Sherry H. Smith
- Simon Mazzola
- Sister Marian Clare Valenteen
- Steven P. Burke
- Susan Tierney
- Tim Williams
- Tracy Jensen

Your Support Saves Lives!

Be part of the solution...



Donate Today!

