Food For Thought healing with food + love

SEPTEMBER 2016



Left to right: Diana Lobush, Rebecca Guarda, Erica Alsbury, Doug Gosling, Vinothini Sachithananthan, Sioux Ault

THE GARDEN FAIRIES OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Usually Food For Thought focuses on one outstanding volunteer to award, but this year, we had to break tradition and award the outstanding work of a group of volunteers, our Garden Fairies! Vino, Rebecca, Erica, Diana, Jacob, Sioux, Nicole, Orny, and Jude work with Doug "Dougo" Gosling and Sean Fleming, our staff gardeners, to make sure that our gardens are beautiful and productive, so that they continue growing fresh, life-giving fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers for our clients.

As Diana says, "One of my passions is to make sure that the clients get healthy produce and learn how to prepare it. By working in the garden, I can contribute to

that effort, while working inside gives me the opportunity to talk to the clients who benefit from our labor of love."

Vino finds being in the garden accomplishes several things at once: "My favorite thing about the garden is that it connects me with others. Gardening is a beautiful way to give back, it's a way to commune with nature. It's meditative whether you weed or harvest or sift compost or plant, and I enjoy it very much."

THE

DISH

The garden continues to grow and feed even more people thanks to our hard-working garden fairies, who are here no matter how hot, rainy, or chilly it is.

When you step into the garden, you know immediately you're in a special place: one that's designed for nourishment and healing. What was once a blackberry patch in inhospitable soil is now a beautifully designed garden full of fruit trees,

berries, vegetables, and culinary and medicinal herbs.

The garden continues to grow and feed even more people thanks to our hard-working garden fairies, who are here every week no matter how hot, rainy, or chilly it is.



Orny Wilcox



Nicole Wisser



Jude Henning



Jacob Kowalick-Allen

ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE! ONLINE AT WWW.FFTFOODBANK.ORG



FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diana Laczkowski President

Larry Needleman Vice President

Mark Leavitt Treasurer

Rodney DeMartini Secretary

Dena Bliss

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Larry Prager

Mark Short

Sandy Younglove

FOOD BANK

Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 am-5 pm (707) 887-1647 6550 Railroad Avenue PO Box 1608 Forestville, CA 95436 FFTfoodbank.org



11 am-5 pm every day 2701 Gravenstein Hwy S. Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 823-3101 FFTantiques.com



WATCH OUR GARDEN GROW

by Ron Karp, Executive Director

Many happy synchronicities have shaped and supported this grassroots organization. In 1996, James Carney left us his condo and pick-up truck as part of a legacy gift. His gift came at a time of great need—the truck saved us tens of thousands of dollars, and we still use it!

Our world-class organic gardens came to be thanks to another synchronicity. In 1999 as we were constructing our current facility, the county required us to install landscaping.

All the available options were institutional, bleak, and unwelcoming.

Our garden continues to provide a space for beauty and healing, and produces organic produce and flowers for our clients.

Out of the blue, I got a call from then-volunteers Doug Gosling and Rachel Gardner. They wanted to know if we could work together to create a beautiful and healing garden all around the building. Now, 17 years later, our garden continues to provide a space for beauty and healing, and produces organic produce and flowers for our clients.

As we continue to support our clients living with HIV and welcome clients with other serious illnesses, we know the garden will continue to grow and serve the community, just like Food For Thought.

WHYIGIVE By Rebecca Guarda

There is an old Italian saying, "Chi mangia bene, vive bene," which means "the person who eats well, lives well." This is true at Food For Thought, where I'm a Saturday garden volunteer. Its garden is a place where lifelong friendships are formed among its plants—and it always has room to welcome more!

I'd like to be remembered in this place, too, which is why I wrote FFT into my will.

The spirit of kindness at FFT brings me back every week. It gives me strength in times of hardship, and I've seen it transform the lives of others. I deeply believe that growing and sharing food with love can help people heal from illness, grief, and suffering.

I've lost FFT friends to illness, but their memories live on. I'd like to be remembered in this place, too, which is why I wrote FFT into my will. I know this simple act will have a positive impact on many lives, helping people eat well and live well long after I'm gone. I earnestly hope others will join me.



Food For Thought is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of persons affected by HIV and other serious illnesses in Sonoma County, regardless of financial, sexual, racial, religious, political, or any other attitudinal preferences and proclivities (including past life regressions). We provide free weekly grocery bags containing a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, high-quality protein sources, whole grains, healthy packaged foods, and prepared meals. We also provide vitamins and supplements, nutrition education, and a congregrate lunch. Occasional hugs are also available at no additional charge.

SAVE THE DATE!

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CALABASH

A silent auction of fine gourd art to benefit Food For Thought



Sunday, October 2 1–5 pm

Attend one of Food For Thought's most beloved fundraising events! Held at our world-class organic gardens, attendees enjoy fine wine, food, and live music played on hand-made gourd instruments as they view generously donated gourd, garden, and book art made by local artists. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$55 at the door.





Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Contact Mary Bigelow-Gale at MaryB@FFTfoodbank.org or (707) 887-1647 ext. 107 to learn more.

Thanks to our presenting sponsors:

KAISER PERMANENTE。 **thrive**





DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Thursday, December 1 Dine Out, Fight AIDS

Dine out at over 80 amazing eateries in Sonoma County and 25–50% of your purchase will go directly to Food For Thought's life-giving nutrition services. It'll be the most satisfying meal you'll have all year!

Want to sign up as a sponsor or participating restaurant? Contact Mary Bigelow-Gale at MaryB@FFTfoodbank.org or (707) 887-1647 ext. 107.

Want to be a Dining Out For Life Ambassador to help us raise funds in individual restaurants? Contact Elisa Baker at Volunteer@FFTfoodbank.org or (707) 887-1647 ext. 103.







VOLUNTEER **ANNIVERSARIES APRIL-JULY 2016**

24 years! Marty DeKay Bemis Doug Gosling

22 years **Orny Wilcox** Nancy Scott-Hunnicutt Jineen Summerton

21 years Will Fulwider

20 years Diana Lobush

19 years Will Brown

17 years Ron Cagle **Rose Cohen**

16 years Joe Arcangelini John Dempcy

14 years Daniel Clark Suzanne Reta

13 years Gar Cross **Rodney Rovai** Amanda Wood

12 years Peaches Henning Leslie Tuttle

11 years Lisa Albertson Jeffrey Fox Remi Newman The Oncken Family **Ron Ottley**

10 years Gloria Turchi Angela Sturr

9 years Sandra Palmer

8 years Jackie Mendoza Nancy Wright

7 years Marion Dutra Lynn McCarthy Susan Rice

6 years Liberty Breaw Jonathan Cooper

5 years Terri Blackley Dolores Castellanos Darcie McNallv Geno Russo

4 years Melinda Feinstein Sean Fleming Linda Hall Paty Hermosillo-Perkins Michael Reilly Margaret Walter

3 years Glen Blackley Robbie DeLaRiva Rita Kent Briana Lehane Chris Moisenco Kathleen Pettis Martin Rossiter Cindy & MikeTucker Mia VonKnorring

2 vears Chris & Alex Azevedo Albert Carey Skipper Cassady Jr. **R.** Michael Collins Lisa Dragna Nyla Fleig Anthony Garcia Dana Higgins David Hobler Jacob Kowalick-Allen Connie Malczynski Margaret Pinkham Kirk Read Amanda Sims Oceana Spotleson Barbara Wishard

1 year Cristina Campbell Barbara George Stephanie O'Connell Ken Paradise **Terry Wilson**



FFT volunteers celebrate their anniversaries.

IN MEMORY OF MEL DAVIS



Generous donor Mel Davis, husband of FFT volunteer Emily, passed away early this June. Mel was known for his kindness, generosity, and civic devotion. He served for many years as City Manager of Sebastopol and volunteered for many local causes. He was a beloved friend as well as a generous supporter of Food For Thought, and we will miss him greatly.

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN HONOR OF

Elizabeth Cotton

Rodney DeMartini and Frederick Kasl Jackie Dono Barbara Gerber Parke Hafner Dave Hall Jim Humrich Peaches Henning and Katherine Kendall Shelley Rust Jack Welch Sandy Younglove

IN MEMORY OF

Dexter R. Clary, Jr. Steve Cohan **Melvin Davis** Sue Engel Ellis M. Gans **Brian Kelly** Erik Orav **Dennis** Paynter Stuart Peot Joel Robinson Rabbi Michael A. Robinson M. H. Sariaslani Stewart Scofield **Robert Screes** Ron Tokunaga **Russell Wherritt**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD DRIVES: 2 1/2 HOURS OF YOUR TIME CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

Each food drive brings in an average of \$2,500 in food and cash. In fact, food drives account for 1/3 of our annual food budget. We need your help to keep them going throughout the year.

To sign up or learn more, contact Ali Archer at AliA@FFTfoodbank.org or call (707) 887-1647 ext. 116.



Cristina, Keiran, and Kadence at the Sebastopol Safeway

Volunteer orientations are held the third Tuesday of every month at the food bank: 6550 Railroad Ave., Forestville, CA 95436. Stop by September 20 or October 18 to learn how you can help. Contact Elisa Baker for info or to RSVP: Volunteer@FFTfoodbank.org or (707) 887-1647 ext. 103.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS WITH STRONG BACKS & BIG TRUCKS



Keith loads up his truck with much-needed supplies for our clients.

We're always picking up lots of groceries from our food drives and generous donors around Sonoma County, and we need volunteers who are ready, willing, and able to make those pick-ups to make sure our clients get fed.

If you'd like to volunteer for FFT but can't take on a regular weekly shift, this is the perfect fit for you.

Contact Elisa Baker at Volunteer@FFTfoodbank.org or (707) 887-1647 ext. 103 to learn more.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: DOUGO & SEAN SPEAK ABOUT THE GARDEN

Garden Manager Doug Gosling and Garden Assistant Sean Fleming talk about what makes our world-class organic garden so special.



Dougo

I really believe the garden has a reciprocal relationship with Food For Thought. This is an extraordinary garden: It's unusually abundant and exuberant, and it has to do with the energy and love that radiates from here. You can feel it when you walk in the gates—it feels like a magic garden.

There's something about the garden that embodies the message of FFT, which is that we care about your mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical health. The garden is very reassuring to people, especially clients. The garden sends a message that we value a whole vision of health, which includes a relationship to the land and to where food comes from.

This garden is unusually abundant and exuberant, and it has to do with the energy and love that radiates from here.

The fact that FFT embraces the garden and never questioned building it is visionary and unusual. For a food bank to really understand that complete health is about having a holistic vision of the health of the planet is profound.

Sean

The garden mainly serves two purposes: one, we want to provide clients of Food For Thought with healthy, organic, locally produced fruits and vegetables. Two, we want to provide an example of what can be grown in the area. Plus, if people see some different foods, maybe they'll be more willing to try them.

We want to provide clients of Food For Thought with healthy, organic, locally produced fruits and vegetables.

Beyond the availability of nutritious food and nutritional counseling, this organization has always provided a loving, safe area of support. There's always a lot of love that just flows out from all the volunteers and the staff members. From the minute I was a client here, I have been impressed by how loving the staff and volunteers are toward the clients. For clients, FFT provides an island of stability and loving support.



I've been involved with many different nonprofits, and I have to say, Food For Thought treats their clients in a more humane manner than many others. It really blew me away. This is really and truly a special place.

WAYS TO GIVE









Become a GEM

Monthly donors ensure that our clients will always know where their next meal is coming from. As a GEM, you'll receive special benefits like limited mail solicitations, invitations to special donor events, and the joy of helping feed people in need. For more information, visit FFTfoodbank.org.

Leave a Legacy

Did you know Food For Thought's permanent home and our antiques store are the results of legacy gifts? By including us in your will or trust, you can ensure that Sonoma County residents dealing with HIV and other serious illnesses don't have to go hungry well into the future.

For questions or suggested language on how to include FFT, contact your estate planning professional or Ron Karp at RonK@FFTfoodbank.org.

Celebration Pathway

This lovely memorial walkway is an important part of our organic gardens. For either a \$100 or \$200 donation, you can install a 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" plaque inscribed with a special message and the names of loved ones. It's a wonderful way to celebrate life events, from anniversaries to milestones to passages. For more information, contact Karen Gardner at KarenG@FFTfoodbank.org.

Contribute Now!

Food For Thought exists solely because of the generosity of donors like you. 40% of our funding comes from small, private donations. Make a difference right away by contributing to Food For Thought—just use the enclosed envelope to send in a donation. Any amount is welcome!

Left, staff member Karen Gardner holds a check from Sonoma County Wine Country Weekend, which donates to many local nonprofits.

Feeding People Throughout Sonoma County Our Donors and Volunteers Make It Possible

DID YOU KNOW...

That FFT delivers food to 275 homebound and homeless men, women, and children throughout Sonoma County?

> That the majority of our clients are located in Santa Rosa?

That donors and volunteers are our lifeblood? In 2015 alone:

- 597 volunteers contributed 28,936 hours (that's the equivalent of 15 full-time staffers)
- Over 3,000 donors contributed \$560,889

That our clients receive these services for free and for as long as they need them?











Food For Thought - 2015 Annual Report

By the Numbers: Food For Thought's Life-giving Nutritional Support

We Provide Food and So Much More

Here's what we accomplished together in 2015:

Distributed **15,350 weekly grocery orders** (enough food for **322,350 meals**)!





Delivered **6,214 grocery orders** to homebound and homeless clients

Food For Thought · 2015 Annual Repor

Dave Hall Photography

Served **3,554 lunches** through our Congregate Lunch Program



Led **21 group classes** on healthy & nutritious cooking

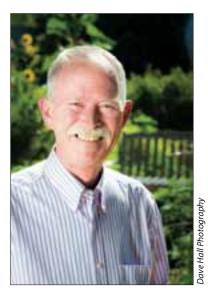




Distributed **12,374 bottles** of vitamins & supplements

2015 Annual Report Making Smart Financial Decisions for Sustainable Growth

In 2015, Food For Thought realized a long-held dream of expanding our mission: to continue to feed our HIV+ clients and provide those same life-giving nutritional services to Sonoma County residents dealing with other serious illnesses as well.



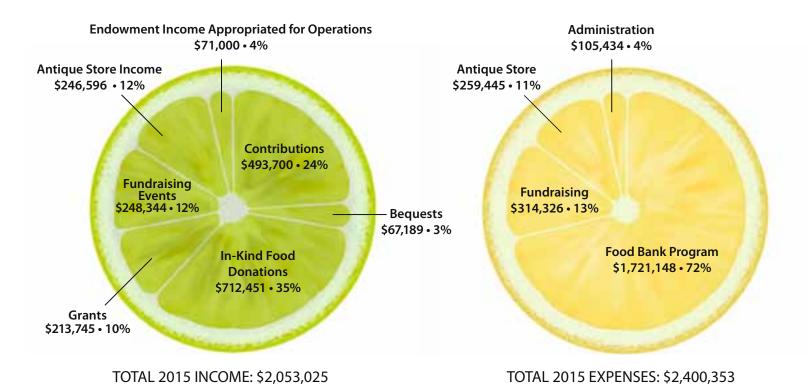
Thanks to the prudent long-term planning of our board and staff, Food For Thought is financially well positioned to slowly and steadily continue on this journey. Our ultimate vision is that no one in Sonoma County who is sick should have to go hungry.

We were fortunate to have received several large, one-time legacy gifts during the past few years and we made sure to invest these funds strategically. This allowed us to cover the necessary expenses we incurred this year in order to build a fiscally sound foundation.

One example is our investment in Food For Thought Antiques, Gifts, and Garden. We made improvements to the building and signage in order to be more visible and profitable well into the future. We thank you, the donors and volunteers of Food For Thought for your gifts of time, money, and commitment—we couldn't do it without you!

Frederick W. Kach

Frederick W. Kasl, Outgoing President of the Board of Directors



Large one-time legacy gifts from the past two years covered the new, necessary expenses we incurred this year, allowing us feed more people in need in our community.

Our finances are audited by an independent accounting firm: Dillwood, Burkel & Millar, LLP

Food For Thought · 2015 Annual Report



It is the generosity of our donors that ensures that our clients continue to have the nutrition they need to survive and be healthy. Thank you to all the individuals, businesses, and foundations who contribute to this important work.

Platinum Circle (\$10,000 or more) Estate of George W. Lord

Estate of H. Lance Cook Electra D. De Peyster Charles A. Frueauff Foundation Gilead Foundation Larry L. Hillblom Foundation Horizons Foundation

Gold Circle (\$5,000 or more) The Heck Foundation

Patricia London Sonia Miller Clay Nesbitt Estate of David Robinson

Larry Prager and Linda Myszak

Rialto Cinemas / Ky Boyd

M.A.C. AIDS Fund

Kathleen and Frank Mayhew

Gary and Marcia Nelson

Laurie Plant

Mert Preston

RiskPress Foundation / Charlie Pendergast Mary Ann Rovai Rubin Family of Wines Estate of John Smith Sonoma County Wine Weekend Estate of J. Russell Wherritt

Julie and Tom Atwood Mark K. Cooper The Elder California Foundation Exchange Bank Steven Haggard

Abacot Fund / Lisa Clyde and Elsa Garcia

Ron and Linda Backstrom

David Baylor and Theresa Helmer

Bethlehem Foundation

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Inc.

Éstate of Rubén Carrillo

Community Foundation Sonoma County

Banfield Charitable Trust Alan Beckstead Burr Pilger Mayer **Clif Bar Family Foundation** Emily and Melvin Davis Tom Garigliano and Jim Dugan

AcCounting on Computers / Lisa Ireland Winifred and Harry B. Allen Foundation Sigmund and Susan Anderman Animal Hospital of Sebastopol / Nicole Canon Kelly and Phil Beffrey Barry and Gail Ben-Zion Michael Bielawski and Alison Hannah Steve and Robin Black Terri and Glen Blackley Lee Boyack California Water Service Company Michael Calvelli Leslie Carter Marie Chandoha Codding Foundation Jona Consani Rob Cooke Elizabeth and John Cotton Gar Cross and George White Arnaldo Delucchi

> Ray Allen Susan and Norman Amidon Dee Arias Linda and Rachel Bauer Jennifer Lvnn Bice BoDean Company Chris Bramble Larry and Cecilia Bridges Steve Bromer Ren Brown and Robert DeVee Larry Campbell Ken Changus and Chuck Donaldson Paula Chiotti Jeff and Stacey Civian Robert Clegg Milo Coccimiglio Rose Cohen Congregation Shomrei Torah Peter Copen Nancy Crowe Michelle Davey and Scott Nickel Steven Deas and Jane Rosenberg Jim and Kathleen Dolinsek Barry Eddy Gary Eisman and Brent Fisher J. Yusuf Erskine and David Taff

Silver Circle (\$2,500 or more) Harvest for the Hungry Garden Meleana Holroyde and Kathryn Toms Kaiser Permanente Katie Killefer Diana Lobush and Jim Penpraze

Philip Kuo and Del Ray Hankins

Bronze Circle (\$1,000 or more)

Rod DeMartini and Frederick Kasl John and Patricia Dervin Digital Ciggz Barbara and Mike Doyle Dan and Stephanie Dumbrill Jane and Herbert Dwight Lisa Fischer Forestville Pharmacy / Mark and Pamela Olson Forestville Planning Association Barbara and Gary Gerber Charlotte Griswold-Tergis Parke and Sarah Hafner Jeffrey and Terri Hamilton-Gahart Laura L. Hormel and Andrew L. Weisskoff Ruth Anne Johnston Jim Laufenberg and Mike Daly Francis Lum Diane and Leslie Lynch Doris and John Lyons Risty Marckx

Copper Circle (\$500 or more)

Food For Thought · 2015 Annual Report

John F. Ewing Alice Fielder Robert and Jan Fisher Lvnn and Jim Fitzwater Tom Fleming Fred and Liz Flynn George Fossett and B. Gretter John and Debra Franzman Greg C. Fritz and Bruce Westland David and Nancy Gerber Harold V. Geritz and Margaret Griffin William Grasse Ron and Bea Griffiths Robert and Catherine Hanson Ann Hatch and Paul Discoe Jeffrey Hayes and Paul Cardus Pattie and David Heisser John Hershev William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Gail and Bob Hight Jim and Carolyn Hinton Paul Hoge and Alan Porter Ambassador James C. Hormel Pete Hosier and Don Reeser Sally Hurd Carolyn Jean Johnson and Rick Theis

Mark Short and Carl Rav William and Arlene Smith Nancy H. Markell Laura and Larry Martin David McAuliffe Montgomery Village Myers Restaurant Supply Harry Nesbitt Oxford Construction / Tim Oxford Bruce and Renae Perry Dennis R. Petri Rainbow Cattle Company Michael Randolph Gerald Rape

Redwood Credit Union Kent Ritchie **Russian River Festivals** Russian River Utility Company Salmon Creek School Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Joseph Tse Charitable Works / Jeff Tse and Monique Dubois Jane and Nelson Weller

> Lynn Spaulding Jim Stacy Summit State Bank Harold Torres and Jimmy Mallett Sandy Younglove

Lucia and Jim Schultz William Scott Daniel Shanahan and Dale Miller John and Elizabeth Sheela Jim and Kathleen Sparling Stuart Foundation Jack and Diane Stuppin Anjali and Ray Sussman John Sutherland Richard Sutherland and Duane Wakeham Hugh Trutton Vanguard Properties Michael Vellard and James Dern Cara Christina Widmer Willow Creek Wealth Management Evan Wright Nancy and King Wright Yunhee Yoo

Patricia Couryer Johnson Barry Judge Ron Karp and Ann Dolin Neal M. Katz and Jan Zeitlin James King Wally Krampf Jane Krensky and Peggy Tourje Mark and Raylene Leavitt Margaret Livingston and Shirley Liberman Jesus Lozano Chris Markell Linda Marietta Jan Marks / Don Blaugrund LGBT Fund Mary Jo McBride James and Sandra McCambridge John McGuirk and Richard Knaggs Edith P. Mendez Peter Mirkovich John Mitchell and Randy Lofquist Phil and Maureen Murphy Howard Needleman Thomas Nelligan Veronica No Patti O'Brien Berta and Ron Pecoraro Jan Postma and David Karp

Stephen Resnick . John Ross Russian River Rotary Robert Sargent Jane Saunders Fred Schnider Stephen and Deb Scholey Sebastopol Chapter of Realtors Donna Seid Patrick and Cris Simmons Timothy Stevenson and David King Regina and Tim Sullivan Vrenae Sutphin and David Gray Terri Tachovsky and Karen Knudson Kelly Temple and Mark Erickson Ted and Elizabeth Theiss Curtis Thomson and Sonny Childers Jay Tripathi / Gardenworks, Inc. Christine Tsai **Charles Wallis** Sue and Hugh West Jon Western and Elaine Ramires Carvn Woodhouse and Gene Lamka Christian Wright Doug Yule

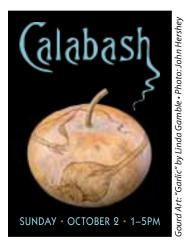
Lazy Bear Fund, Inc. Little Red Hen Foundation

Preston of Dry Creek / Lou and Susan Preston Michael and Sue Rataj Bill and Mary-Louise Reinking

Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery Nancy Schaub

Food For Thought PO Box 1608, Forestville CA 95436

Address Service Requested



Save the Date! Sunday, October 2 1–5 pm See page 3 for more info

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FOOD FOR THOUGHT ANTIQUES, GIFTS, AND GARDEN!



CELEBRATE WITH A 20% OFF STOREWIDE SALE AUGUST 26-28

Food For Thought Antiques, Gifts, and Garden is nine years old! To celebrate, the store will have refreshments and raffle prizes every weekend in August.

Aug. 26–28, stop by for BBQ treats and a 20% off storewide sale!