



Addressing Food Insecurity



"The meals help me not have to worry about food when my mom has to work." - John, 16

No Child Should Go Hungry

Every human deserves access to healthy, affordable food. It is one of life's fundamental necessities, and we are committed to ensuring that no child goes hungry. Food insecurity, compounded by rising inflation, reflects the tough choices families face between securing housing, paying bills, and providing nutritionally adequate meals. A child's potential for a brighter future hinges on having enough food today. In a world where childhood should be a time of carefree joy and discovery, the harsh reality of child hunger is a stark contrast. We firmly believe that no child should go to bed with an empty stomach or bear the weight of hunger when they should be immersed in the simple joys of childhood.

Did you know food insecurity rates for children in Butte County is 18.7% and in Glenn County 18.3%. Supporting the Boys & Girls Club means directly addressing a stark reality: food insecurity rates in Butte and Glenn Counties are more than 25% above the national average.

The Challenge Ahead

Food insecurity is particularly devastating for children due to their heightened vulnerability and potential long-term consequences. Studies have consistently shown that food insecurity hampers cognitive development in young children, leading to poorer academic performance. Furthermore, it has significant health implications, resulting in increased illness and associated healthcare costs. Insufficient nutrition can permanently alter a child's brain development, affecting learning, social interaction, and overall productivity. Children deprived of the necessary nutrients for robust brain development during early childhood may never fully recover their potential for cognitive growth and their ability to make substantial contributions to society. In addition to these challenges, rising inflation further compounds the difficulties faced by families, making

it even harder for them to make ends meet. As we navigate through these complex circumstances, it is clear that our communities continue to grapple with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing public health and economic crisis has left many families struggling, with a significant surge in youth experiencing food insecurity. As a result, the demand for our services has increased.

For many children, Club meals may be their only source of nutritious food, particularly during the summer months. These meals not only combat summer learning loss but also offer essential safety check-ins at a time when local children are most vulnerable.

Regional Partnerships:

- Child & Adult Care and Summer Food Program
- Regional Food Banks & 530 Food Rescue
- Local Business Donations
- Safeway, Raley's & Bishops House

Driving Solutions

- Increased access to nutritious and healthy daily snack and supper programs
- Nutrition and cooking programs
- Weekly fresh produce for the weekends
- Weekly food pantry for all sites
- Direct support gap funds- gift cards
- Community based pop up food banks
- Direct support gap funding and gift cards



To Learn More and Become a Sponsor contact Rashell Brobst, Chief Executive Officer rbrobst@bgcnv.org