



HISTORY OF SFBFS

Father Daniel Madigan founded Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) in the basement of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Oak Park in 1976. Pained by watching so many people, including small children, go hungry on the streets of Sacramento, he called together a small cadre of compassionate volunteers to tackle the problem. Over time, the number of programs, staff and volunteers grew to meet the ever-increasing need in Sacramento. His passion for helping individuals and families in need is still alive and well in the wide array of services currently offered by SFBFS.

SFBFS operates a large distribution center in North Sacramento. SFBFS also partners with more than 130 local agencies to distribute food across Sacramento County. SFBFS serves neighborhoods with families experiencing some of the highest rates of poverty, unemployment, child abuse and neglect, malnourishment and overall hardship in the Sacramento area.

Over four decades, SFBFS' programs and services have been modified on several occasions to best support the needs of the community. As part of the most recent Strategic Plan, announced in mid-2022, the organization will be concentrating its efforts on the fight against hunger moving forward. SFBFS will, however, continue offering baby food and diaper distribution, utility assistance, Immigration Legal Services and Refugee Resettlement Services.

SFBFS runs a very lean, grassroots organization with an incredibly efficient, professional staff of about 80 and a volunteer workforce of more than 12,000 annually. SFBFS continues to meet the increasing demand for services by leveraging donations when purchasing food and baby supplies for pennies on the dollar. Through a diverse array of programs and services, SFBFS provides free emergency goods and services to about 280,000 men, women and children each month.

SFBFS is able to provide goods and services at no cost due to the generous support of individual donors, corporate contributions and special events. SFBFS hosts the annual Run to Feed the Hungry every year on Thanksgiving Day. In 2022, 29,241 community members turned up on their day off to spend time with family and raise awareness of those less fortunate in our community, generating over \$1 million to support programs and services at SFBFS.

Timeline

- 1976 Father Madigan founds Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services as a nonprofit organization. Food is distributed to families in need and eventually becomes a separate program.
- 1983 Sunday Lunch program begins serving meals and eventually bagged lunches to hundreds of clients.



- 1988 Clothing program opens, providing clothing to men, women and children at no cost.
- 1989 Community Learning Center opens in Oak Park, offering tutoring for adults in math, reading and ESL (program later named Adult Education).
- 1991 Havens' Transitional Living program opens a small collection of houses in Oak Park to provide housing for homeless families with children.
- 1992 Mother-Baby program opens its doors to mothers and fathers seeking help. Parents can now receive formula and diapers by attending educational parenting workshops.
- 1992 Anton and Ilham Saca host the first Saca Benefit Ball, a black tie gala that raises \$3.5 million over 17 years.
- 1993 A group of senior volunteers come together to form the Bridge Builders, a dedicated crew who assists in various programs, including assembly of the monthly newsletter mailing for over 15 years. (Bridge Builders program is sunset in 2010).
- 1994 Run to Feed the Hungry draws 796 participants for the inaugural event on Thanksgiving Day.
- 1998 Child Services begins offering programs for youth. One component of the program offers tutoring to elementary-aged youth in an afterschool setting, later becoming its own program, After School Academy. The other component is a co-operative childcare program for 1-5-year-olds, later named Playcare.
- 2000 Women's Wisdom Project (later named Women's Wisdom Art) is adopted by SFBFS and offers art classes to women overcoming difficulties. The program runs for 12 years and moves to Wellspring Women's Center in 2012.
- 2000 Ride Against Hunger sets off to raise funds for SFBFS through a competitive bicycling event, operating for four years.
- 2000 Computer Clubhouse begins offering technology training to teens through a new youth-centered program, thanks to support from the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network.
- 2002 The Capital City Trial Lawyers Association (CCTLA) hosts the inaugural Spring Fling event, where local attorneys gather to raise money for SFBFS through sponsorships as well as live and silent auctions.
- 2004 SFBFS breaks ground on a second education facility in North Sacramento (future home of Saca Community Learning Center).



- 2004 Members of the real estate and financial industry come for the Brokers' Punt, Pass and Kick, a football competition that raised \$250,000 over six years.
- 2005 SFBFS opens the doors to a new educational facility in North Sacramento, the Saca Community Learning Center.
- 2006 Father Madigan retires from SFBFS.
- 2008 SFBFS begins distributing food in the community as a new component of the Food program throughout North Sacramento.
- 2008 SFBFS partners with KCRA to offer the inaugural Turkey Drive at SFBFS' Oak Park facility, and 2,653 turkeys are collected the first year.
- 2009 Rogers Jewelry Co. begins hosting Race for the Rock (later termed Race for the Ring) to raise funds for SFBFS. The event runs for five successful years.
- 2009 Sunday Lunch program and food distribution from SFBFS triple-wide trailer in North Sacramento close in preparation for an expansion of food distributions throughout the community.
- 2010 Havens' Transitional Housing program closes after 19 years of successfully transitioning families to more stable housing. The space where the homes stood will be used to construct a new educational facility.
- 2010 SFBFS breaks ground on a new 22,500 square foot Education & Technology Center and Demonstration Garden in Oak Park.
- 2011 SFBFS launches a new Senior program to provide companionship and fresh produce to seniors.
- 2011 Mother-Baby program is sunset, and SFBFS' new Parent Education program now provides education and resources to a larger pool of community members raising children.
- 2012 Youth Education program forms, combining Playcare, Youth Academy and Computer Clubhouse into one program that serves children.
- 2012 SFBFS opens the new Education & Technology Center, offering Adult Education, Parent Education and Youth Education programs to the community as well as classes in the Demonstration Garden.
- 2013 Run to Feed the Hungry celebrates its 20th anniversary with 28,554 participants!



- 2014 SFBFS merges with Senior Gleaners Inc., tripling the number of individuals served each month to 150,000.
- 2015 Through a partnership with the Diocese of Sacramento, SFBFS begins offering Refugee Resettlement Services and Immigration Legal Services.
- 2015 Begins much-needed renovation on the Arata Brothers Building to grow operations of Clothing, expand volunteer prep space, install heating and fire sprinklers, add a new roof and renovate space for future program growth.
- 2015 Food program expands dramatically, working with over 220 partner agencies to distribute food and nutrition to residents throughout Sacramento County. Food now offers CalFresh, Nutrition Education, School Support, Healthy Food for All Seniors and Advocacy. The Senior program rolls into Healthy Food for All Seniors.
- 2015 SFBFS enters the Guinness Book of World Records for hosting the largest 24-hour fresh produce drive, in partnership with Visit Sacramento. Local farmers, distributors and community members donate 170,923.8 pounds of fresh produce in one day.
- 2015 The 22nd annual Run to Feed the Hungry breaks a record with 28,644 participants!
- 2016 Through an award from the Sacramento Metro Chamber, Clothing creates a unique space for business attire called Job Smart Clothing to assist individuals seeking professional clothing for job interviews and reentry into the workforce.
- 2016 493,977 pounds of produce is collected in one day as part of the 2nd annual Fresh Produce Drive, hosted in partnership with Visit Sacramento.
- 2016 23rd annual Run to Feed the Hungry breaks another record with 29,002 participants and raises \$964,118.
- 2017 CCTLA's 15th annual Spring Fling raises over \$80,000 for SFBFS and is now SFBFS' second largest fundraising event.
- 2017 SFBFS celebrates the 10th annual Turkey Drive and collects 15,448 turkeys. Run to Feed the Hungry breaks another record with 29,604 participants.
- 2018 SFBFS celebrates the 11th annual Turkey Drive and collects 16,489 turkeys.
- 2018 25th annual Run to Feed the Hungry draws 27,169 participants.
- 2019 In partnership with The Numad Group, SFBFS completes Phase 1 & 2 of the Strategic Plan.



- 2019 SFBFS embarks on a capital campaign.
- 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic causes a significant increase in demand for services. SFBFS responds with staff, volunteer and community support, feeding over 300,000 people per month.
- 2022 As part of the Strategic Plan, SFBFS announces the reallocation of resources to increase food access in Sacramento County and meet demand.
- 2023 The organization consolidates its two campuses, selling the Education & Technology Center in Oak Park and unifying the team at the campus in North Sacramento.