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CRF Community Recovery Fund

Matching Grant Benefits ATCAA Food Bank; Not Too Late to Donate

Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) has partnered with Mother Lode Food Project (MLFP) by offering a matching grant to bolster monetary donations in the face of MLFP's suspended April food collection.

The community's response has been impressive. As of last week, Sonora Area Foundation had received donations totaling \$15,000; with SAF's matching grant of \$15,000, a total of \$30,000 has been granted to ATCAA Food Bank.

Donations continue to roll in: The matching grant is active, so there is still time to have your gift matched.

The matching grant is in conjunction with Sonora Area Foundation's recently established Community Recovery Fund (CRF). The fund's purpose is to assist local recovery efforts in response to the pandemic. Hunger is just one of those needs; other needs will be identified in the coming weeks and months.

Donations to the fund of up to \$300 per donor will be matched. Because SAF does not charge any fees for any of its funds, 100 percent of donations to CRF will help Tuolumne County rebound from this crisis. ATCAA Food Bank, through MLFP's funds drive, is the first nonprofit to benefit from CRF.

The [Mother Lode Food Project's \(MLFP\)](#) success in the years since its 2012 inception lies in the simple brilliance of its mission: Establish networks of neighborhood volunteers to buy and collect food for bi-monthly donation to ATCAA Food Bank. Volunteers fill the project's signature bright-green bags with nonperishable food for pick up, at which time they receive an empty bag to fill for the next collection date, which most recently was scheduled for April 11.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent stay-home and social-distancing orders, however, April's collection was suspended. But the need for food continues, especially with increasing numbers of Tuolumne County workers facing unemployment or reduction in work hours. So MLFP organizers turned their efforts this month to collecting a different sort of green: Monetary donations.

The project has received donations through the years from "Green Baggers" (a nickname some volunteers have adopted) who prefer to give cash rather than cans. As of MLFP's February collection, it has received \$14,060 in cash donations in addition to 201,839 pounds of food. MLFP food donations account for about half of the donations the food bank receives, according to MLFP's website (<https://motherlodefoodproject.org/>). The food bank's current urgent need led Sonora Area Foundation (SAF) to partner with the project to bolster those donations by offering a matching grant.

Judging by the quick outpouring of donations, "Green Baggers" — and others — have hearts of gold.

That generosity is not surprising to Ellen Beck, who, along with Sue Mundy, founded MLFP. "People often say they wanted to help their neighbors in need, but did not know how and the green bag makes it so easy," she notes. "One can, one green bag at a time is how MLFP reached 100 tons of food donated to ATCAA."

For more matching-grant or Community Recovery Fund information, contact SAF Executive Director Darrell Slocum at darrell@sonora-area.org or (209) 533-2596, or visit www.sonora-area.org. To donate, visit www.sonora-area.org.



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The **Sonora Area Foundation's "Community Recovery Fund"** is an official fund established to assist local communities in Tuolumne County as they respond to and recover during the Covid-19 outbreak. In partnership with the public sector, private sector and other non-governmental organizations, the Community Recovery Fund supports response and recovery activities.

Funds raised go toward virus-related response and recovery. Donations to the Community Recovery Fund are made to the Sonora Area Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. 100% of the proceeds go towards locals in Tuolumne County. Every donation to the CRF will be matched by the Foundation up to \$300 per donor.

To Donate: Mail checks to Sonora Area Foundation, 362 South Stewart Street, Sonora, CA 95370 (WE HAVE A DROP THROUGH MAIL SLOT ON OUR FRONT DOOR) with Community Recovery Fund or CRF written in the memo line or by **credit card from our website** www.sonora-area.org.

Call our office with any questions at 209.533.2596



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