



August 30, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley, please accept the following as both a letter of support for Tomorrow's Bread and a letter of impact demonstrating the incredible work they have accomplished in their organization's first year.

The FBNSLV is a network of 15 food pantries across the vast region of Colorado known as the San Luis Valley (SLV). In this sparsely populated region, roughly 8,000 of the area's 44,000 inhabitants will utilize one of our pantries every year. Our network prides itself on being a local initiative, with each pantry led by local community volunteers able to respond to the unique needs of clients (who are typically our own neighbors). Our two guiding principles are a deep-rooted belief in a dignified experience for those receiving services and an initiative to address hunger not merely as a caloric but rather a nutritional issue. In the first year of our partnership, Tomorrow's Bread has proven invaluable in helping us to improve on our delivery of services in keeping with those principles.

While our pantries have always been able to maintain a large supply of bread through robust food rescue partnerships with grocery stores, the bread we traditionally stock is processed, white, and nutritionally wanting. With a stock of Tomorrow's Bread, we have been able to supply nutritionally rich bread from a local partner. In the rural communities that make up the SLV, individuals are more likely to try something new when it comes from fellow locals; and once our clients have tried the new bread they have been passionate about their preference to continue selecting the freshly baked offerings of Tomorrow's Bread.

When Tomorrow's Bread brought their first delivery to the Alamosa Food Bank in the fall of 2022, the response was immediate. The day after the first delivery, I had a voicemail on my answering machine with a client effusive in praise for the bread, describing in detail how delicious and nutritious it was and urging that "whoever is bringing this, tell them to keep making it!" Since that first voicemail we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from a number of our clients regarding the quality of the bread. One regular named Elizabeth describes it emphatically as "her favorite bread". Other client stories have come out throughout the year, with our neighbors telling us repeatedly that they want to feed their families healthy, nutritious foods, and that having this option at the pantry is a godsend.

Tomorrow's Bread excel in their ability to help us fulfill our commitment towards providing nutritionally rich food that is responsive to client needs and taste preferences. Their 100% local production means that our clients are further incentivized to choose Tomorrow's Bread products over heavily processed white breads, and once that choice is made the quality of the product means clients continue to favor this healthier option. Only a year into their existence, Tomorrow's Bread have cemented themselves as one of our most valuable partners in improving the offerings of our pantry network. As a network with a six county reach, we would consider any investment into a valued partner like Tomorrow's Bread to also be an investment into addressing the hunger and malnutrition crises in our rural community.

If you have any questions or would like additional information I would be more than happy to speak with you at the contact information listed below.

Sincerely,

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