



March 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of La Puente's Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley, I would like to give my wholehearted support for Tumbleweed Bread's newly proposed non-profit, Tomorrow's Bread.

The Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley (FBNSLV) operates a network of 15 volunteer-run food pantries which address the lack of food access within the SLV. The network supports community led services, health equity, and food access, and reaches all six counties of the SLV. Last year, we served almost 7,000 unduplicated individuals with 274,284 meals at our 15 food pantries throughout the San Luis Valley.

A partnership with Tomorrow's Bread would be deeply beneficial to our program for two reasons. First, inflation is rising, and the cost of food and other basic goods is skyrocketing. Our clients' dollars won't stretch as far at the grocery store, and we anticipate seeing higher numbers at our pantries in the coming months due to this. In addition, our own food purchasing budget won't go as far as it has in past years, and we anticipate we won't be able to purchase as much food as we had in the past. A sizeable bread donation from Tomorrow's Bread would provide much needed food to put on our shelves as our purchasing power shrinks and our pantry numbers increase.

Second, our program focuses specifically on providing nutritious food whenever possible. In 2016, the FBNSLV established a nutrition policy which guides our food purchasing and food sourcing. We understand that food insecurity is not just a lack of food, but a lack of *nutritious* food. Study after study shows that food insecurity and a poor diet leads to substantial health issues, like Type 2 Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity. Our community members need nutritious foods to lead healthy, fulfilling lives, and so we aim to provide that as often as we can in our pantries. A partnership with Tomorrow's Bread would fit squarely into our nutrition policy, and would provide our clients with healthy, nutritious bread that might otherwise be out of their budget to purchase.

We're thrilled at the prospect of receiving much needed food staples from a local partner, and look forward to working closely with Tomorrow's Bread in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annalise Baer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Annalise Baer

Director

Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley

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