

Food Donation and Food Share at Castro Valley Schools

Many schools in Castro Valley are taking steps to reduce or eliminate wasted food, and food sharing and donation are a safe and legal way to do so. What's more is that food insecurity is very common in Alameda County and food share and food donation can be a big help. Please read on for information and resources that Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) hopes to share with schools about food share and recovery.*

Schools often have uneaten and unbitten leftover fruits and vegetables, sealed full juice and milk boxes, as well as other food items from cafeteria lunches that can be safely shared or donated to feed others and reduce waste. You might wonder if these things can be put on a share table or donated to a local food pantry, and the answer is yes and yes!



Chelsea A. (left) started and leads the Food Donation Program at Chabot Elementary

Food Sharing: What is Allowed Under State and Local Laws?

Food sharing is already happening at many Castro Valley schools and across the state. It is both allowed and encouraged by state and local laws.** A share table can be set up next to lunch areas and is where students can place extra items from school lunches (like fruits, vegetables, juice boxes, milk, etc.) for other students to take for free to eat or drink.

As of May 2022, StopWaste offers this [post-COVID update](#) stating that both California Department of Education and the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health have lifted legal restrictions and that food share tables are safe. StopWaste also offers a [Food Share Guide](#) which has setup instructions, safety guidance, signage and more.

Food Donation: What is Allowed Under State and Local Laws?

Food donation is allowed and encouraged by state and local laws*** and is already happening at some Castro Valley schools. On days when there is extra food students do not need, a parent or staff person brings it to a local food pantry. This includes fruits, vegetables and milk from school lunches and school kitchens.

For information on safety and legal protections with food donation, StopWaste and Alameda County Department of Environmental Health have developed a [Food Donation Guide](#) as well as an information sheet with [rules for donating](#) surplus or extra food.

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Places Schools Can Take Extra Food (Pantries in Castro Valley and close by):

The following is a list of some local food assistance agencies and other organizations that accept food donations. Their hours may be limited (and are usually during the weekdays). Please check by emailing and/or calling each agency to confirm food donation types accepted and donation drop-off hours:

The Community Cupboard

Contact: Tanya Mally

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/cvcommunitycupboard?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Dig Deep Farms (Sometimes they can pick up large quantities)

Address: 2700 Fairmount Drive, San Leandro

Contact: Etsub Senshaw

Emails: esenshaw@digdeepfarms.com, foodrecovery@digdeepfarms.com,

Phone: (510) 850-9531

Website: www.digdeepfarms.com.

First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Address: 2490 Grove Way, Castro Valley

Contact: Saundrea

Email: saundrea@firstpreshayward.com

Phone: (510) 634-4750

Faith Lutheran Church Food Pantry

Address: 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

Contact: Mary Wildenstein

Emails: Mary@Wildenstein.com, foodpantry@flccv.org.

Phone: (510) 582-0818

Greek Orthodox Church Food Pantry

Address: 20104 Center Street, Castro Valley

Contact: Andrea or Todd

Emails: 2748mo@gmail.com, office@cvresurrection.org.

Phone: (510) 407-1685

Methodist Church Castro Valley

Address: 19806 Wisteria Street, Castro Valley

Email: umccastrovalley@gmail.com

New Life Christian Church

Address: 22360 Redwood Road, Castro Valley



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Contact: Linda or Karen

Email: pastor9linda@gmail.com

Phone: (510) 889-1304

Redwood Chapel

Address: 19300 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

Contact: Diana

Email: jcdejensen@yahoo.com

Phone: (510) 537-7410

Ruby's Place

Address: 20880 Baker Road, Castro Valley

Email: info@rubysplace.org

***The information in this document is only provided as suggestions and schools can set up their own programs as they see fit.**

****Alameda County Guidance on food share programs can be found [here](#).**

*****State Law SB 1383 and Alameda County Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance (ORRO) which you can find out more about at cvsan.org/SB1383.**

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