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Orinda Compassion in Action Cans for a Cause *Food Drive to benefit the Contra Costa Food Bank*

By Laurie Snyder

The city of Orinda has been partnering with the Orinda Union School District, Republic Waste Services and the Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank to soothe grumbly tummies well beyond this holiday season. Already in full swing, the Cans for a Cause Food Drive is giving Orindans the opportunity to show the Bay Area just precisely why Orinda was named the Second Friendliest City in America. Residents and business owners are already doing a bang up job, but have only just begun.

Following on the heels of the collection at the Orinda Intermediate School, which ended Nov. 22, event organizers will really wake things up when drives launch at Sleepy Hollow, Del Rey and Wagner Ranch elementary schools Dec. 2-19. Orindans will then continue to slay the hunger dragon when Glorietta Elementary hosts its drive Feb. 3-14. These critically important events have been staggered to enable the Food Bank to help families long after the traditional holiday spike in food bank donations. Statistically, more than 35 percent of Food Bank clients nationwide are being forced to choose each month between food and paying the mortgage or rent. It's just as tough here in the East Bay.

Thanks to Republic Waste Services, which is donating the collection bins and matching the amount of food collected, it's as simple as shop, stop and drop. Bring your non-perishable canned goods and packaged foods to one of the specially marked collection bins at the Orinda schools, City Hall, or the Orinda Community Center. For more information, call Aimee Stevens, the Food Drive Coordinator at: (925) 570-5654. To learn more about the Contra Costa Food Bank's work, visit: www.foodbankccs.org/.

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