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***Non-profit employees at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
vote to form a union with OPEIU Local 29***

San Francisco, California – Employees at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank have voted overwhelmingly for representation by the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 29.

The group of 100 program coordinators, drivers, intake specialists, order builders, community fundraisers, distribution assistants and other classifications at the San Francisco and Marin sites are devoted to providing a critical lifeline to over 140,000 people in need every week. They sought to unionize to ensure greater transparency and to have the ability to participate more fully in decisions that impact the community. The Food Bank employees join thousands of nonprofit employees across the country represented by OPEIU's [Nonprofit Employees United \(NEU\)](#).

The San Francisco-Marin Food Bank has been a leader for over 30 years in ending hunger in the Bay Area. The Food Bank envisions a community where everyone is able to obtain enough nutritious food, in a dignified manner, to support the health and well-being of themselves and their families. The Food Bank collaborates with over 400 partners including soup kitchens, shelters, churches and community organizations.

"In forming our union, the Food Bank staff gain a stronger voice in our workplace and community. We want to ensure our colleagues, who are experts in their fields, feel empowered to voice their ideas and have an opportunity to see their impact", states Edith Cadena, SFMFB Program Coordinator. "Our direct service teams know our neighbors and programs so well, and have always done our work with such care and love. This past week was a demonstration of just how committed we all are to our mission. As Marin County and the greater Bay Area experienced unprecedented power outages our teams were able to jump into action to continue all regular programming while also providing emergency response resources, all without missing a beat. We're here in times of emergencies and also through day-to-day challenges our neighbors experience the rest of the year. We want to make sure our staff have

the support and resources to accomplish all this and more. Through our union we'll prioritize and advocate for creating real solutions to the issues and challenges we and our communities face."

"I've been at the Food Bank for 18 years and I've seen a lot of changes that have made me recognize the need for us to constantly deepen our commitment to each other and our community. We know we can do this better with representation from our union", states Emily Citraro, SFMFB Senior Allocation Coordinator.

In the upcoming weeks, employees look forward to sitting down with SFMFB management to begin negotiating a first contract.

ABOUT OPEIU LOCAL 29

OPEIU Local 29 represents nearly 6,000 employees and is dedicated to improving the working lives of people in many settings including offices, health care, museums, universities and nonprofit social services throughout Northern California. Through OPEIU Local 29, employees have a voice on the job and an avenue to equality, fair treatment and economic security. Joining together in unions is an important way for working people and their families to improve their lives and make their communities stronger. Through unions, workers have a voice on the job and an avenue to equality, fair treatment and economic security.

OPEIU 29 has been a leader in seeking broader changes to help working people, for example, by advocating for increases to San Francisco's Minimum Compensation Ordinance, which guarantees a higher minimum wage for employees of the city's nonprofit contractors.

Non-profit workers are some of the hardest-working, lowest-paid and most essential members of our community, which is why we're proud to represent workers at prominent Bay Area nonprofits such as Hamilton Families, Episcopal Community Services, Community Forward San Francisco (CATS), St Vincent de Paul Society and many others.