

'One of the Lucky Ones'

In his many years living in West Sacramento, John has had quite a variety of careers, from a truck dispatcher for System 99 to a longshoreman at the port, loading rice on the docks. But his current job volunteering to provide food for fellow community members dealing with hunger is his most gratifying one yet.

John's approach is simple and effective: If someone in town needs food, he wants to be there to support them. People who are homeless or otherwise hungry have come to know John's truck when he's traveling around West Sacramento. When they see him, they'll wave, and he'll pull over to see what they need. He might have some food in the back of his truck, and if not, he can run to McDonald's to get the two-for-\$5 deal, or whatever else he can afford that day. "I'm one of the lucky ones that I'm not in their position," John observes. After all, he says, he can't take money with him beyond this life, so it's best to help people now.



John's hard-work ethos continues to this day, even in retirement. During the interview for this profile, a neighbor who lives in the low-income apartment complex across the street knocked on his door. It was a family with six kids, he said, so he gave them turkey, ham, and green beans.

The funding John got from the Health Education Council has helped him expand his offerings during the pandemic, when the need has been so dire. John's approach is typically social. He likes to get to know the people he's serving, yet forging bonds has been harder to do during the pandemic. Still, when he drops off food at a local motel, he'll give his clients a call or knock on the door to let them know there's a package outside their room. He'll see them grab it, and he'll give them a quick wave. Then it's on to his next customer to meet his goal to reduce hunger in West Sacramento one person at a time.

More than 2x as many people experience food insecurity in the Broderick neighborhood than in California overall

