

Weaving the Food Web: Community Food Security in California
A New CFSC Publication

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Chances are you know someone who has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes. Diet is a major contributing factor in these and many other diseases. Low-income communities, especially Latino, African-American, and Native American, suffer disproportionately from high rates of diet-related diseases.

The good news is that people in these communities are coming together to change the statistics. They are planting gardens, starting farmers' markets, getting salad bars into their cafeterias. They are recruiting family-owned supermarkets to locate in neighborhoods that the chains have abandoned. Their efforts are critical to reducing diet-related health problems and providing additional benefits to their region's economic and environmental well-being.

Notable examples of these experiences are captured in *Weaving the Food Web: Community Food Security in California*, a new publication from the Community Food Security Coalition. The photo-rich, 21-page booklet features eight innovative community-based food projects drawn from around the nation's most populous state. Also included are:

- Articles by leading organizations working on critical public issues such as hunger, obesity, the grocery gap, and the diminishing numbers of independent farms.
- A resource guide of key organizations working in the diverse arenas that comprise community food security. Who should read it?
 - Individuals working on issues linked to food.
 - Organizations or businesses that are interested in learning about community projects that fight hunger, improve human health, strengthen the economy, and make for a better environment.
 - Public officials whose responsibilities intersect with food through health and nutrition, land use and planning, social services, economic development, or other avenues.

Weaving the Food Web is by CFSC in partnership with the California Community Food Security Network. The Network is a statewide coalition of diverse people and organizations working to create community-based food systems that offer universal access to fresh, wholesome foods and reduce or eliminate dependency. The project was coordinated by Thomas Nelson of CFSC and features the writing and photography of food systems activist and documentarian Jered Lawson.

Order Information

A pdf file of the publication is now available from our website at www.foodsecurity.org.

One copy available free upon request. Additional copies are \$1 each. For orders of 10 or more, bulk rates are available. Please call our office (310-822-5410) for more details.

Weaving the Food Web is a valuable tool for educating your community members, public officials, and the media about community food security. It offers many points of entry to this

growing field of work. As such, we invite your assistance in getting copies of the booklet into the hands of those would benefit from it.

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