



# READ THIS AND FEEL GOOD!

By THE TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of our generous donors who contributed to the **Tahoe Donner Giving Fund's July Campaign!** Pooling our dollars to make a bigger difference in our community is one of the founding principles of the **Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF)**. Below, you will find two examples of the impact that your donations continue to have on our neighbors. If you haven't already contributed to the July Campaign, there is still time to do so.

[givingfund.tahoedonner.com/july2022](http://givingfund.tahoedonner.com/july2022)

Most of us are fortunate with regular access to good and nutritious food. Not everyone in our local community is so fortunate. Food insecurity has not only become a worldwide reality but is affecting our close neighbors as well. The **Tahoe Donner Giving Fund**, powered by your generosity, is taking aim at helping with this problem.

## NOURISHING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Sierra Senior Services** is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization established in 2001 to provide meals to seniors through the **Meals on Wheels** program. This is an unduplicated program in Eastern Placer County, Eastern Nevada County and Incline Village. **Sierra Senior Services** provides over 700 meals a week to senior residents in Truckee and on the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe. This organization has impacted the community by helping the growing number of seniors who are aging in their own homes

but who need that extra help to continue to do so. **Sierra Senior Services** provides one-third of the nutrition a senior should have each day. Without this organization, there would be no prepared food support for this growing segment of the population. Most importantly, this program allows seniors to age in place, in the familiar surroundings of their own home.

Executive Director Sharon Romack describes the situation during the pandemic. "COVID-19 increased the demand for **Sierra Senior Services** exponentially. We doubled the number of people we serve in a two-month period. Without missing a beat, we were able to manage this rapid growth. Demand for raw foods, packaging supplies and fuel for the additional meal-delivery vehicles all increased at a pace we had not expected. However, we never had to create a waiting list that would have forced some area seniors to go to bed hungry. Help to make this possible came from a generous contribution from the **Tahoe Donner Giving Fund.**"

## SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS AND FAMILIES IN NEED



**Tahoe Food Hub's Giving Box Program** was launched in the fall of 2019. The goal of the **Giving Box Program** is simple: pay farmers a fair market price for their crops and provide fresh, sustainably

sourced, local produce to needy families. At the height of the pandemic, **Tahoe Food Hub** provided over 200 boxes a week to families in need. The **Giving Boxes** mirror a CSA-style (Community Supported Agriculture) box, showcasing what is fresh and in season locally. **Giving Boxes** supply, on average, four to six meals a week according to USDA standards. In addition to feeding our community and supporting small family farms, an integral part of the **Giving Box Program** is to educate our community about how healthy eating habits can curb diet-related diseases and how to make the most of our local bounty. The use of ingredient highlights, showcasing what is in each box and how to prepare it, provides an educational opportunity to reduce hesitation around preparing fresh fruits and vegetables.

Founder and Co-Executive Director Marissa Yakaitis explains. "All crops that go into our **Giving Boxes** are harvested to order by our farms the day before boxes are distributed. This added value of freshness allows families to ensure that their children will be eating healthy meals on a regular basis. Giving Boxes are built with the help of community partners like Tahoe Ability Program and SOS Outreach. We distribute boxes through additional partnerships with Truckee-Tahoe Unified School District and local churches. The **Tahoe Donner Giving Fund's** generosity has helped us to provide boxes to families in need and to expand our reach to provide families with boxes every week. Working with **TDGF** has created sustainability in our program to bridge the gap of general donations, and for that, we are so grateful!"

## WHY WE GIVE

"Although we are not full-time Tahoe Donner residents, the Truckee area is still our community. There are serious needs in this community, and we believe it is an important part of our lives to make anywhere we live a better place. We particularly like the ability of The Giving Fund to join with other community organizations to provide larger grants. We dream about what good can be done if every TD household contributed \$100!"

- Merle and Michael Fajans,  
Tahoe Donner homeowners  
(Merle is the founding chairperson of The Giving Fund Committee)

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax-deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The Giving Fund is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the Giving Fund or to make a contribution, visit our webpage at [tahoedonner.com/giving-fund](http://tahoedonner.com/giving-fund). Contact [tdgf@tahoedonner.com](mailto:tdgf@tahoedonner.com) with questions or to volunteer for the committee. We thank and are grateful for our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, for their continuing support.



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