

Your Turn: Contra Costa and Solano County employees bring home the bacon

By Larry Sly
Guest Commentary

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Contra Costa and Solano county employees are a spectacular bunch of people. Each year since 2004, employees of both counties have engaged in a Holiday Food Fight, raising funds to support the Food Bank.

County employees use every wily fundraising tactic they can think of to wrestle dollars from their co-workers and raise funds to feed the hungry, including bake sales, white elephant sales, auctions, drawings, letters from Santa and more.

as the economy spirals downward and more county employees are laid off, this effort threatens to become more difficult.

Food Bank staff and county employees entered the 2010 Holiday Food Fight with skepticism. Could they even dream of matching the \$130,000 raised in 2009? To our astonishment, county employees, with the help of "friends" in each county, raised more than \$142,000 for the Food Bank.

What's in it for county employees? First and foremost is that they want to help their neighbors in need. Many county employees, through their jobs, see firsthand and on a daily basis the need in our community.

Then there's the challenge: county employees vie for ownership of the Big Apple trophy and bragging rights for one year. The winner of the Food Fight is determined on a dollar-per-employee basis. Contra Costa County won the Big Apple in the 2010 Food Fight, bringing it back to its initial home for one year.

Too often the media focus on the negative aspects of county government.

Food Bank staff and clients want to focus on the positive and say: Thanks to all participating county employees. Your efforts in the Holiday Food Fight 2010 were truly amazing.

Larry Sly is executive director of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

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