



# Who we are and why we're here

## We have come a long way

### History of the San Lorenzo Family Help Center

The San Lorenzo Ecumenical Food Pantry was founded in 1975 by 9 local Congregations in San Lorenzo/San Leandro. Christ Lutheran Church, First Christian Church, San Lorenzo Community Church, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, Faith United Methodist Church, San Lorenzo Baptist Church under the umbrella of the San Lorenzo Ecumenical Parish, a group of Pastors from several faiths.

Each of the Churches operated individually in the beginning, however at Holiday times they worked together on Holiday Food Baskets. In 1987 the San Lorenzo Ecumenical Parish disbanded. The San Lorenzo Ecumenical Food Pantry actually began operating on its own in 1985, the first recorded minutes were on 9/24/1985. They set up the Pantry at Christ Lutheran Church at 100 Hacienda, San Lorenzo. They were open only on Friday for 1 1/2 hours. Each church was responsible for a month at a time.

In 1991 Emergency Food Assistance was provided only 1x per year. In 1996 the Pantry was open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for 1 1/2 hours. In 1996 began the Pantry's affiliation with the Alameda County Community Food Bank. In 1998 ID's were required, 3x5 Card files were kept on each family, and a daily log of recipients. Recipients may come once every 3 months, however don't turn anyone away without some food.

In 1999 Christ Lutheran Church was gifted 4 modular units for \$2.00 each. They were transported from Golden Gate Fields where they had been used for the homeless. After great expense the existing building was demolished and 3 of the Portables were set up, a deck was built to connect the Pantry and the Fellowship Hall. A small amount of the space was dedicated to the Pantry, with the remaining space to be used for community use. During the time of the reconstruction, the Pantry was housed temporarily at St. Christopher's Church and then at the San Lorenzo Community Church. The Building was ready for occupancy in 2005 and will remain there as a permanent structure.

In 1999 the Pantry was serving approximately 50 -110 people monthly with approximately 10 volunteers. By 2008 the Pantry was serving 400 - 600 people per month with approximately 15 volunteers

In 2008 the Christ Lutheran Church disbanded and The Oromo Christ Lutheran Church is now the property owner. In 2008 money was donated to apply for 501 c (3) Non profit status and to consider hiring a Director to lead the volunteers. A Director was hired in October 2008. Non profit was completed in March 2009. We are at this time serving 15 - 45 people daily.

In 2011 the Oromo Church granted us additional space to use. In 2011, Chuck McDowell and----- developed a software program to suit our needs and continue to upgrade it.

Because of the loss of jobs and additional homeless due to the electronic and housing bubble of 2008 our numbers climbed greatly. We include in our Data bank over 1200 families including children amounting to over 3500 persons that we are feeding.