

One step closer to realizing our vision...

Just over a year ago we kicked off our campaign to raise funds to purchase a food truck. At that time we had limited information about what that might cost and what was involved. Given the urgency of the rising need to address food insecurity in our County, we decided to dive in, set a goal, and educate ourselves while we were raising money. We set our initial fundraising goal at \$100,000 in 18 months and kicked off our journey to learn as much as we could about purchasing and operating a food truck.

We are excited to announce that just 13 months into our fundraising efforts, thanks to the generosity of this amazing community, we will hit our \$100,000 launch target this month! We are now well on our way to realizing our vision. There are not enough words to describe how grateful we are to all of you who have rallied around our fundraising efforts and helped to bring us to this incredible milestone.

So, what's next?

This article will start a new series of communications on our progress toward acquiring the food truck so that you can join us on each step of this exciting journey.

To understand as much as we could about what makes the perfect food truck for us, we spent several months researching survey data from across the country. We then reached out to food truck owners across Northern California, and even visited a couple of businesses and nonprofits to tour their operations. This gave us enough of an understanding of what we needed to draft a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) and start the process of looking for a partner to build out our truck. This is a huge decision for us that we do not take lightly.

We have decided that the best option for the Upper Room Dining Hall and the community we serve is to purchase a new truck and have it equipped with new kitchen equipment. We know this will be more costly up front, but we believe it is important to make sure we are not taking on the unpredictability of maintenance issues that come with a used vehicle. With this in mind, we will continue our fundraising efforts throughout the buildout process.

We have received bids from several food truck manufacturers and expect to announce a partner no later than July 1. We know that it will take several months to build out and acquire our new food truck. With that in mind, we are currently anticipating launching our new Mobile Meal Food Truck Program early in 2025.

Stay tuned!

The next few months promise to be very exciting as we choose our vendor, purchase our truck, and start the process of building out the kitchen and making it come to life. We want you to come on this journey with us so will keep you posted all along the way. Keep a watch out for our regular updates.

Thank you for helping us to realize our vision to bring meals and other services to more of those who need us most. We are grateful to be in a community that supports our mission and that continuously blesses us with generosity and compassion for those we serve.



Carla