



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Epicurean Group Named Food Donor of the Week

Marin County, California (September 21, 2015) – ExtraFood.org has named Epicurean Group its Food Donor of the Week for food provided by its facilities located at the Branson School, Marin Academy and the Marin Cultural Center.

According to a 2012 Natural Resources Defense Council report, more than 40% of edible food in the U.S. is wasted. This food goes into landfills and creates methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. ExtraFood.org is a nonprofit, county-wide food recovery program founded in 2013 by CEO Marv Zauderer to help end hunger and food waste in Marin County. ExtraFood.org picks up excess fresh food and planned donations from a range of donors, such as food service companies, restaurants, farmers' markets and grocery stores, and delivers it to vulnerable residents by partnering with more than 60 nonprofit organizations.

Epicurean Group Vice President Chef Rey Hernandez says that eliminating food waste is a goal of the company. "All our chefs are trained to reduce food waste through proper planning and correct portion size. If for any reason we end up with more food than we need, ExtraFood.org is one of the organizations we work with to ensure our food donations get to the folks who need them most. It's one more way we are making a positive difference in the communities we serve."

"We're grateful to be working with Epicurean Group. Their commitment to sustainability makes them an important partner in our work to help end hunger and waste in Marin, where over 40,000 people do not have a secure food supply," says Marv Zauderer.

"We're proud to have been named Food Donor of the Week," says Epicurean Group CEO Mary Clark Bartlett. "Eliminating food waste is one of the most important resource conservation and waste reduction programs that we offer. Others include the GreenTown Co-op, which we helped launch in 2010 to provide compostable take-out products at competitive prices and eliminate plastic and polystyrene foam from the landfill. Our *Go Greener!* education campaign informs our customers about the ways they can help. And, through our partnerships with Bay Area farmers and ranchers, we support the community, serve healthy, seasonal food, and reduce CO₂ emissions from transportation – a benefit for people *and* for the environment."

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Epicurean Group is an independent food service management company, providing restaurant and catering services to corporations, educational campuses, and fine arts facilities throughout Northern California. Epicurean Group is committed to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices.

Epicurean Group is ... Fresh. Honest. Local.



Epicurean Group

Epicurean Group is an independent, woman- and minority-owned food-service management company. With a credo of "Fresh, Honest, and Local", you can be sure that they support local organic farms and ranches. Dedicated to sustainability and environmental responsibility, their core values align with and support ExtraFood's mission to help end hunger and food waste. We pick up food from three of their partnerships: Marin Academy, Branson School and Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium. <http://www.epicurean-group.com>

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