A year-end gift to end hunger

As we approach the holiday season, consider making a planned gift to end hunger. Gifts made before year-end can be tailored to fit your financial needs and take advantage of the many tax benefits associated with charitable giving. Your ongoing generosity ensures our ability to provide hunger relief during this special time of year. Please contact Elizabeth Sproule by phone 949-208-3187 or email Elizabeth@FeedOC.org to learn more about the options available to you.

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Carol (see story page 2) recalls the blessing of the holiday meal she received thanks to generous supporters like you. Your gift today will make a real difference during the upcoming holidays. It’s easy to give online at FeedOC.org, or you can use the enclosed reply slip. Thank you for taking a moment to care for our neighbors in need.

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I really want to say thank you to everyone who donates to Second Harvest. I know you give from your heart.” —Miriam

Thank you!

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FeedOC.org

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Miriam and her family receive food at one of our monthly Mobile Pantry distributions at a church in her community. Second Harvest partners with local churches and community groups to distribute fresh produce and staples at over 180 locations across Orange County.
A note from Nicole

Although it’s only October, at Second Harvest we’re already sourcing turkeys, holiday meal items and fresh produce so we can help our partner agencies provide those special items to the families we serve. For most of us, the holidays are a joyful time with our families, but for OC families who are struggling—families like Miriam’s—the holidays can become a reminder of what we can’t provide for our family.

Last November my daughters and I volunteered at a special Thanksgiving lunch at our church, one of our community partners. There we connected with a grandmother who was helping raise her three grandchildren. They had lost their father in a car accident and her mother was doing her best to provide for them. I was deeply moved by their story because I also lost my father in a car accident at that age. As the girls did crafts together and their grandmother and I talked, I was struck by how much we shared in common. Looking across the room I noticed that in the mingling of families you couldn’t tell who was there to receive and who was there to give help. That day this family and many others in need enjoyed a holiday meal and left with two bags of groceries that would make a difference to their holiday celebration.

In Orange County the struggle of hunger can be a hidden struggle, concealed in the lives of families we see every day. Every month, your support of Second Harvest is reaching across that divide to provide nutritious food to the over 315,000 people who struggle with food insecurity in our communities. Our Bold Goal to provide 30 million meals by 2021 is moving us toward ending hunger in our area. We could not be more grateful for your support of our financial gifts, time and in-kind donations. I hope you feel a deep satisfaction from knowing you’re bringing joy and relief to the people we serve.

Gratefully,

Nicole Suydam, CEO | Your Partner

Your support helped feed my family at a difficult time

My name is Carol, and I’m so thankful to come to this food pantry. I haven’t been able to work in quite some time, so the help I get here means a lot.

I’ve been partially blind my whole life. I lost my sight in one eye when I was five, but now I can only see light and shadows in my other eye. A special access bus brings me here to the food pantry.

I worked for many years for the Santa Monica School Board, but I lost that job when my eyesight got so bad. It was hard to get work after that, and I ended up having to go on disability. That’s put me on a very limited income.

I’ve had a lot of responsibility in my life. It’s been hard, but it’s also what keeps me going. I raised two children and two grandchildren. My daughter lives with me. She has diabetes, mental illness, and a lot of other health issues.

A special Thanksgiving meal

Second Harvest is a godsend for people like me. If I couldn’t come to the food pantry, we’d be doing pretty poorly. I try to choose a little bit of everything when I come here, and I appreciate all the food we get. Often we even received a Thanksgiving meal. That was wonderful because at the time we’d lost our home and were living in a motel, so we had very little.

I want to tell the donors of Second Harvest thank you so much for what you do. We love you! Without you we would have lost something very important. This whole program is a blessing and we are grateful. Thank you for making a difference for our family.

A community that helps each other

At the Crossline Community Church Food Pantry, one of our community partners, Spring Hurstinger was one of the very first volunteers. “I started the very first week we opened and just fell in love with it,” says Spring. Three years later, she’s on staff as the Food Pantry Director, helping serve 150 families each week.

Spring organizes the pantry like a free grocery store and knows many of their clients by name. She knows their stories and when needed, her team can provide support in many ways, such as finding a room to rent, a job lead, or even helping move. “We’re really a community that likes to come together and help each other,” she says of the volunteers and the clients.

A choice of fresh foods

“My care for people goes deep,” says Spring. “I was raised by a single mom in the 60’s. We didn’t have a lot of money. It’s not that we were hungry, but we didn’t get to have all the extras that other kids had. So I have a real heart for people who are hungry and have fallen on bad times. We are all just one step away from possibly needing a food pantry.”

When clients walk through the little pantry with the big porch, they get to pick the staples and fresh produce they need. Most of the food comes from Second Harvest. “We get a lot of meat and produce, and we do grocery rescue through Second Harvest. They’ve really helped us out a lot,” says Spring. When all their refrigerators went out in 110-degree heat, Second Harvest also equipped them with new refrigerators.

“Second Harvest ties all of Orange County together, bringing us together to take care of our community,” says Spring.

“I have a real heart for people who are hungry”

—SPRING

Agency Spotlight

Thank you for your support!

Earlier this year Feeding America released its latest Map The Meal Gap report on food insecurity. Overall, food insecurity in Orange County is 10.1% for individuals and 17.9% for children under 18. The percentages have remained mostly the same over the years but the numbers have gone down since last year. However, the study also shows that for those people facing hunger, their need is increasing. On average, they have a weekly food budget shortfall of $19.72 per person, up from $18.70 last year.

Your support is indeed making an impact on hunger in our community. While we are grateful to see the reduction in the number of people affected by food insecurity, we are deeply concerned that those who do need our help are falling further behind. In Orange County, the costs of living for housing, medical expenses and other necessities are rising above what our working families can afford.

Here are some key local findings from the study:

• 315,170 people are at risk of hunger
• 129,670 children are at risk of missing one or more meals each month
• Average cost of a meal in OC is $3.34
• Food budget shortfall for the food insecure is $19.72 per person, per week

We are so grateful to know you stand with us, working to end hunger and bridge the meal gap in Orange County. Thank you!
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CONNECT ONLINE TO THE WORK YOU SUPPORT

Please charge my gift on my credit card: □ VISA □ MC □ AMEX □ DISC

 daytime

Name on account

Signature

IF PAYING BY CHECK: Make payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

For the donor’s benefit, this donation is not tax deductible as permitted by law. Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County will send you a recognition gratitude for your donation to the individuals and families who rely on us for food.

Mailing Address:
8014 Marine Way | Irvine, CA 92618

Contact Information:
info@FeedOC.org | 949-653-2900 ext. 129

www.FeedOC.org

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