

# Food for Thought

News from Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County



The food Lori receives from one of our community partners helps her feed her three active teens while she and her husband focus on recovering from health issues.

## You fed my teens at a tough time— now we can get back on our feet

My name is Lori, and we've been coming to this food pantry for the last year to help feed our family. We started having financial problems when my husband had back surgery.

For two years he couldn't work, and we ended up losing the place we were renting. We had to move in with my in-laws. My husband and I have three teenagers, and the food we receive has made a huge difference for us.

Coming to the food pantry that first time felt horrible because of the situation we were in. But everyone here was so nice and the food was such a huge help. It meant we could worry about paying the bills and not have to worry about buying as many groceries.

### People like you have given me hope

Now my husband is back working and I'll be going back to work soon after my hip surgery. We're still struggling to catch up with our bills and car payments, but things are getting much better. The food we get here really helps with that. We're able to get cereal, fruits and vegetables, meat, milk and canned goods. With active teenagers, getting enough food can be expensive!

We really couldn't have gotten through this time without people who donate to Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. You have fed my children, my husband and me. It's places like this that help people feel like there's hope, so they don't get discouraged when times are tough. Knowing there was somewhere we could get help took a lot of the worry away. We've been able to focus on getting back on our feet. Thank you.

**“We couldn't have gotten through this time without people who donate to Second Harvest.”**

—LORI

Spring 2018

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY 12 STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

Support Second Harvest on Saturday, May 12 for the annual NALC Food Drive. Leave nonperishable food donations for your letter carrier to collect.

### MAY 17 SERVING HOPE BREAKFAST

You're invited to our annual complimentary breakfast as we share our Bold Goal progress. RSVP for this inspirational fundraising event at FeedOC.org.

### MAY 20 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Second Harvest's Associates Board will host its annual Golf Tournament at Monarch Beach's Golf Links. Give back by participating in this fun event!

### JUNE 22 ABC7/VONS FEED SOCIAL FOOD DRIVE

All month long, purchase pre-packaged bags of food at Albertsons and Vons/Pavilions stores to help families struggling with hunger. The ABC7 "Stuff-A-Truck" event on June 22nd is a daylong, fun-filled food and funds drive to help us close the meal gap.

### JULY 25 ORANGE COUNTY FAIR "WE CARE WEDNESDAY" FOOD DRIVE

Ready for the OC Fair? Visit the "We Care Wednesday" Food Drive and receive free admission when you donate five or more nonperishable food items per person.

### OCTOBER 3 HARVESTERS FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Save the date for this highly anticipated fundraiser featuring designer fashions and an exclusive luncheon.

For more information about any of these events, please call 949-653-2900 or visit our website at FeedOC.org.

## A note from Nicole

One of the biggest surprises about hunger in Orange County is just how pervasive it is. Half of our children who attend public schools are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. We hear over and over from families that providing enough food in the summer stretches their budget beyond its limits. This summer we're working hard to make sure families struggling to make ends meet have access to our Kids Cafe Program. This vital program provides nutritious meals across Orange County—even in communities where you would be surprised hunger exists.

Our Child Hunger Strategy is helping to address the hunger needs of the 1 in 6 Orange County children who live with food insecurity. Programs like our Kids Cafe, Permanent School Pantries, and Mobile School Pantries are an important part of that strategy. By the time school starts in the fall, we'll be partnering with six new schools to provide Mobile School Pantries at their sites. These programs will help us meet our Bold Goal by 2021. With your help, we believe we can achieve it.

### Kids helping kids

We're getting ready to celebrate 35 years of service fighting hunger in this community, and we know there's more work ahead. It makes me so hopeful to know we have supporters like 11-year-old Hadley (page 3) who are motivating the next generation of people to be passionate about solving the problem of hunger. When she says, "I really hope to inspire others and tell them that they're not helpless," I'm reminded of what we can accomplish fighting hunger together with the resources we've been given.

We're also humbled to receive the legacy gift of people like the Rodriguez family (page 4) who are ensuring the next generation doesn't have to go hungry even after their family is gone. We carefully use every gift you entrust to us because the lives of so many families like Lori's and Dalila's (below) depend on it. Thank you for your faithful friendship to our neighbors in need.

Gratefully,

Nicole Suydam, CEO | Your Partner



## Donor Spotlight

### Everyone can do something to end hunger

Looking out the window on trash day, Hadley Cochran was concerned about a woman she saw going through trash cans to collect the recycling.

**"It definitely feels good to know how many lives you've changed."** —HADLEY

"It was sad. No one deserves that. It was just really moving to see that she was working hard to provide for herself and her family," remembers Hadley. "My mom and I talked, and I decided I wanted to make a difference by raising money to help."

Hadley got involved with Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County when she volunteered with her Girl Scout Troop in our children's area called "Izzy's Corner." That also inspired her to fight hunger in our community, which she's been doing for the last four years now.

At the family's annual garage sale, Hadley puts together a bake sale booth to raise money for Second Harvest. Every year it gets bigger, and Hadley says getting the signs ready on time and organizing the food is the hardest part. The nice part is seeing the generosity of neighbors who want to give to a good cause.

### I want everyone to give back

For several years Hadley mailed in the donations she received, but this year, she brought the \$140 check to the Food Bank personally. "The fun part was when I got to present all the money to the Food Bank. I felt proud of myself and my family for helping me organize this," says Hadley. "It may take a lot of work, but it definitely feels good to know how many lives you've changed—that a kid can make a difference in so many different lives."

Hadley also has a message for others who want to make a difference. "I really hope to inspire others and tell them that they're not helpless. They can help. I want everyone to give back to our community and end hunger."



Hadley's donation of \$140 provided 420 meals for families in need.

## Investing in healthy families

This past fall, Second Harvest and Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC) joined forces to create La Colonia Market, a new, free food pantry. To accomplish this groundbreaking partnership, CAPOC provided space at the Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center. Second Harvest stocks the market with the healthy food families need.

This bright, cheerful mini-market is open to community members, providing families with vegetables, fruits, meat, dairy, cereals, grains and canned goods. The site is open 5 days a week, including 2 evenings, to allow access to working families. Staff from the center and community volunteers work together to run the pantry. Located in one of the most underserved areas in OC, this pantry serves a critical need in the community.

The partnership between Second Harvest Food Bank and CAPOC provides healthy food, as well as resources for local families in need. Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center also provides children help with their homework and a safe environment to enjoy the company of their peers in after-school activities.

Our goal is to open one permanent pantry every fiscal year to help us reach our Bold Goal and close the meal gap in Orange County. To learn more about investing in our Child Hunger Strategy, please call 949-653-2900.



This permanent pantry provides fresh food and staples to families in a low-income community.



# Thanks to you, I can feed my children healthy meals

My name is Dalila. Coming to this Mobile Pantry to get food helps our family stretch our income and have enough to eat.

My husband and I both work hard at our jobs to provide for our three children, but sometimes we still don't have enough money to pay for groceries. Our older children get free meals at school, but the summer can be really hard. Providing three meals a day for all of them is difficult, especially because they are growing and always hungry!

I work at a factory that makes cable for televisions. It's not the best work, but it's full time, and I can count on it being there.

I work the second shift until 9 p.m.



**"My husband and I both work hard at our jobs...but sometimes we still don't have enough money to pay for groceries."** —DALILA

Dalila brought her youngest son to the Mobile Pantry with her. Dalila and her husband work, but still struggle to make ends meet.

My husband works in a warehouse for a vitamin company. We rent an apartment in the area. One of our biggest challenges has been to make sure there's always someone to watch the children so we can work.

### We appreciate the help you provide

A friend told us about this Mobile Pantry and we've been getting food here for about three years. I really like coming here because they give us a lot of fruit and vegetables. I like to cook, and I make a lot of vegetables for the family.

I just want to say thank you for giving us the food and God bless you for it. It's hard to get enough food sometimes, so we appreciate this.

# Providing healthy food for children all year long



Half of Orange County kids who attend public schools qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch during the school year. That means their families are living on low incomes—some extremely low. Stretching that limited budget to provide enough food is difficult year-round. During the summer—when kids lose access to school meals—it can seem impossible.

Today, we're asking you to help stretch our income as well. We're preparing to open six new Mobile School Pantries by the time school starts in the fall. To get these Mobile Pantries up and running, it's critical we have sustainable funding in place.

We need your help to get ready to provide healthy food through our Mobile School Pantries. Will you give online or

send in the enclosed reply slip, today? Thank you for partnering with us to make sure no child goes hungry in Orange County this summer.

## The Daniel J. Harney Legacy Society

### A legacy that does the most good

In the 1960s, Manual and Ludivina Rodriguez and their son, Manny Jr., fled Cuba and became American citizens. Here they worked hard, retiring after 30 years with Hunt-Wesson Foods. After Mr. Rodriguez lost his son and his wife, he wanted to leave his legacy with organizations that would "do the most good for the people they served."

The Rodriguez family left a Legacy gift of over \$100,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank, which will provide over 300,000 meals to struggling families. "We are truly grateful to the Rodriguez family for leaving such an incredible legacy that will benefit Second Harvest and the community for years to come," says Christine Montevideo, Second Harvest's Development Officer.

Legacy giving is unique because it offers a range of vehicles to suit diverse financial situations, often permitting donors to make an even bigger impact for their community and family. To find out how you, like the Rodriguez family, can do the most good with your legacy, please call our office at 949-653-2900 or join us for our monthly Legacy Lunch. These informative meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP required by the 6th of the month to Christine Montevideo at 949-208-3150 or Christine@FeedOC.org.



# Thank you!

Thank you to our generous "No Lunch" Lunch Sponsors:

- Golden State Foods
- PepsiCo
- Raymond Handling Solutions
- John & Angela Stollsteimer
- Union Bank

These organizations are helping us fight hunger with their generous support:

- Angels Baseball Foundation
- Barney & Barney Foundation
- Carl E. Wynn Foundation
- David R. Clare and Margaret C. Clare Foundation
- The Crean Foundation
- The Dhont Family Foundation
- George Hoag Family Foundation
- John Curci Family Foundation Fund
- O.L. Halsell Foundation
- Orange County United Way
- Red Nose Day Fund
- Ueberroth Family Foundation
- Wells Fargo

Connect online to the work you support!



Visit us at [FeedOC.org](http://FeedOC.org)

## MY SPRING DONATION

**YES, Nicole, I want to help fight childhood hunger and provide healthy food for families.**

Enclosed is my gift:  \$160  \$110  \$60  \$30  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the Harvest Club and give monthly.  
My first gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **Second Harvest Food Bank**  
8014 Marine Way | Irvine, CA 92618

To charge your gift by phone, call 949-653-2900, ext. 129 or give online at [FeedOC.org](http://FeedOC.org)



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

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON ACCOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ SN/18\_FB\_48\_EMNL\_894

Your donation is tax deductible as permitted by law. Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County will send you a receipt in gratitude for your kindness to the individuals and families who rely on us for food.