



The fresh food helps John and his mother have healthier choices.

The fresh food is like sunlight, giving us energy to live

My name is John and I can't thank you enough for the food you're providing for my mother and me. A few years ago, my mom became ill and needed full-time care. I had to quit my job to come and care for her. Now I'm able to work part-time, but it isn't enough to provide everything we need. I've often heard people say they have to choose between paying bills and buying food. I don't want to have to make the choice between medication or milk for my mother.

I never thought I'd be in the position of needing food, but I should have known. I used to work for an organization that helped people in need, and we would say we're all one paycheck away from being one of our clients. Now I know it's true—I'm grateful this help is here for me and my mother, too. I know that at some point, I'll be back on my feet again and won't need to come here.

“You'll never know how grateful I am for the food you're providing.” –JOHN

Having a traditional Thanksgiving meal is a gift

When I come to this food pantry, I can go through and choose the food items we need. And it's healthy! When I see the amount of fresh food we can choose from, I think, “I don't have to eat fast food.”

During the holidays, they also provide food to make a special holiday meal. I'm not a great cook, but it helped us have a normal Thanksgiving and we appreciate that!

You'll never know how grateful I am for the food you're providing. There are so many ways that food helps people. It's like concentrated sunlight because it provides the energy we need to live and succeed. So thank you.

Fall 2018

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 13-14 OC GREAT PARK'S SPOOKTACULAR WEEKEND

Get ready for a Spooktacular weekend full of exciting activities for the whole family! When you bring nonperishable food items for people in need, you'll receive access to different activities in the park. Make sure to register for tickets on the OC Great Park's website before it's too late!

NOVEMBER 20 "NO LUNCH" LUNCH

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the community gathers in our Food Distribution Center for a modest, soup-kitchen-style lunch provided by Antonello's Ristorante. This year, join our celebration of 35 years of service, and learn how you can help us reach our Bold Goal to end hunger in Orange County.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER—HOLIDAY FOOD & FUND DRIVES

Help provide nutritious food this holiday season by joining in any of the holiday food and fund drives at your local Vons, Ralphs, Sprouts, and Stater Bros. stores. Donate funds, or purchase nonperishable items or pre-filled bags at your local grocery store.

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

Become a part of the Daniel J. Harney Legacy Society

Join our mission by creating a legacy of hope that ensures Second Harvest will continue to lead the fight against hunger for years to come. Participate in our monthly Legacy Lunches to learn more about legacy giving and other charitable giving options. Lunches are held every second Tuesday of the month 11:30 am-12:30 pm. RSVP is required by the 6th of the month to Christine Montevideo at 949-208-3150 or Christine@FeedOC.org.



With the start of the new school year, Second Harvest Food Bank is continuing to reach toward our Bold Goal. We're working toward adding nine additional Mobile School Pantry distributions at low-income schools in Orange County. We've seen a wonderful response to our Permanent and Mobile School Pantries because they allow us to provide healthy, nutritious food to families who are struggling, by meeting them right in their neighborhoods.

Your generosity is making a real impact on hunger in Orange County. Thanks to your support, this past fiscal year we provided 25.1 million meals to children, seniors, working families, and disabled or homeless adults. Programs like our Park-It Market and the

"Each one of the people we serve has a story of how their lives are better because of your generosity."

school-based pantries are creative ways we've developed to quickly distribute fresh foods to those who need it most.

We're also working with our community partners, building their capacity to distribute more fresh food. I'm grateful for the opportunity to visit these partners and meet individuals and families who have enough to eat, thanks to your support. I recently met a young veteran

recovering from drug addiction. He shared that he was going back to community college. It was so moving to hear about his hope for the future and his gratitude for getting help.

Each one of the people we serve, like John and Angelica who you'll read about in this newsletter, has a story of how their lives are better because of your generosity. And each one of you has a story of why you give. Your vital support throughout the year provides food, help, and hope to over 250,000 hungry neighbors a month. On behalf of the people served through your generous compassion, thank you and happy holidays.

Gratefully,

Nicole Suydam, CEO | Your Partner



A note from Nicole



Partner Spotlight

South County Outreach provides nutritious food with dignity

"When you live in a community that is relatively beautiful, hunger and homelessness are more hidden," says Lara Fisher, Executive Director of South County Outreach, one of our community partners. "No one wants to come to a food pantry. It's not a great time in your life when you need to rely on the kindness of other people to feed your family."

Each of the 700 families who come through South County Outreach's food pantry every month get to "shop" through the aisles of food, choosing only the items their family will eat. It's a food distribution model called "client choice" that allows struggling families to receive food with dignity. Having families choose their food items also diminishes food waste.

"People are trying to give their families a balanced diet," says Renee Stevenson, Director of Operations. "It's important to have milk on the table and not just the nonperishable canned foods. You'll see people walking through and reading labels. They want to feed their families more nutritious food."

Second Harvest's Grocery Rescue Program provides fresh foods

The food pantry receives much of its fresh food from Second Harvest's Grocery Rescue Program, as well as other staples from our warehouse. Lara says Second Harvest helps to make the community aware of hunger and the need for nutritious foods, and that is important for the pantry's success.

"When a person has an opportunity to say, 'This is my story and this is my need' and then walk out with something tangible, it gives them hope," says Renee. It's giving them hope that while they're going through a crisis, their community does care. And there's support."



"It's giving people hope that while they're going through a crisis, their community cares" —RENEE

Recognized for what we do together

This year, Second Harvest was honored during a ceremony for California Nonprofits Day in Sacramento. CEO Nicole Suydam accepted the 2018 Nonprofit of the Year award for the 74th Assembly District, represented by Assemblyman Matthew Harper.

"Second Harvest Food Bank goes above and beyond to provide fresh food to everyone who needs it. Their hard work and dedication to ensuring no one goes hungry in Orange County, makes them the best choice for Nonprofit of the Year," said Assemblyman Harper.

Thank you Assemblyman Harper, for recognizing our organization and mission to end hunger in Orange County.



You've helped our family have enough to eat when times were tough

For many working families, the ebb and flow of employment and extra bills means there are months when it's difficult to put enough food on the table. It's during these times parents like Angelica count on your support of Second Harvest to ensure their local food pantry is stocked with the fresh and nonperishable food they need to make healthy meals.

I'm Angelica, and this food pantry has been a big help, providing food for me and my family when we didn't have enough. I'm a single mother, and when my children were young, I had come every month to get food. At Christmas and Thanksgiving, they provided food that helped us have a special holiday.

I have an 11-year-old son with Down Syndrome who recently needed additional



As a single mom, Angelica came to South County Outreach, one of our community partners, to help feed her family.

care. I had to take time off because he was ill and no longer have my job. After years of supporting my family without assistance, I've recently had to return because we needed the food. I'm currently looking for part-time work again—there are lots of issues—but this food helps us have enough to eat.

Choosing items we need is a big help

I've always been able to count on coming to this food pantry when times were tough. Over the years they've changed how they distribute food. Now we can choose the items we need from the shelves, and I really appreciate that! Along with chicken, I can select other items to use and make a big meal. Being able to choose the food we can use means I don't have to stretch my budget as much at the grocery store.

I really believe that the people who donate to Second Harvest Food Bank have big hearts. Thank you for what you do, not just for my family, but also for so many others who need this help.

"I really believe that the people who donate to Second Harvest Food Bank have big hearts."

—ANGELICA

You're helping us close the Meal Gap

Earlier this year, Feeding America released its latest *Map The Meal Gap 2018* report on food insecurity. Closing the meal gap is an important part of our Bold Goal. Here are some key local findings from the study:

- 301,650 people are at risk of hunger
- More than 117,350 children are at risk of missing one or more meals
- Weekly food budget shortfall is \$18.94

Thank you for standing with us and working to bridge the meal gap in Orange County. Thank you!

Your gifts will provide a healthy, happy holiday season for families in need



Angelica (pages 2-3) remembers going to one of our community partners when she was a single mother struggling to make ends meet during the holidays. “They provided the food that helped us have a special holiday,” she says. Unfortunately, Angelica’s story isn’t unusual. When a family can’t pay their utility bill, or buy gas to get to work, trying to create a fun and meaningful holiday experience for their children can be heartbreaking.

For 35 years, we’ve been finding innovative ways to ensure Orange County families have access to healthy food so they don’t have to choose between paying the bills and having traditional holiday meals. Programs like

our Park-It Market and our Mobile School Pantries are allowing us to provide fresh foods to even more families and seniors right where they live.

We’re also sourcing special holiday meal items like turkeys and chickens. Along with our mobile distributions, we’ll be working with our community partners to ensure families have the food they need to celebrate the holidays in ways that honor their traditions.

Your support is what makes this possible. That’s why we’re asking you to help us be ready to provide food for the holidays for our neighbors in need. **Thank you for the gift of food for an Orange County family facing hunger this holiday season and throughout the year.** You can help now at FeedOC.org or simply return the enclosed reply slip along with your gift today.

Help ensure hungry neighbors can start the new year with hope

Gifts made before year-end can be tailored to fit your financial needs and take advantage of the many tax vehicles and benefits associated with charitable giving. Some of these vehicles include: IRA charitable rollover, real estate, life insurance policies, donor-advised funds, and including Second Harvest in your Living Trust/Will. There are many reasons to give before the year end—and most important, you’ll help hungry neighbors have enough food to eat this holiday season and start the new year filled with hope. Please contact Christine Montevideo at 949-208-3150 or email Christine@FeedOC.org to learn more about using your year-end giving to make the greatest impact.



Thank you!

Golf Tournament

Our Golf Tournament Invitational, hosted by Second Harvest Food Bank’s Associates Board, teed up at Monarch Beach Golf Links and raised funds to provide over 240,000 meals.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Straub Distributing Company, Golden State Foods, Carl McLarand, Frome Family Foundation, Rutan & Tucker, LLP, Utility Manufacturing Co., American Golf Foundation (Casta del Sol Golf Course and Rancho San Joaquin Golf Course), Better Living SoCal Real Estate, Managed Mobile, Inc., and Velocity Vehicle Group.

Feed SoCAL

Thank you to ABC7, Albertsons/Vons/Pavilions, and Subaru dealers who helped us collect meals for the hungry during the Feed SoCAL Food Drive. Other supporters included: Mazda Foundation, Bank of America, Newport Meat, and OC Fair.

OC Fair

We Care Wednesday Food Drive, generous OC Fair patrons donated 46,220 pounds of food during this year’s drive. Thank you to the OC Fair and its patrons for helping us fight hunger in our community!

We are so grateful for our generous sponsors/donors:

Albertsons Companies, Bank of America, Costco Wholesale, David R. Clare and Margaret C. Clare Foundation, The Fluor Foundation, Golden State Foods, Joerger Family Charitable Foundation, Kroger - Ralphs/Food 4 Less, Macy’s Inc., Nationwide Foundation, Orange County United Way, SCAN Health Plan, Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation, Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, St. Jude Hospital, Subaru of America, Target, TJX Foundation, Walmart Foundation

Connect online to the work you support!



MY HOLIDAY DONATION

YES, Nicole, I want to help provide nutritious food to help Orange County families have a healthy, happy holiday season.

Enclosed is my gift: \$175 \$140 \$70 \$35 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



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

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SECURITY # _____

() _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____ 10N/18 48_34667-894

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.