



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF ORANGE COUNTY RECEIVES \$275,000 GRANT FROM DHONT FAMILY FOUNDATION

*Generous Grant Award to Increase Partner Capacity and
Support Grocery Rescue Program's Fleet Expansion*

IRVINE, Calif., (December 20, 2018) – Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County has received a \$275,000 grant from the Dhont Family Foundation in support of one of its most promising initiatives, the Grocery Rescue Program, which accounts for 40 percent of all donations to the charity and addresses a large area of food waste. The grant will benefit the program's fleet expansion for large-scale food recovery and build the capacity of community partners with small scale infrastructure to distribute more food and ensure that nobody goes hungry this holiday season and year round.

It is estimated that the United States throws away one-third of all the food it produces — that's 133 billion pounds of food annually — and grocery stores are responsible for tossing 10 percent of that food. But since 2007, many local grocers have resisted this troubling statistic by donating useable, fresh and healthy food to Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and other food banks through its Grocery Rescue program.

Grocery Rescue provides a safe, efficient way to donate millions of pounds of nutritious meat, dairy, deli, produce, baked goods, frozen and shelf-stable items to help feed 250,000 hungry and food-insecure families throughout Orange County each month—food which was once thrown away.

Second Harvest partners with local grocers and community partner agencies to collect perishable food for same-day distribution to agencies serving low income populations. The Grocery Rescue fleet makes scheduled pick-ups daily in temperature-controlled trucks and delivers the food items directly to those in need to ensure peak freshness. Now, more than 250 grocery stores have signed on to the program, including Walmart, Sam's Club, Albertsons Companies, Ralphs, Food 4 Less, Target, Gelson's, select Trader Joe's locations, Aldi, Amazon Fresh, Costco Wholesale, Big Lots, Smart & Final, Grocery Outlet, and Sprouts.

"We are constantly getting creative and increasingly innovative in our tireless work to help feed people at risk of hunger each month in our community, but we cannot do it without support," said Dave Coffaro, Interim CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. "This generous grant in support of the Grocery Rescue program will improve and expand our recovery efforts and increase our overall impact."

As the largest nonprofit hunger relief organization in Orange County, Second Harvest is committed to creating a future where hunger ends. Last year, Second Harvest provided a record 21.6 million meals for the hungry. While great strides have been made in reducing hunger in Orange County, there is still much work to be done. Second Harvest's Bold Goal is a strategic plan to increase the number of meals we provide from 20 million to 30 million by 2021 – putting Second Harvest on pace to close the meal gap entirely by 2025.

About Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County is the largest nonprofit hunger relief organization in Orange County leading the fight to end hunger for more than 301,000 men, women and children at risk of hunger in our community. Second Harvest distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of more than 200 partner agencies in locations throughout the county. Last year, Second Harvest provided enough food for a record 25.1 million meals, feeding more than 250,000 people each month. Second Harvest is a member of Feeding America, a national hunger relief organization. For more information about our work and how you can help, visit FeedOC.org

###