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Food for Thought

News from Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County



“It makes a big difference for us when we can get the kids what they need and also provide healthy meals for them.” —DULCE

Dulce and her family receive the healthy food they need from one of our community partners.

Thank you for giving my family somewhere to turn

For the last few months, I haven't been able to provide enough food for my children. It's been hard, but coming to the food pantry has been the extra help we've needed to get by.

My name is Dulce. I used to work as a nanny, but it became too difficult to manage with my own kids. We decided I would stay home while my husband worked, and that's when things got really tough financially.

In the summer, it can be even more difficult to make ends meet. The kids eat three meals at home every day and our rent seems to go up each year—it just gets harder and harder to pay for everything.

Receiving the meat and vegetables here is a big help. We make a lot of soups to stretch the food as far as possible. I love coming here because everything they give us is good and healthy.

Coming here helps me save money to use for other items we need in our family. It makes a big difference for us when we can get the kids what they need and also provide healthy meals for them.

Your support helps feed families in need

When we first started coming to the pantry, I was embarrassed to come. We didn't know what to expect, but the people are so friendly here. It means a lot to know that when we need to come here, we are going to get treated well.

We are so thankful for the donors. Thank you for blessing us with generosity and kindness. It's so helpful—especially to our children and so many of us who don't have a lot of income to buy food.

Summer 2019

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FeedOC.org

You can make a difference!

UPCOMING EVENTS

“FOOD BANK 101” TOURS

Interested in joining the fight against hunger in your community and don't know where to start? Sign up for a tour of our facility. Don't miss out! Check out our website for upcoming dates!

JULY 24 ORANGE COUNTY FAIR “WE CARE WEDNESDAY” FOOD DRIVE

Planning out your summer events? The “We Care Wednesday” Food Drive is coming up! You can get into the OC Fair for free on July 24th when you donate five or more nonperishable food items (per person). This is a great way to spend the day with your loved ones and give back to your community!

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

In honor of Hunger Action Month, become a hunger advocate! Use something as simple as social media to let your friends know about the ways you're supporting our mission! Make a bigger impact by getting your friends and family involved in our fight against hunger! You can make an impact by simply spreading the word. Together #WeFeedOC.

OCTOBER 2 HARVESTERS FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Save the date for the annual Harvesters fundraiser, presenting the most recent designer fashion highlights followed by an exclusive luncheon. This highly anticipated annual event helps feed people struggling with hunger in Orange County.

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

A note from Harald

I can remember seeing an article in the *Orange County Register* in 2009—it was a photo of a single can on a food pantry shelf.

It was a time where nearly everyone in the country was hurting from the downturn, and food banks didn't have the resources to step in and fill the need. That's when I began to become more aware—and more passionate—in finding solutions to address children, families, veterans and seniors facing food insecurity.

As I am just getting started in my new role here at Second Harvest, I have already seen the deep compassion and generosity from supporters like you. You are having a profound impact on neighbors struggling with hunger right in our own backyard.

“I am super excited about where we are as an organization today and the road ahead for Second Harvest...working toward a hunger-free Orange County.”

I am super excited about where we are as an organization today and the road ahead for Second Harvest—the staff, donors and volunteers—and everyone who cares about working toward a hunger-free Orange County and I look forward to partnering with each of you in this critical work for our community.

With gratitude,

Harald Herrmann, CEO | Your Partner



I was one of the lucky kids—I always had food on the table. My parents, however, were children in Germany during World War II. They both went hungry, but my mother has some especially trying stories about the hunger she experienced.

Sadly, food insecurity continues to be an issue. When nutritious food isn't available, that puts children and our entire community at risk. Over the summer, it's critical to keep kids healthy when they don't have access to school meals. We want them to come back to the next school year ready to learn, grow and thrive.



Your support helps my family eat healthy all summer long

My name is Amabeli, and I'm a single mom with two kids. Coming to this food pantry helps us a lot because the place where I work just cut my hours. So the food here helps me save money—which I really need right now.

When I can come here and I don't have to buy eggs, milk or meat, that is so helpful for my family. Without this place, our lives would be even more difficult. With the chicken and fresh produce we receive here, I can put something healthy on the table.

Your generosity is helping struggling families

I work for an agency that had work at two companies where I would put tags on clothes



Amabeli found the help she needed to feed her family at La Colonia Market, one of our Permanent School Pantries.

Partner Spotlight

Impacting families and communities together

Giving Children Hope (GCH) is an organization that serves vulnerable children and families both locally and all over the world. They are a community partner of Second Harvest, receiving food through our Grocery Rescue program for struggling families in Orange County.

“The effectiveness of our program would be impossible without Second Harvest,” says Christine Sanchez, Director of Partner and Program Development for GCH. “We're able to achieve our mission because of their support.”

Through her work at GCH, Christine is building partnerships with schools in our community, and the participating families then have access to food, parenting classes and financial stability classes.

Second Harvest's Grocery Rescue program—which your support helps make possible—has been deeply impactful on the families it provides food for, according to Christine. When

families come to the client choice pantry, it gives parents a chance to pick the fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and other items they will use throughout the week.

“The effectiveness of our program would be impossible without Second Harvest.”

—CHRISTINE SANCHEZ

If you would like more information about how Second Harvest provides food and other assistance to more than 200 community partners, please visit FeedOC.org.



Christine works with Giving Children Hope, a community partner of Second Harvest.

“Our biggest worry at the end of the month is when we have to pay rent and bills and then purchase food,” says Viviana, who receives food for her family at GCH. “But now with this program, because of the food that they give us, we don't have to worry about that anymore.”

and shoes. One of the companies moved out of Orange County and my hours were cut as a result. I'm now interviewing at other agencies to get more work when the school year begins.

The summers are especially hard

I have made the choice to not work in the summers because I can't afford child care. When I've had to find someone to watch my kids in the summer, it can cost me more than I make. So, we try to live off my savings—and that's hard.

I want to say thank you for everything the donors make possible for us. It helps us save and provides so much for our family. Thank you.

“When I've had to find someone to watch my kids in the summer, it can cost me more than I make.”

—AMABELI

Our Associates Board Teed up to close the meal gap



This May, our Associates Board leaders came together for their 3rd annual Golf Tournament Invitational to fight hunger and support Second Harvest's mission. This group of top leaders helped raise funds to help feed children and their families this summer. Congratulations to the Inaugural Legacy Awardees Mark Danner and Mark Wetterau. The Associates Board chairs are Larkin Williams, Facility General Manager at Golden State Foods, and Michael McGee, Credit Risk Surveillance Associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co. Our Associates Board was created to increase awareness about Second Harvest and help close the meal gap in Orange County.

Start your company's Virtual Food Drive Today!

Summer is a tough time for children because they don't have access to school lunches. Programs like our Virtual Food Drive help to provide fresh produce and staple food items to our children and families struggling with hunger. Every \$1 donated can help provide the equivalent of 3 meals!

This interactive website enriches the team-building experience within your organization and helps strengthen our community at the same time. You can set up teams and competitions between different departments too! Alliant Insurance was one of the leading Virtual Food Drive partners and helped to provide over 23,000 meals in 2018! They enjoyed seeing the direct impact of their hard work! “It was great to have the stats dashboard telling us how many meals we purchased,” said Amber of Alliant.

To start your Virtual Food Drive today, visit yourfooddrive.org.

Help children and families thrive this summer

For kids facing hunger in Orange County, summer is not a time they look forward to. Without access to school meals, thousands of children in our community do not get three meals a day—sadly, some are lucky if they even get one.

“I struggle more in the summer,” says Tiffanie, who receives food from one of our community partners. “I can’t afford to go shopping for food every day, or even every week.”

Tiffanie is not alone. With higher utility bills and kids home from school all day, budgets get stretched even thinner. That means parents begin to make difficult choices about what they spend their money on, at times skipping meals to keep all the bills paid.

Skipping meals or eating cheap, highly processed foods is not good for anyone’s health, but can be especially harmful to children. **We need your help to ensure children will finish out the summer getting the nutrition they need.**

Your generous gift today will help struggling neighbors like Tiffanie put food on the table for their families, and help them start the school year ready to play, learn and thrive. Every \$1 you donate can provide the equivalent of 3 meals. Any amount you give today can help provide fresh fruits, vegetables and other staples to our neighbors in Orange County who need it most.

You can use the enclosed reply slip or go online to FeedOC.org. Every gift you give makes a difference in the lives of the children, families and seniors in Orange County. Thank you!

The Daniel J. Harney Legacy Society

Create a lasting legacy of feeding families in need

For donors who are over 70½, one way you can make a big impact is by gifting your required minimum distribution from an IRA directly to Second Harvest. Each IRA owner may donate up to \$100,000 annually. This distribution is excluded from income, satisfies the required minimum distribution, and provides an invaluable impact to Second Harvest.

Please call 949-653-2900 for more information. Thank you!



Tiffanie (with her aunt) says providing for her 7-year-old son is especially difficult in the summer months.

Thank you to our NALC Food Drive Supporters:

- National Association of Letter Carriers
- Eagle Community Credit Union

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

- Orange County United Way
- St. Joseph Health Community Partnership Fund
- Abbott Fund
- Walmart Foundation
- Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian Community Benefits Program
- Pacific Life Foundation
- St. Jude Medical Center
- Wells Fargo
- Waste Not OC Coalition
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Disneyland Resort
- Clare Family Foundation
- NBC4 Telemundo
- Walmart Fight Hunger Spark Change

Connect online to the work you support!



MY SUMMER GIFT

YES, Harald, please use my gift to provide nutritious food to children, families and seniors facing hunger in Orange County.

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

Give now at FeedOC.org or call 949-653-2900, ext. 129



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
 ORANGE COUNTY

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA



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

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____ SECURITY # _____

() TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____ 7N/19 49_36534-894

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.