

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WINTER 2018



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## Low-income Seniors Get Help from the Food Bank for the Holidays

Just before Christmas, three friends wait in line for food assistance at the Food Bank's monthly food distribution at St. Stephen's Church on Imperial Avenue in Southeastern San Diego.

Amelia, 63, Florencia, 70, and Dolly, 66, are low-income seniors from Paradise Hills who struggle to put food on the table due to the region's high cost of living and their limited retirement income.

"The three of us carpool over here every month to get food from the Food Bank. I'm the only one who has a car, so I pick up my neighbors, Florencia and Dolly, and we get the food from the Food Bank, and I help them take it home. It's a real blessing for us," explains Amelia.

"I was experiencing tough times, and some friends told me about the Food Bank. Florencia, Dolly and I come here every month. Money is really tight at home. I am retired. I was a childcare worker for many years at a day care center, and before that I worked at an electronics store. This helps the three of us so much. Fresh vegetables and fruits are too expensive for us, but thanks to the Food Bank we are able to get fresh produce. Otherwise, we couldn't afford it. Sometimes I ask my daughter for food, but she's got two children, so I can't ask a lot. The Food Bank helps me so much," continues Amelia.

*"Thanks to the Food Bank we will have enough food for Christmas. The Food Bank helps us so much. We are very grateful for the help."*

Florencia, 70, lives with her daughter and her children. "I was a factory worker for almost thirty years, and now I'm retired, and I live with my daughter. Food is tight at home, and the Food

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[www.sandiegofoodbank.org](http://www.sandiegofoodbank.org)



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# A Year of Innovation!

Happy New Year!

First, I would like to thank *everyone* who supported the Food Bank in 2017!

As a grassroots, local nonprofit we rely *entirely* on the local community to support our vital mission.

And you certainly delivered! From volunteerism to food drives and monetary donations, the Food Bank leveraged your support last year to provide food assistance to tens of thousands of individuals and families in our community every week. For that, I am truly grateful!

As the title of this letter highlights, 2017 was a year of innovation for the Food Bank. From programs and food procurement to facility improvements and operational efficiency, your San Diego Food Bank is a leader in hunger relief both locally and nationally!

In 2017, the San Diego Food Bank became the first food distribution warehouse in the world to receive the LEED Gold Version 4 certification. This environmental efficiency award was given to the Food Bank for implementing water and energy efficiency measures, installing 1,400 solar panels on our roof making us energy independent, and building a 3,400 square foot recycling center to divert more than 600,000 pounds of waste annually from local landfills. In addition, we received the EPA's Energy Star Award with our warehouse performing better than 95% of similar facilities nationally. Overall, these environmental sustainability efforts will save the Food Bank more than \$175,000 annually which will enable us to provide an additional 875,000 meals to San Diegans in need.

On the program front, two new programs, our College Hunger-relief Program and our Diaper Bank Program, have become established in the community and are serving thousands of San Diegans who want to get an education and work to support their families.

By helping college students from impoverished backgrounds who struggle with hunger, we are ensuring that they stay in school, get an education, and break the cycle of poverty. And by providing diapers to working-poor families, we are ensuring that parents are able to send their kids to day care (which requires a daily supply of diapers or the child is turned away) so they can stay employed and provide for their families.

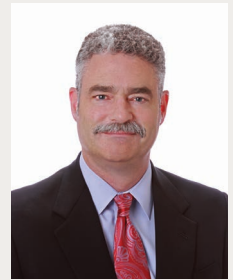
2017 was definitely a year of innovation! And thanks to your ongoing support, we are helping our service population become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

Please know that you are at the heart of all we do! Thank you!

Warm regards,



James A. Floros  
President & CEO



James A. Floros  
President/CEO







Three senior citizens, Florencia, Amelia and Dolly (who asked not to be photographed) received help from the Food Bank over the holidays.

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Bank really helps put food on the table for me and my daughter and grandchildren,” she explains.

As the ladies continue to share their stories, they receive food from volunteers. They each receive fresh produce including: a bag of pears, a bag of apples, a bag of carrots, a bag of oranges, a bag of cucumbers, a bag of fresh green beans, cabbage, celery, a bag of potatoes, a box of salad, a bag of broccoli, and a bag of spinach.

As the three ladies near the end of the food distribution line, they thank the volunteers who have placed all of the food into their carts. And as they walk to Amelia’s car, they thank the Food Bank’s donors who make this food distribution possible.

“Thanks to the Food Bank we will have enough food for Christmas. The Food Bank helps us so much. We are very grateful for the help,” says Amelia.

The Food Bank is able to purchase fresh produce and staple food items for pennies on the dollar thanks to a bulk purchasing arrangement in association with 40 of California’s food banks and because of legislation that gives farmers a tax rebate for donating produce to the state’s food banks.

**If you would like to support the Food Bank and help feed low-income families and seniors, contact Liz Sheahan at 858-863-5129 or [LSheahan@SanDiegoFoodBank.org](mailto:LSheahan@SanDiegoFoodBank.org)**



## Join the Monthly Meals Club!

Help the Food Bank feed those facing hunger every day, all year long.

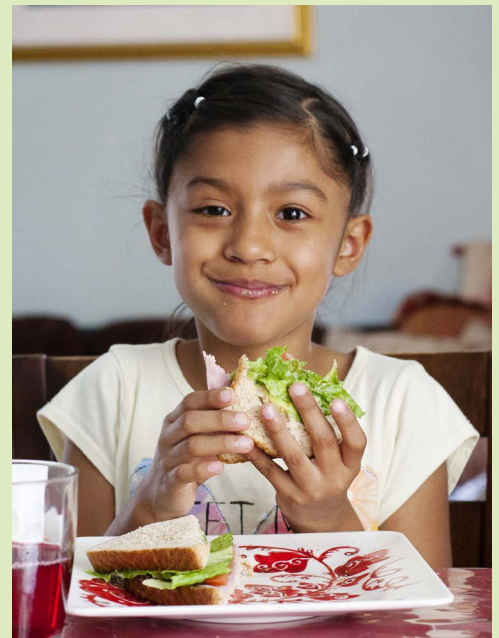
As a member of the Monthly Meals Club, you will provide food to our neighbors in need every month of the year through automatic direct debit donations.

A monthly gift of \$10 will provide a hungry individual at least one healthy meal every day, every month, for the entire year. A monthly gift of \$30 will provide three meals a day, every day, for the entire year.

Individuals we serve include working-poor families, fixed-income seniors, children living in poverty, low-income military families, and the homeless.

Joining our Monthly Meals Club is one of the easiest ways to make a commitment to end hunger. Your gift is debited automatically and securely from your bank account or credit card.

**To sign up, visit: [SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Donate/Monthly](http://SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Donate/Monthly) or contact Grace Harrison at [GHarrison@SanDiegoFoodBank.org](mailto:GHarrison@SanDiegoFoodBank.org) or 858-863-5130.**



# Save the Date for the Food Bank's 6th Annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala Saturday, April 28, 2018



Save the date for the Food Bank's 6th annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala!

More than 30 celebrated local chefs from across San Diego County will donate their time and culinary talent at the gala which will take place at our 90,000 square foot warehouse facility in Miramar.

The gala's chef committee chair, Chef Sara Polczynski of Seasoned Plates, will lead the team of chefs to help raise vital funds for the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs, including the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program which provides weekend backpacks filled with food to elementary school children living in poverty.

**What:** The Food Bank's 6th annual *Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala*

**Where:** The Food Bank's warehouse, 9850 Distribution Avenue San Diego, 92121

**When:** Saturday, April 28, 2018, 6 p.m. to midnight

**Chairs:** Jeannie Johnson Bolinger & Cheryl Floros

**Emcees:** FOX5's Raoul Martinez & Shally Zomorodi

"Each chef will host a table of ten guests at the gala, acting as their table's personal chef for the evening. The chefs are donating food for the event, and each chef will cook an amazing multi-course dinner featuring their signature dishes for their guests," said Chef Sara Polczynski.

This year's gala co-chairs, Jeannie Johnson Bolinger and Cheryl Floros, are excited about their plans for the gala which has a spring theme with an emphasis on fresh, seasonal food.

"Our theme this year is spring's harvest. The décor will reflect this theme throughout. We will couple floral patterns with rich pastel colors and vibrant sunset hues which will create a very welcoming and festive ambience," said gala co-chair Cheryl Floros.

Co-chair Jeannie Johnson Bolinger said, "The Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala is unique in that it's held at the Food Bank's 90,000 sq. ft. warehouse. Being in this atmosphere showcases the magnitude of the Food Bank's operations and emphasizes the sheer scale of the Food Bank's mission of feeding 370,000 people every month."

The gala will feature live musical entertainment, silent and live auctions, delicious craft cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, a cocktail bar in the Food Bank's 70,000 cubic foot refrigeration unit, and exquisite foods prepared by the region's best chefs.

**Tickets: \$400;**  
**VIP tickets: \$600; Table of 10: \$4,000;**  
**VIP Table of 10: \$6,000**  
**To purchase tickets visit [SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Gala](http://SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Gala)**  
**For information, contact Kristin Williams at [KWilliams@SanDiegoFoodBank.org](mailto:KWilliams@SanDiegoFoodBank.org) or 858-863-5198**



## 2018 Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala Participating Chefs

Chef Sara Polczynski (chair)	<i>Seasoned Plates</i>
Chef Andrew Bachelier	<i>Campfire</i>
Chef Jonathan Bautista	<i>Georges at the Cove</i>
Chef Steve Brown	
Chef Nick Brune	<i>Eco Caters</i>
Chef Ryan Bullock	<i>MIHO Catering Co.</i>
Chef Joe Burns	<i>Waters Fine Foods &amp; Catering</i>
Chef Alex Carballo	
Chef Hanis Cavin	<i>Carnitas Snack Shack</i>
Chef Denise Covert	<i>PB Alehouse</i>
Chef Evan Cruz	<i>Arterra</i>
Chef Phillip Esteban	<i>Consortium Holdings</i>
Chef Tommy Fraioli	<i>10 Barrel Brewing</i>
Chef Gina Freize	<i>Venissimo Cheese</i>
Chef Christopher Gardner	<i>Volunteers of America</i>
Chef Michael Ground	<i>The Patio Group</i>
Chef Jonathan Hale	<i>Prado at Balboa Park</i>
Chef Katherine Humphus	<i>Specialty Produce</i>
Chef Craig Jimenez	<i>Supernatural Sandwiches</i>
Chef Victor Jimenez	<i>Cowboy Star</i>
Chef Accursio Lota	<i>Solare Ristorante</i>
Chef Mario Medina	<i>The Main Course</i>
Chef James Montejano	
Chef Mario Moser	<i>The Flying Pig</i>
Chef Michael Poompan	<i>Coronado Marriott</i>
Chef Lance Repp	<i>The University Club</i>
Chef Denise Roa	<i>Rancho La Puerta</i>
Chef Javier Rubio	<i>Mission Bay Yacht Club</i>
Chef Vaughn Vargas	<i>UC San Diego</i>
Chef Giselle Wellman	<i>San Diego Jewish Academy</i>



## Enterprise Rent-A-Car Donates \$40,000



The Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation donated \$40,000 to the Food Bank as part of its Fill Your Tank program which is part of a six-year campaign to fight hunger around the globe.

The Fill Your Tank program donations made locally are determined by local Enterprise operations. Beyond donations, Enterprise Rent-A-Car is supporting the Fill Your Tank program with a hunger awareness and local engagement campaign.

The donation will provide 200,000 meals to families in need in our community! A HUGE thank you to Enterprise Rent-A-Car!

## SDSU's Aztecs Rock Hunger Food Drive Raises 588,915 Pounds



Just ahead of the holidays, San Diego State University hosted its 10th annual Aztecs Rock Hunger Food Drive and collected an amazing 588,915 pounds of food through food and monetary donations!

SDSU hosted campus-wide events to collect food and educate students about hunger in San Diego. Students collected food drive and monetary donations during homecoming festivities, at sporting events, concerts, and at Aztec Shops.

Donations will benefit the Food Bank's food distribution programs including our College Hunger-relief Program that provides food assistance to low-income college students who struggle with food insecurity.

A huge thank you to all of the students who participated in the competition!

## Thanks for Supporting the 2017 Holiday Food Drive!



Special thanks to our supporters



The Food Bank thanks everyone in the community who supported our 2017 Holiday Food Drive campaign which was a huge success!

Special thanks to our supporters First 5 San Diego, Wells Fargo Bank, Albertsons, Vons, the San Diego Union Tribune, FOX5, Star 94.1 and the family of iHeartMedia San Diego radio stations!

A big thank you to everyone who donated a \$5 pre-filled bag of food at Vons, donated online, and hosted a virtual food drive on behalf of the Food Bank!

## Food Bank CEO Elected Board Chair of California Association of Food Banks

San Diego Food Bank CEO James Floros was elected Board Chair of the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB).



The CAFB is a membership body comprised of 41 food banks from across the state.

The CAFB's member food banks serve millions of Californian's in need statewide. The CAFB distributes more than 164 million pounds of fresh produce annually to its network of member food banks through its flagship Farm To Family Program.



The CAFB also actively advocates at the state and federal level for anti-hunger legislation and programs. Floros will lead the Board of Directors in maintaining oversight of the CAFB's operations and will help its policy team represent the body at the state and federal level.

# Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations and organizations for their generous support received between September 27, 2017 and December 20, 2017.

## Foundations & Organizations

### Diamond (\$50,000 to \$2,000,000)

Entertainment Industry Foundation  
Melvin Garb Foundation  
Linden Root Dickinson Foundation

### Platinum (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
First 5 San Diego  
Bruce & Diane Halle Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation

### Gold (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Philip E. Fess Family Foundation  
Gilbert J. Martin Foundation  
JP Martin Foundation  
Midway Foundation Inc.  
Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation  
Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
Allison & Robert Price Family Foundation  
Stensrud Foundation

### Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Archstone Foundation  
Ronald & Guadalupe Cohn Family Foundation  
David C Copley Foundation  
The Country Friends  
Grainger Foundation  
Helmstetter Family Foundation  
Highland Street Foundation  
Jack in the Box Foundation  
Padres Foundation  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman Foundation

### Bronze (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Combined Federal Campaign  
Cushman Foundation  
Douglas & Marianne Dickerson Foundation  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
National Management Association, San Diego Chapter  
San Diego Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.

### Copper (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Christ Episcopal Church Thrift Shop  
Escondido Senior Enterprises  
Hamilton Foundation  
c/o Bessemer Trust  
Orville & Gayle Kolterman Family Foundation  
Maximus Foundation  
National Christian Foundation  
Naval Station Religious Offerings Pin Foundation  
San Diego Altrusa Club Foundation  
Sempra Energy Foundation

## Businesses

### Diamond (\$50,000 to \$2,000,000)

Baker Electric Solar, Inc.  
Tri-City Healthcare  
USAA Federal Savings Bank

### Platinum (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Business Complete Solutions  
Richard & Richard Construction Company, Inc.

### Gold (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Aztec Shops Ltd  
Lamb & Barnosky, LLP  
Merrill Lynch  
Toyota Dealers of San Diego County  
Wawanesa Insurance

### Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

AT&T California  
FOX 5 San Diego  
SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc.

### Bronze (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Beer Home Team  
Harrah's Resort Southern California Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians  
Jake's Del Mar  
Johnson & Johnson  
PCL Construction Services, Inc.  
Pope, Berger, Williams & Reynolds, LLP  
Qualcomm  
SD Commercial, LLC

### Copper (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Banner Bank  
Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc.  
Clare Institute  
Covidien  
Cox Communications  
EDCO Disposal Corp  
The Golden Egg Omelet House  
Integrated Practice Solutions, Inc.  
MainStreet Oceanside  
Morgan Stanley  
National Pen Co., LLC  
Pardee Homes  
Penske Automotive Group, Inc.  
Robbins Arroyo LLP  
San Diego CityBeat  
Sharp Professional Nurses Network  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
Streeter Printing  
Treebeard Landscape, Inc.  
UBS Financial Services, Inc.  
Whole Foods Market

## Planning Your Estate?

**Include the Food Bank in your will.** Your legacy will make a difference in the lives of the San Diegans we serve for generations to come.

Please call us at 858-863-5129 or send an e-mail to [legacy@sandiegofoodbank.org](mailto:legacy@sandiegofoodbank.org)

