

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WINTER 2016



“When my husband is on deployment he will do whatever it takes to save money on his end. He feels like he needs to sacrifice even more for us when he is overseas to make sure we’re ok at home.”

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**Save the Date!
April 30, 2016**



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**Thanks to Our Holiday
Food Drive Supporters!**



“People outside the military say, ‘Oh, you’re military, you’re O.K.,’ but in reality we are just getting by.”

On a crisp, sunny December morning in the San Diego neighborhood of Tierrasanta, Ashley Padgett, a young mother of two, holds her one-year-old son, Bryce. She is standing in line for food assistance at the Food Bank’s food distribution for low-income military families. To qualify for food assistance from the Food Bank, a family of four cannot earn more than \$36,000 a year.

“I’m here to get food from the Food Bank. Groceries in San Diego are really expensive. My husband, Jared, is in the Navy. We have two children. Carlie is six years old, and Bryce is a year old. We moved from Washington State. We were at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. The cost of living is much higher in San Diego. Everything here is expensive. The food is expensive. Rent is expensive. Gas is expensive. Just driving anywhere is expensive,” explains Padgett.

More than 200 military families receive food assistance from the Food Bank at this site every month. This month Albertsons’ volunteers are on-site handing out family holiday meals that were donated by customers through the supermarket’s “Holiday Bucks” campaign. The meal includes a 12-pound frozen turkey along with 3 lbs. of mashed potatoes, 2 lbs. of turkey stuffing, 24 oz. of gravy, and 14 oz. of cranberry sauce – enough to serve 6 to 8 people.

“The holiday meal will be a big help for us. Our food budget is really tight. I have to plan everything out. To afford all of my bills and have food last us for the whole month, there’s no room for unexpected expenses. I use coupons everywhere. The Food Bank helps us out a lot,” says Padgett.

Padgett’s husband serves in the Navy as an aircraft parts mechanic. His rank, AM1, is at the bottom of the Navy pay scale. “We’re getting ready to move back to Washington State. My husband Jared is getting ready to deploy. He’s going to be gone for about 14 months altogether,” she explains.

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Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

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www.sandiegofoodbank.org

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Thank you, San Diego!

Greetings!



As we look back at 2015, the first thing that comes to mind is – thank you! Because of your tremendous support of your local food bank – we had a record-breaking year! Our summer School’s Out, Hunger’s Not Food Drive and winter Holiday Food Drive were both record-breaking achievements – bringing in a combined total of more than 980,000 pounds of food or 817,000 meals!

Other exciting milestones this year include the installation of 1,400 solar panels on our roof, which will save the San Diego

Food Bank nearly \$120,000 annually – which equates to 600,000 meals, and our soon-to-open composting and recycling center, which will not only help the environment, but will create product that can be used by our nonprofit partners that operate community gardens that provide fresh produce to hungry children and their families. All exciting stuff – only made possible by the generosity of people like you!

And last, but not least, we are very excited about our acquisition of the North County Food Bank. This expansion will not only make our hunger network more efficient by combining our two agencies to benefit from economies of scale, but the San Diego Food Bank will more than double its outreach in North County by adding an additional 77 nonprofit partners (bringing our partner agency total to more than 400) and feeding an additional 30,000 to 50,000 people per month (bringing our monthly total to 400,000!).

None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our local community. Please know that our staff and corps of volunteers are working hard to make sure your investment in our important work is making a difference every day.

Here’s to a great 2016 and beyond!

Warm regards,

James A. Floros
President/CEO





Padgett waits for food with her one-year-old son, Bryce

“...we are just getting by”

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“It’s funny. People think that military families are completely taken care of, but we are just getting by. I’ve found it’s really difficult to get a job as a military spouse. When employers interview me, they ask why I move around all the time. They ask, ‘Why were you here for a year, and here for two years, and here for only six months?’

“It’s hard because there’s no stability and they are worried you are going to move. Forget having a stable career as a military spouse. You can’t put permanent roots down.

“Plus I’ve got student loans. I went to beauty school, and then I had a baby, and so I’m not working right now, and it’s been tight,” continues Padgett.

“I’m not someone who likes to take advantage of assistance programs. But now if I hear of a program that I qualify for, then I will use it to feed my family. We didn’t need any help before because I was working, but now that I’m not working we need the help,” says Padgett.

“When my husband is on deployment he knows that we need the money at home. He won’t ever eat out. He will eat in the galley and do whatever it takes to save money on his end which is hard because he’s the one that is working so hard for us, but he feels like he needs to sacrifice even more for us when he is overseas,” she explains.

As Padgett goes through the food line, she receives the family holiday meal donated by Albertsons’ customers. In addition, Padgett receives her monthly allocation of food from the Food Bank which includes: a bag of potatoes, a bag of onions, canned corn, canned green beans, peanut butter, applesauce, grapefruit juice, canned red salmon, fresh lettuce, and a bag of oranges.

As Padgett leaves the distribution, she turns to a Food Bank volunteer and says, “This food will really help my family over the holidays. Thank you.”

To help support the Food Bank’s Military Initiative, contact Liz Sheahan, VP of Development at 858-863-5129.



Albertsons volunteers help give out holiday meals to military families

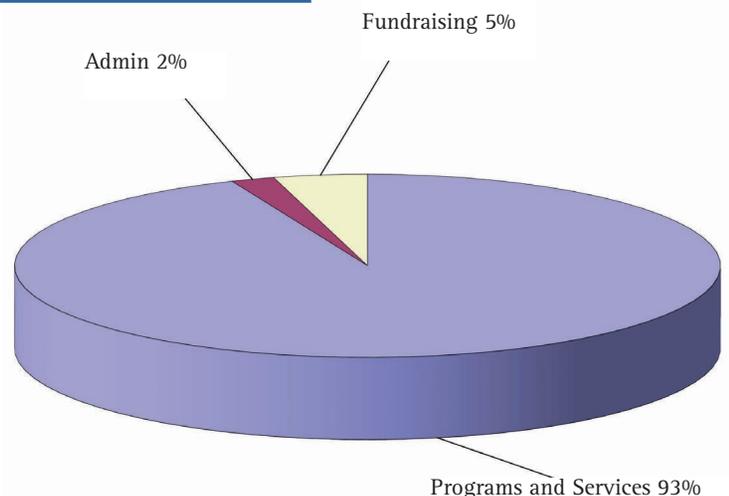
The Food Bank is a Four Star Charity and Uses Your Donations Efficiently

The Food Bank is one of the highest rated charities in the country – receiving four out of four stars from Charity Navigator, the nation’s leading independent charity evaluator.

And the Food Bank is one of the most efficient charities in San Diego County. For every dollar you donate, 93 cents goes directly to our food programs and services – only 7 cents goes towards administration and fundraising.

Thanks to our streamlined efficiency, your donation goes a long way towards feeding hungry families and individuals in San Diego County!

Thank you for your support!



JACOBS & CUSHMAN
SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK

CHEFS CORK & CRAFT

2016 Foodtasia Gala

SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 30, 2016

**A CULINARY ADVENTURE
CELEBRATING LOCAL
AND SEASONAL FOOD
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The San Diego Food Bank's 2016 Foodtasia Gala: Chefs, Cork & Craft will take place at the Food Bank's 80,000 sq. ft. warehouse. The evening will be a celebration of local, seasonal food, and the culinary talent of more than 20 of the county's best chefs.



Foodtasia Gala Committee co-chairs Debra Devine and Jennifer Schwarz (L to R)

The gala's chef committee co-chairs, Chef Sara Polczynski of Seasoned Plates and Chef Jonathan Hale of The Prado, are leading the team of chefs to help raise vital funds for the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs, including the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program.

"We had a vision to bring together San Diego's top culinary talent for an evening of extraordinary cuisine," says Polczynski. "We will have more than 20 chefs altogether, and each chef will prepare their own signature hors d'oeuvres for the cocktail reception. Following the reception, each chef will be assigned to a table of 10 guests, acting as that table's personal chef for the evening, preparing a three-course meal with drink pairings. And the VIP tables will get an additional course of cheese from Venissimo Cheese.



Chef Co-Chair Sara Polczynski

"So you might experience hors d'oeuvres from five or six different chefs during the cocktail party, and then have a different chef cooking your three-course dinner that evening. We want our guests to be open minded and willing to take a culinary adventure with some of San Diego's finest chefs," continues Polczynski.

Polczynski's face lights up when she describes the other unique features of this year's gala. "There will be a vodka bar in the Food Bank's 70,000 cubic foot refrigeration unit. And we will have an exit party at the end of the night with handcrafted desserts! The guests are going to love it!"

Tickets: \$300; VIP tickets: \$500; Table of 10: \$3,000; VIP Table of 10: \$5,000

To purchase tickets visit www.SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Foodtasia

For information contact, Sandy Rabourne at SRabourne@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5142



The Girl Scouts with representatives from NCTS, MTS, Albertsons, and the Food Bank attend a press conference launching the food drive.

Stuff the Bus Food Drive Raises Over 25,000 Pounds of Food!

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) teamed up with the North County Transit District, Albertsons and Vons supermarkets, and the San Diego Girl Scouts to host the eighth annual 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive.

The food drive was held during the first week of December, and on Saturday, Dec. 5, more than 800 Girl Scouts volunteered at all San Diego County Vons and Albertsons to collect food donations from shoppers on behalf of the Food Bank.

At the end of the food drive, a caravan of buses delivered the food to the Food Bank where they were unloaded by military volunteers.

In total, the food drive raised more than 25,000 pounds of food!

The Food Bank extends a huge thank you to all who supported the food drive!



Thank You for Supporting the 2015 Holiday Food Drive!

The Food Bank thanks everyone in the community who supported our 2015 Holiday Food Drive campaign!

The campaign was a huge success thanks to the community and our supporters First 5 San Diego, Wells Fargo Bank, Vons, Albertsons, the San Diego Union Tribune, and FOX 5 San Diego!

A big thank you to everyone who donated a \$7 pre-filled bag of food at Vons, made a monetary donation, volunteered, and hosted a food drive on behalf of the Food Bank!

This year's Holiday Food Drive put food on the table for families in need and smiles on the faces of those we serve. Thank you!

VinDiego

Wine & Food Festival

Get Your Tickets For VinDiego, April 1 & 2! Discount Promo Code for Food Bank Supporters

The 4th Annual VinDiego Wine & Food Festival is San Diego's premier wine tasting event. Held April 1 and 2, 2016 at NTC Promenade in Liberty Station the high-end event will feature top-tier wineries offering more than 300 unique tastes of award-winning wines alongside more than 20 of San Diego's top restaurants as well as live, upbeat music.

Food Bank supporters can use **promo code: SDFB** and receive discounted general admission tickets to the Grand Tasting Event with a portion of the proceeds coming to the Food Bank. And the Food Bank will be the beneficiary of the silent auction at Saturday's event!

Visit VinDiego.com for more information and tickets!

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations and organizations for their generous support received during October and November 2015.

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Diamond (\$50,000 or more)

Riverstone Resources, LLC

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

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Rock Hunger Food Drive
Subway

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Barona Resort & Casino

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

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Every effort has been made to include all of our supporters on this list. If you believe an omission has occurred, please contact Liz Sheahan at LSheahan@SanDiegoFoodBank.org.

Foundations & Organizations

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The Joan & Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

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

First 5 San Diego

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

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Rock Valley Christian Church
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United Way Silicon Valley

Join the Food Bank's Monthly Meals Club

You can fight hunger every day of the year through our Monthly Meals Club.

It costs so little to fill a hungry tummy. A monthly gift of \$10 will guarantee a hungry individual, at least, one healthy meal every day, every month, for the entire year. And a monthly gift of \$30 will provide three meals a day, every month, for the entire year.

To join the Monthly Meals Club, please contact Grace Harrison at 858-863-5130.

