

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SUMMER 2018



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School's Out, Hunger's Not

During summer vacation, children living in poverty stop receiving free meals at school and face hunger at home. Often their parents work in low-wage jobs or they are unemployed, and over the summer months these families are forced to turn to the Food Bank to help feed their children. At the same time, donations to the Food Bank drop dramatically when need from the community is greatest.

Thousands of students across San Diego County like Khloe (pictured above), aged 8, and her brother Ethan, aged 10, live in poverty and receive free meals at school Monday through Friday.

And nearly 2,000 students, including Khloe and Ethan, are enrolled in the Food Bank's Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. Children in the program receive a backpack full of child-friendly food every Friday afternoon to nourish them over the weekend until they return to school on Monday morning.

Khloe and Ethan's mother, Roccio, struggles to provide food for her children like thousands of low-income San Diego parents. "One day everything changed. My husband left, and I was single with three kids not knowing if I was going to be able to feed my kids," she explains.

"I asked myself, 'How am I going to provide for my children?'" she continues. "I didn't want them to go hungry like I did as a child, so I tried to put that strong mom face on for my kids, but I was hurting and so worried inside."

**"When I don't get
enough to eat, I don't
worry about my
homework, reading,
playtime, or talking to
my friends. I just worry
about food."
– Khloe, 2nd Grader,
Boone Elementary**



www.sandiegofoodbank.org

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Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

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San Diego's Local, Leading Four Star Charity!

When I speak to community groups across San Diego County, I am always proud to point out that the San Diego Food Bank is a truly local, grassroots organization.

The Food Bank was founded 41 years ago as a local community resource which allows us to remain completely in tune with local needs.

When we identify unmet need in the community, we are able to quickly pivot with cutting edge solutions to support our service population. If we have a great idea for a new program or service for our clients, we can implement it quickly and efficiently as we work towards our ultimate goal of lifting our service population out of poverty and empowering them to get work, stay in work, and provide for their families.

And, as a truly local organization, every dollar raised here stays right here in San Diego County to serve local people, your neighbors, in need.

Local Statistics Determine Local Need

The Food Bank works in partnership with the San Diego Hunger Coalition to identify the number of food-insecure people in San Diego County. And, through generous support from local philanthropists, we have produced local data in partnership with academic institutions that puts a face on hunger in our community. Nearly 1 in 6 people in San Diego County are food insecure. And 1 in 5 children face food insecurity – about 22% of all children in the county. These eye-opening statistics drive our mission to work to end hunger in our community.

4 Star Charity Six Consecutive Years

As a leading, local nonprofit, I am extremely pleased to report that the San Diego Food Bank is one of the highest rated and most efficient charities in the country. In June, the Food Bank received Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating for the sixth consecutive year. This is the highest possible rating from the nation's leading, independent charity evaluator. Only 7% of the charities across the United States have received six consecutive 4-star evaluations from Charity Navigator. It is an honor to be recognized for our exemplary service to the community and stewarding your donor dollars efficiently and effectively.

180 Years of Combined Food Banking Expertise!

The reason the Food Bank excels in so many areas is due to our amazing, dedicated staff. If you add together each member of my staff's length of service at the Food Bank, we have a combined total of 180 years of food banking experience! We have a high staff retention rate which I attribute to our shared desire to make a difference in the lives of others. In fact, the Food Bank was honored with the San Diego Business Journal's 2018 Best Places to Work Award just last month!

Your Support Empowers Us

You, our supporters, can be proud that your support empowers us to not only be the leading hunger-relief agency in the region, but we are considered by many to be the leading locally-based food bank in the nation! None of this success story in the making happens without you! So, on behalf of the 370,000 people we serve each and every month --- thank you!!!



James A. Floros
President & CEO



James A. Floros
President/CEO





Roccio and her children, Ethan and Khloe, receive food assistance from one of the Food Bank's emergency food pantries near their home in Southeast San Diego.

know that there will be more hard moments in the future, but this program helps a lot of families and I am very thankful," says Roccio.

You can help the Food Bank provide food to children and families in need by supporting our hunger-relief programs this summer. Visit: SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Summer for more information.

For information about supporting our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, contact Liz Sheahan, Vice President of Development at LSheahan@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5129.

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"There were times after my divorce when I went to look for work, and my children were scared that I wasn't going to come home. They thought I was going to leave them like their dad did, and I would always assure them that I was going to come home," continues Roccio.

"My mom really struggles to get food for us. I know she tries really hard. Before we started getting the backpacks of food, my mom had a really sad face. She was sad because there was no money to buy food. But my mom's face was so happy when she signed us up for the backpacks. She smiled when we brought the backpacks of food home," says Khloe.

"I found out about the Backpack Program at the school, and since the day my kids joined the program everything changed. It helps us so much," explains Roccio.

"The Backpack Program brings us together as well because we have time to cook together. And now that the Food Bank is helping me and my family I'm no longer thinking about not having food and being stressed. The Food Bank helps us so much. I am so thankful for everyone involved in the Food Bank's programs because I wish I had had that kind of program back when I was growing up. I know that I'm not the only mom that has hard moments. I

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Raises 164,803 Pounds of Food!

This year's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which took place on Saturday, May 12, raised 164,803 pounds of food!

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is the nation's largest, single-day food drive run by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the U.S. Postal Service.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated by placing food next to residential mailboxes and delivering food donations to local post offices!



The Food Bank is San Diego's Leading Hunger-relief Nonprofit

The San Diego Food Bank is one of the highest rated and most efficient charities in San Diego County.

The Food Bank is a four star charity on Charity Navigator, which is the highest possible rating on the nation's leading, independent charity evaluator.

And the Food Bank is incredibly efficient. For every dollar you donate, 94 cents goes directly to our food programs and services – only 6 cents goes toward administration and fundraising.

Thanks to our streamlined efficiency, your donation goes a long way toward helping your neighbors in need!



Billy Gibbons & Friends to Headline AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018



Singer-guitarist Billy Gibbons will headline this year's AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival which is a benefit for the Food Bank.

The family-friendly event will feature national and local blues acts on two stages from noon to 8 p.m. at the Embarcadero Marina Park North on the downtown San Diego waterfront.

Billy Gibbons is best known for his role in ZZ Top, a Rock And Roll Hall of Fame band that formed in 1969. Gibbons will have a separate band at the blues festival.



Other musical acts will include Tommy Castro & the Painkillers, two-time Grammy nominee Kenny Neal, John Nemeth & the Blue Dreamers, Lightnin' Malcolm and The Sons of the Soul Revivers.

Attendees will enjoy specialist food vendors, local craft beer and wine, along with arts and crafts booths.

General admission tickets for the event are \$30. VIP tickets are \$150 and include a complimentary lunch, two drinks and preferred shaded seating near the stages. Super VIP tickets are \$250 and include all of the VIP benefits plus guaranteed seats directly in front of each stage and an invitation to the festival's kickoff party the night before.

Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled weekend of music, and help the Food Bank give hunger the blues.

The Food Bank is encouraging all event-goers to bring two cans of food to donate.



**For tickets and information visit:
SDBluesFest.com**

Food Bank's Annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala Raises \$500K for Hunger-relief Programs



The San Diego Food Bank held our sixth annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala on Saturday, April 28, at the Food Bank's 90,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Miramar.

The event raised more than \$500,000 for our hunger-relief programs including our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program which provides weekend backpacks of food to elementary school children living in poverty.

The gala, which sold out in January, was attended by nearly 600 guests and featured the culinary talent of 30 of the county's best chefs. All of the participating chefs donated their time, talent and food to prepare an exquisite dinner for their assigned tables of gala guests.

Attendees were treated to craft cocktails and hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, fabulous silent and live auction items, and live music by local blues singer Sarah Rogo.



The evening's program was emceed by FOX 5 Morning News anchors, Shally Zomorodi and Raoul Martinez. The gala closed with dancing and live entertainment by the celebrated local band, Encore Event Entertainment.

The Food Bank thanks our sponsors, supporters and volunteers who made the evening a great success!

Save the date for our 2019 Food Bank Gala - Chefs, Cork & Craft which will take place on April 27, 2019!



Vince Kasperick of AimLoan.com Receives the 2018 Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell Community Hero Award

Vince Kasperick of AimLoan.com received the Food Bank's annual Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell Community Hero Award at the Food Bank's 2018 Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala.

The Food Bank honored Vince Kasperick and AimLoan.com for his incredible contributions to the Food Bank's mission through fundraising campaigns, public awareness programs, and through employee volunteerism.

Vince Kasperick founded the AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival in 2010 as a food and fundraiser for the Food Bank.

The Blues Fest has become a hallmark event in San Diego and among blues fans nationally. The event has raised more than \$750,000 and 13 tons of food for the Food Bank in its seven years of operation!

Thank you Vince Kasperick and the AimLoan.com team of staff members for your outstanding commitment to the Food Bank's mission!



Mitch Mitchell and Food Bank CEO Jim Floros present the 2018 Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell Community Hero Award to Vince Kasperick of AimLoan.com

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations and organizations for their generous support received between April and June 2018.

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Nemeth Foundation
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

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

