

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SUMMER 2020

Hospitality Workers Laid-off Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Receive Help from the Food Bank



John and Brigid



Vincent and his family

On a gray, drizzly morning in June, hundreds of families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic received food assistance at the North County Food Bank's daily "drive-thru" food distribution in Vista.

Vincent and his family (pictured in their car above right) received groceries from the Food Bank at the food distribution with his wife, Rosales, and his two sons, Luis and Emmanuel.

"This is our first time getting help from the Food Bank," said Vincent. "I got laid off from my job at the Omni Resort and Spa in Carlsbad because of the Coronavirus. I have worked for the restaurant at the Omni for 14 years, but I lost my job when the pandemic hit."

"We really need the help right now because rent is very expensive here. My unemployment check covers the rent, but there's not much left over for food and bills."

"I've been coming every few weeks to get groceries to feed my family," continues Vincent. "We have two children. I have a four-year old son, Emmanuel, and a sixteen-year-old son, Luis, who is in 10th grade. My wife, Rosales, doesn't work because she takes care of our youngest child. Childcare would cost more than she could earn, so she plans to start working when he's old enough to go school."

"The restaurant where I work sent me a message that they may reopen in July. **I am really hoping to return to work soon so that I can provide for my family, but right now we are getting by with help from the Food Bank,**" said Vincent.

"My family is so grateful to the people who donate to the Food Bank. So many people like us have lost their jobs and are struggling to put food on the table for our families."

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– Vincent

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Greetings San Diego Food Bank & North County Food Bank family members!

I hope this edition of our Food Bank newsletter finds you well and that you and your loved ones are staying safe and sound. For some of you, this is your first installment of our quarterly publication. I think you will find in the months to come that our newsletter is a great way to stay connected with all things happening at the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter! This is your inside look at our battle to fight hunger every day in our community.

To say the last few months have been challenging would be an understatement. No one could have seen the COVID-19 crisis coming and never imagine the devastation it would cause.

When we were a few weeks into the crisis it struck me how well the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter were responding. There was never any panic or doubt. Just a calm resolve. We just did what we always do — pivot, adapt, and respond. And the organizational excellence we have worked so hard to develop through the years was paying huge dividends. We are answering the call and the huge spike in demand for our services. I knew then and there — we were the right organization at the right place and the right time.

A few telling facts include:

- We are distributing food at a rate 67% more than normal – more than 14 million pounds of food have gone to people in need from just mid-March to the end of June.
- Our service population has spiked from our usual 350,000 people served each month to nearly 600,000.
- In the month of May alone — we distributed more than 850,000 diapers through our Diaper Bank — an all-time record.
- In less than 12 weeks we purchased more than \$4,000,000 in food to meet demand. We normally spend \$1,000,000 a year.

Early on it became clear to me that we had built a ship to weather the storm. Our high level of organizational excellence has served — and will continue to serve — our community well.

But it is so important to note that none of this great work would be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, nonprofit partners (we have more than 500), and **most importantly — donors like you. Truly, without your support none of this important work — and the millions of pounds of food that we distribute monthly — happens without you.**

On behalf of the San Diego Food Bank and our North County chapter — and most importantly — the 600,000 people we are serving every month — thank you!

Warm regards,



James A. Floros
President & CEO



*Without your
support, none of
this important
work happens.*



John and Brigid (pictured page one, top left) attended the same food distribution to receive food assistance from the Food Bank.

“This is our first time getting help from the Food Bank,” explains John. “Before the Coronavirus, I managed the Pacifico Bar at Petco Park and my wife, Brigid, also worked in concessions at Petco Park for 15 years. We normally work at Petco Park for the entire Padres season that usually starts in March and ends in October, but we are unemployed now because of the Coronavirus.”

“During the Padres off season, we work the concessions and bartend at large events at Qualcomm Stadium, the Del Mar Races, the Del Mar Fair, Comic-Con, banquets at the Convention Center, and private concerts at Petco Park,” explains Brigid.

“Our jobs are dependent on large events at big venues, and now all of that is gone due to the pandemic. Who knows when the big events will come back? That’s our livelihood. And now all of that is gone.”

“All of this happened at the same time that our furnace and water heater broke, and we had to go into debt to pay for them to be replaced. We are really worried about unemployment running out. After the unemployment runs out what happens to us? What will we do?” asks John.

“I applied for bartender jobs at restaurants last week, but they’re not going to hire me. Once the restaurants open, they are going to rehire their former employees back first. So many people are out of work. It’s 30% unemployment in San Diego. Everybody is looking for a job,” continues John.

“All of the employees who worked at Petco Park are really hurting right now. The next baseball season doesn’t start until March or April, so we don’t know what we’re going to do from when our unemployment runs out until March. None of these sporting venues are going to have fans attending, so that means they won’t need concession stands, vendors or bartenders.”

As both families enter the “drive-thru” food distribution, they receive a gallon of milk, a box of cereal, a bag of apples, a bag of carrots, a bag of potatoes, a bag of onions, a bag of green beans, lettuce, a loaf of bread, canned meats, canned soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, and canned fruit.

As John and Brigid leave the food distribution, they thank the Food Bank’s donors for making the food distribution possible. **“This is such an amazing help for us. This will really help us right now. Thank you to the Food Bank and the Food Bank’s donors.”**

For more information about the Food Bank’s COVID-19 response and how you can help, visit: SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Response.

For information on donating to our COVID-19 Response Fund, please contact, Nancy Eisenberg at NEisenberg@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5129.



Volunteers place food in car trunks at the Food Bank’s daily “drive-thru” food distribution in Vista.



A volunteer places food in the trunk of John and Brigid’s car.



A volunteer places food in the trunk of Vincent’s car.

COVID-19 Impact Report — By The Numbers

The San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter are leading the county's charitable food network to ensure that our vulnerable neighbors get food assistance during these challenging times. **Our COVID-19 distribution statistics demonstrate how we are stewarding your donor dollars efficiently and effectively to serve those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

■ 46 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The number of schools we serve in partnership with local school districts. We provide families with groceries at weekly "drive-thru" food distributions.

■ 67%

The percentage increase in the amount of food distributed during the pandemic compared to same period last year.

■ 2 MILLION

The number of emergency diapers distributed to families in need countywide since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

■ 600,000 PEOPLE SERVED

The number of people we are currently feeding every month since the pandemic hit our region. Previously, we fed 350,000 people monthly.

■ 14 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD

The amount of food we have distributed to families in need from mid-March to the end of June 2020. We are distributing 1 million pounds of food per week.

■ 2,161 SENIORS

The number of seniors sheltering in place who received delivered groceries from the Food Bank in partnership with Team Rubicon.

■ \$4 MILLION

The amount of your donor dollars the Food Bank used to purchase food on the wholesale food market since mid-March to feed all families impacted by COVID-19. In normal times, the Food Bank spends \$1 million per year.

Food Bank Launches 35 New "Super Pantries" to Help Families Impacted by COVID-19

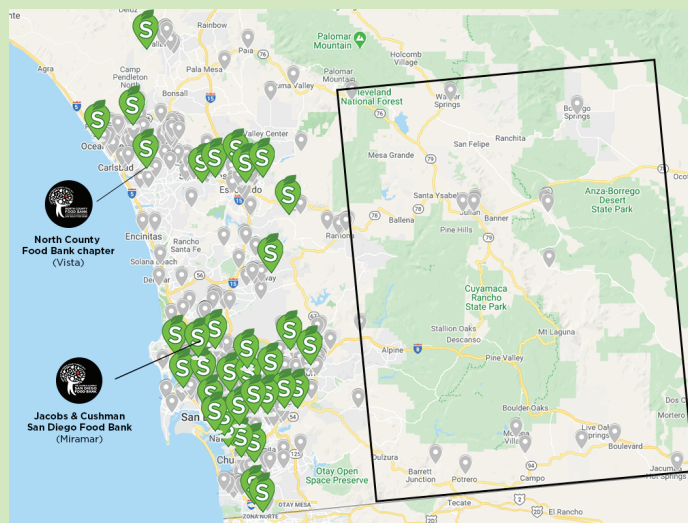
On July 1, the Food Bank launched our new "Super Pantry Program" which will feature 35 high-volume food distribution hubs, called "Super Pantries," that will be strategically located in communities throughout San Diego County.

Each "Super Pantry" will distribute food to families in need a minimum of three days a week to prevent long lines experienced at one-time mass food distributions.

With longer service hours on multiple days every week, the Food Bank can serve more households, more safely, more efficiently, and more quickly.

The Food Bank supplies food to San Diego County's charitable food network through a hub and spoke model. Through this model, 500 nonprofits with feeding programs receive food from the Food Bank, and we supply food for 200 scheduled food distributions every month throughout the county.

The 35 countywide Super Pantries will collectively distribute an estimated 1.2 million pounds of emergency groceries and serve 130,000 people per month. **For more information about this new program, visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org.**



MAP LEGEND



Super Pantry Program Sites



Food Program Sites

(Neighborhood Distribution Program, Senior Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Food to Nonprofits Program)



Mobile Pantry Service Area



Please Support the Food Bank's School's Out, Hunger's Not — COVID-19 Summer Food Drive

Please help the Food Bank feed children and families living in poverty who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over summer months, and since the start of the pandemic, children living in poverty lose access to free school meals when school is closed.

This July, you can support our COVID-19 Summer Food Drive by visiting your local Albertsons and Vons supermarkets and donating the Food Bank's most-needed food items in our famous red food drive barrels at the front of the store. You can also donate through our virtual food drive online via the Food Bank's website.

Thank you for helping us feed children and families in need this summer! For more info visit: SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Summer.



Thank you to our Summer Food Drive Sponsor



Thank you to our Supermarket Sponsors



Thank you to our Media Sponsors



10th Annual AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival — Virtual COVID-19 Benefit Concert



The Food Bank's tenth annual San Diego Blues Festival is going virtual!

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will host this year's annual blues festival online as a virtual live streaming event on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020.

Every year, our annual blues festival raises vital funds to support the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs. This year, funds raised through the blues festival will support the Food Bank's

COVID-19 Response Fund to help feed the tens of thousands of families affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Event organizers are working to make this year's blues fest a fantastic live streaming event for our loyal supporters and blues aficionados. Plans are in place to feature national and local blues artists to raise much needed funds to support our programs.

We encourage our supporters to sign up for our blues fest e-news at SanDiegoBluesFest.com for detailed information about this year's online event. We look forward to seeing you virtually on Saturday, Sept. 12!



Planning Your Estate?

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

Please call us at 858-863-5129 or send an e-mail to legacy@sandiegofoodbank.org

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations, and organizations for their generous support received between March 23 and June 4, 2020.

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RiverStone Resources
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The Melvin Garb Foundation
The San Diego Foundation

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