

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SUMMER 2021

Food Bank's 'Super Pantries' Help Families In Need



At a recent Food Bank drive-thru food distribution, Lourdes and her daughter Samara (pictured above) wait in a short line to receive food assistance at the Food Bank's Super Pantry site in Miramar.

"We have six people in our family including, myself, my husband, our sixteen-year-old son, Elijah, our twelve-year-old son, Samuel, our nine-year-old son, Caleb, and our two-year-old daughter, Samara," says Lourdes.

"I ran my own business which was a day care from my home, but I lost my business and my job because of COVID. I had to close my business due to the lockdowns and nobody needed child care. So I ended up not working and homeschooling my four children," explains Lourdes.

"It was stressful because my home became a school overnight and at the same time my husband and I were very worried about how we were going to survive," explains Lourdes.

"After I lost my job, my husband, who has worked as a mechanic for fifteen years at a car dealership in National City, got his hours cut to three days a week. They cut him

from full-time and made him part-time. And his paycheck was cut in half, and then I lost my job and my pay went down to zero," she continues.

"This crisis has been hard for my family. We are all just so grateful for the help we are getting from the Food Bank."

- Lourdes, San Diego

"My husband and I worried about how we would pay the rent and our bills and feed our children. That is why we are so grateful to the Food Bank for the help we have been getting with groceries. The Food Bank really helps a lot."

"Before the pandemic started, my children received free meals at school, breakfast and lunch, and since the schools closed last year, we have been feeding them at home every day. That is a lot of groceries, three meals a day seven days a week for four children. This has increased our costs so much. That is why we needed to go to the Food Bank for help," she continues.

"After I lost my job, I got anxious and depressed because

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SanDiegoFoodBank.org
NorthCountyFoodBank.org

Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank

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A Special Thank You for Your Support!

On behalf of the Food Bank’s Board of Directors, staff, and family of volunteers, we would like to extend a very special thank you to everyone who supported the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter during the COVID-19 crisis.

The community rallied together in support of our vital mission to feed hundreds of thousands of people who faced hunger due to the financial impacts of the pandemic on our region.

Thanks to you, our donors, the Food Bank was able to quickly pivot to modify and enhance our food distribution programs to meet the exponential increase in demand for food assistance.

Your support enabled the Food Bank to:

Increase the number of people we feed monthly from
350,000 to nearly 600,000.



Purchase \$11 million worth of food on the wholesale food market compared to \$1 million in a normal year.

Distribute over 71 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 59 million meals.



Host over 40,000 volunteer visits at our warehouses to sort, package and distribute food to those in need.

Distribute more than 10 million emergency diapers to struggling families with infants and toddlers.



Create 35 high-volume, drive-thru Super Pantry food distribution sites open throughout the week for fast, safe, contactless food distributions to families in need.

**Thank you for making our vital mission
in the community possible!**

I couldn't help my kids. So, I decided to volunteer with my children at our church's drive-thru food pantry where we also receive food assistance. I feel this is helping us to stay busy, and by helping the community it really helps me a lot mentally."

"The help we are getting from the Food Bank has been a big blessing. It has taken so much stress off of me and my husband, so we can focus on other bills and paying our rent because it's only my husband who is working right now."

As Lourdes enters the drive-thru food distribution, volunteers place groceries in the trunk of her car. She receives a mix of nonperishable food items including canned soup, canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, rice, and pasta along with frozen meats and a large box filled with a mix of fresh produce.

In order to meet the increased demand for food assistance and to serve Food Bank clients more quickly, safely, and efficiently, the Food Bank launched our Super Pantry Program last July.

Currently, thirty-five Super Pantries, strategically located throughout San Diego County, are operating as high-



volume distribution hubs, open throughout the week for families to receive food assistance with little or no wait times. Collectively, the Food Bank's thirty-five Super Pantries are serving thousands of people daily.

Despite the recent improvements in the economy and the lifting of California's pandemic restrictions, tens of thousands of families in San Diego County continue to struggle with food insecurity and will rely on help from the Food Bank. Thanks to our donors, we are continuing to provide vital food assistance to families in need.

For more information about our COVID-19 Response Programs, visit: [SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Impact](https://www.sandiegofoodbank.org/Impact).



GPS Food Locator Map Connects Families with Nearby Distributions

The Food Bank launched our new online GPS Food Locator Map to help families connect with nearby food distribution sites.

By entering an address or zip code, Food Bank clients can find nearby sites with opening hours and the range of foods available.

The Food Bank supports hundreds of food distributions throughout the county, and we partner with more than 500 nonprofits with hunger-relief programs.

To check out the map, visit [SanDiegoFoodBank.org/GetHelp](https://www.sandiegofoodbank.org/GetHelp).



San Diego County's Leading Hunger-relief Nonprofit

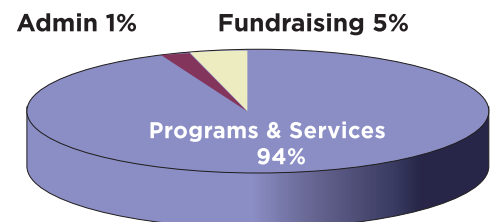
The San Diego Food Bank is one of the highest-rated and most efficient charities in San Diego County.

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

The Food Bank has received Charity Navigator's highest rating for nine consecutive years. Only 7% of charities nationwide receive this rating.

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

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



Annual AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival Returns to In-person Event

Saturday, September 11, 2021 – Benefiting the Food Bank



With the State of California's recent reopening and lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the Food Bank is proud to announce the return of our AimLoan.com San Diego Blues Festival as an outdoor, in-person event taking place Saturday, September 11.

The family-friendly event will feature nine national and local blues acts on two stages from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Embarcadero Marina Park North on the downtown San Diego waterfront.

This year's headliner will be the Grammy-nominated sister rock-duo, Larkin Poe, who are taking the blues world by storm. Other performers at this year's festival will include: Tracy Lee Nelson, Aki Kumar, Tia Carroll, Backtrack Blues Band, The Fremonts, Nikki Hill, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats, and Christone "Kingfish" Ingram.

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

General admission tickets for the event are \$40 online and \$50 at the gate. VIP tickets are \$175 and include a complimentary lunch, two drinks, and preferred shaded seating near the stages.



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Super VIP tickets are \$350 and include all the VIP benefits plus guaranteed seats directly in front of each stage.

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.

Dedicated Volunteer Reflects on a Decade of Volunteering at the San Diego Food Bank



When the pandemic reached the San Diego region, the Food Bank faced an unprecedented challenge. More than 1,500 volunteers cancelled their volunteer shifts while at the same time the Food Bank saw the demand for food assistance nearly double.

Luckily, for the Food Bank, individuals and families stepped in to help fill those vacant shifts. Vanessa

Pool, who has been volunteering for more than a decade, was one of those individuals. Every month, for the last 12 years, Vanessa has registered for an evening volunteer shift where she packs and sorts fresh produce and assembles food packages.

Throughout the years, volunteering has become a family affair. “My kids have grown up volunteering here,” she said. Vanessa has even brought along some of her UCSD colleagues. “UCSD has been supportive of the Food Bank, and there are many dedicated staff who come out every month and have done so for years,” she added.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Food Bank’s operations. If you are interested in volunteering, visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Volunteer.

September is Hunger Awareness Month



The San Diego Food Bank in partnership with the San Diego Hunger Coalition and San Diego Food System Alliance is asking the community to support this year’s San Diego Hunger Awareness Month campaign taking place throughout the month of September.

San Diego Hunger Awareness Month is a local, grassroots campaign that raises awareness about individuals and families in San Diego County who face food insecurity, including working-poor families, low-income military families, fixed-income seniors, the homeless, and children living in poverty.

You can show your support in many ways from volunteering to hosting a virtual food drive. To learn more, visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org/EndHunger.



Latham & Watkins Donates \$32,500 to Support the Food Bank’s Critical Hunger-Relief Programs

Latham & Watkins’ San Diego office presented a generous check of \$32,500 to the San Diego Food Bank in support of our COVID-19 response programs.

Families facing financial hardship due to the pandemic continue to turn to the Food Bank for help putting food on the table. For every dollar donated, the Food Bank can provide five meals to a family in need. This donation alone will provide 162,500 meals!

Thank you to the San Diego team at Latham & Watkins for supporting your local food bank!



Cutwater Spirits to Host Annual Tiki Bash, Aug. 6 to Benefit the San Diego Food Bank

San Diego’s largest distillery, Cutwater Spirits, is hosting its annual Tiki Bash on Friday, August 6, at Humphreys to benefit the San Diego Food Bank.

The evening will feature three tasting bars with tiki-themed cocktails and LIVE musical performances. This event is only for guests 21 years of age and older.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$40, and 100% of ticket sales will benefit the Food Bank. For information and tickets, visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Tiki.

Thank you to Cutwater Spirits for your steadfast support of the San Diego Food Bank and our vital hunger-relief programs!

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations, and organizations for their generous support received between March 2021 and June 2021.

Businesses

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

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