

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WINTER 2022



Families Receive Help Over the Holidays

On a warm November afternoon, hundreds of low-income families, many with young children, received food assistance ahead of the holidays at a food distribution in Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan, south of downtown San Diego.

Ismerai arrived at 1 p.m. with her four children to get in line for the distribution that started at 5 p.m. “I am a full-time mother and homemaker. I look after the home and our children while my husband works full-time in the construction industry,” said Ismerai.

“My husband, Manuel and I, have four children. Kiera is four years old and in preschool. Jocelyn is six years old and in the first grade. Jesus is seven years old and in the second grade, and Eiza is eight years old and in the third grade,” she continues. “Before COVID, we had never been to the

Food Bank to get help, but we went for the first time during the pandemic to get food so we could feed our family.

This is because my husband’s hours were cut due to the pandemic, and his salary was cut in half. So we registered with the Food Bank in 2020, and it has helped us so much by putting food on the table for our family.”

“We are facing big problems now. The price of food and gas has gone up a lot, and our rent went up by \$100. We are trying to get by on the same salary, but with prices going up on everything, it is really hard right now.

“We are so thankful for the Food Bank. Prices have gone up on food, gas, and rent, but our income has not gone up. The Food Bank helps us so much right now.”
– Ismerai, National City

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Thank you for your support in 2021!

Greetings and Happy New Year!

First, I would like to thank *everyone* who supported our vital mission in 2021!

This year's Holiday Food Drive was a resounding success with over a thousand businesses, schools, civic groups, and faith-based organizations hosting food drives and fundraisers on our behalf!

A HUGE thank you to our supermarket partners Albertsons and Vons who hosted their annual Nourishing Neighbors and Hunger Bag campaigns over the holidays. The Nourishing Neighbors campaign raised holiday meals for low-income families, and this year's Hunger Bag campaign raised over 100,000 bags of food!

Special thanks also to our Holiday Food Drive partners who were instrumental in the success of this year's campaign. This year's supporters included First 5 San Diego, Wawanesa Insurance, Bank of America, the San Diego County Toyota Dealers, Albertsons, Vons, FOX5, iHeartRadio, and the San Diego Union Tribune. We are so grateful to these amazing supporters for making this year's Holiday Food Drive the most successful ever!

The Food Bank continues to feed record numbers of people. Currently, the Food Bank is feeding an average of 550,000 per month through our network of 500 nonprofit partners, 200 direct food distributions, and 35 Super Pantries, which are high-volume distribution hubs open throughout the week.

For many families, it will take a long time to fully recover from the financial impacts of the pandemic, and we will continue to provide enhanced hunger-relief programs and services in communities throughout the San Diego County region. Thanks to your support, we are able to feed tens of thousands of families struggling to put food on the table.

It takes a community to feed a community. And without your support, none of our efforts would be possible. Please know that you are at the heart of all we do — thank you wholeheartedly for your support!

Warm regards,

Casey Castillo,
Interim CEO



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"I am getting help from the Food Bank distribution at our church, and we came here today to get a turkey, food, and diapers for my four year old, and winter coats for the children," explains Ismerai.

"Now I'm worried about where we will live next year. We rent an apartment in National City, but we received a notice that they will be tearing down the building and rebuilding, so we will need to move out next year."

"I'm so worried that we will need to find another apartment and it's probably going to be a smaller apartment for a lot more money. We're paying \$1,400 right now. We started paying \$1,000 when we moved in, but they have increased the rent every year since we moved in. I'm worried that our next apartment will be much more expensive."

"All the food we receive from the Food Bank is really helping us right now. It helps us stretch our budget so that we can pay the rent and bills. The food is really healthy and fresh. We are grateful for the meat and fresh produce that we receive from the Food Bank," she continues.

At the food distribution, Ismerai received a whole frozen turkey, eggs, fresh produce, an emergency supply of diapers, and free winter coats for her children.

Special thanks to former Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, who created the special food distribution,



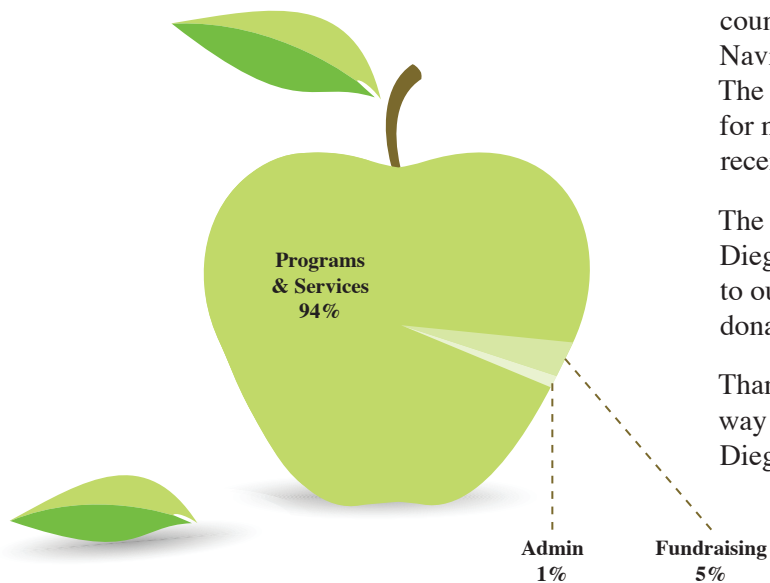
A volunteer hands Ismerai a bag of apples as she goes through the food distribution line with her four children.

Operation Gobble, and raised funds needed to purchase the turkeys that were distributed to families in attendance.

For those in need of food assistance, our GPS food locator can be found at:

SanDiegoFoodBank.org/GetHelp.

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

The Food Bank is one of the most efficient charities in San Diego County. For every dollar you donate, 94 cents go directly to our food programs and services. Only 6 cents of every dollar donated 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!



Save the Date for the Food Bank's 10th Annual *Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala: Hang 10* Saturday, April 23, 2022



What: The Food Bank's Annual *Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala: Hang 10*

Where: Outside, under the stars, on the grounds of the San Diego Food Bank's facility in Miramar

When: 6 pm, Saturday, April 23, 2022

Co-Chairs: Ellen Gruer & Cindy Hickman

Join the Food Bank as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of our annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala!

The Food Bank's annual gala has become a hallmark community event, and this year we celebrate 10 years of this wonderful evening fundraiser dinner.

This year's gala dinner will feature local, celebrated chefs who will be donating their time and talent to cook for our gala guests.

This year's gala will be held outside, under the stars, on the grounds of the Food Bank's warehouse facility in Miramar.

The gala's Chef Committee Chair Sara Polczynski of Seasoned Plates, will lead this year's team of chefs to help raise vital funds for the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs as the Food Bank continues to serve record numbers due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic.

Gala guests will enjoy live musical entertainment, fabulous silent and live auction items, delicious drinks and hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, and a beautiful outdoor dinner taking place on the grounds of the Food Bank's facility.



Tickets: \$500; **VIP tickets:** \$750; **Table of 10:** \$5,000;
VIP Table of 10: \$7,500

To purchase tickets visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Gala.

For information contact, Vivian McDonald at VMcDonald@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5198.



North County Food Bank Hosts 2nd Annual Open House and Awards Ceremony



North County Food Bank Volunteer of the Year, Dan Sargeant (center), is presented the award by Interim CEO Casey Castillo and Max Villalobos of Kaiser Permanente.

Our North County Food Bank chapter hosted our second annual awards ceremony and open house reception in November. The event recognized individuals, businesses, and community groups for supporting our mission in North County communities.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet Food Bank staff, take self-guided tours of our North County facility, and learn more about our programs at program information booths. To view the list of awardees visit: NorthCountyFoodBank.org/OpenHouse.

Enterprise Donates \$40,000



For a fourth consecutive year, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation donated to the Food Bank as part of its Fill-Your-Tank program!

This year's Fill-Your-Tank program donation of \$40,000 will support the Food Bank's enhanced hunger-relief programs with the Food Bank continuing to serve record numbers due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic. The Enterprise Holdings Foundation's donation will provide 200,000 meals to families in need in our community!

A HUGE thank you to the Enterprise Holdings Foundation!

Thanks for Supporting the 2021 Holiday Food Drive!

Thanks to Our 2021 Supporters



The Food Bank thanks everyone in the community who supported our 2021 Holiday Food Drive campaign to help us feed families in need over the holiday season.

Special thanks to our supporters Bank of America, First 5 San Diego, Toyota, Wawanesa Insurance, Albertsons, Vons, FOX5, iHeartRadio, and the San Diego Union Tribune!

A big thank you to the community for donating to the Nourishing Neighbors campaign and \$5 Hunger Bags at Albertsons and Vons. We thank everyone who volunteered, donated online, and hosted a virtual food drive on behalf of the Food Bank!



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.

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 or contact AWilliford@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5172

Special Thanks

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

Businesses

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

Barons Market
Commonwealth Cares Fund
Masco Corporation
Semptra Energy
ShopCore Properties
Wells Fargo Bank

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

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Confidence Foundation
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Rancho Santa Fe Foundation

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

Mesa View Baptist Church
Philip E. Fess Family Foundation
Witman Family Foundation

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

Alliance for Regional Solutions
Firmenich Charitable Foundation
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The Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust
Women in California Leadership

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

James M. Ragen Memorial Fund
Price Philanthropies Foundation
Unite NCI The Church at Rancho Bernardo

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

Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc.
Christ Episcopal Church Thrift Shop
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union 569
Journey Community Church
La Jolla Chapter of National League of Young Men
L3Harris Foundation
The MDBSD Foundation
Reuben H. Fleet Foundation Fund
The Swamy Family Foundation
The Wilson Sexton Foundation

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

