



FIGHTING HUNGER FEEDING HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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A Letter from Our CEO

We are so grateful to you, our supporters and donors, who enabled our vital mission to continue during the darkest days of the pandemic. Your support enabled the Food Bank to feed hundreds of thousands of people who faced hunger due to the financial impacts of the pandemic on our region.



This annual report covers the Fiscal Year 2020 to 2021, which is the time period that covers the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — a time when the Food Bank nearly doubled the number of people we were feeding due to the impacts of the crisis on our region.

Although the pandemic isn't over, I can safely say the Fiscal Year 2020 to 2021 was one of the most challenging periods in the Food Bank's 45-year history. As I reflect on that time, I am struck by the compassion of this great community; it was your generosity that allowed the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter to respond so quickly to the crisis.

To meet the increased demand for food assistance and to serve our clients more quickly, safely, and efficiently, we adapted our distribution model by introducing contactless food distributions with 'drive-thru' lanes and 'walk-up' kiosks for the safety of our volunteers and service population. Staff and volunteers pivoted, adapted, and responded immediately to the exponential increase in need that occurred practically overnight.

In response to the long lines at our mass food distribution sites, we established a Super Pantry Program which featured 35 high-volume food distribution sites located throughout the county that were open throughout the week. These sites significantly reduced wait times, enabling our hard-working Food Bank staff and volunteers to serve thousands of families more safely, efficiently, and quickly.

This annual report outlines the innovations and program modifications that we implemented to meet the needs of our service population during the height of the COVID-19 crisis, but we could not have carried out our critical mission during this time without your help.

I encourage you to read this annual report to learn more about the critical programs and resources that your support of the Food Bank enables us to provide to children, families, and seniors in need throughout the county.

On behalf of the Food Bank's staff, Board of Directors, and family of volunteers, thank you for your continued support for our vital mission in the community.

Thank you!

Casey Castillo

Casey Castillo
Chief Executive Officer



The Food Bank's COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

The Food Bank's staff and volunteers worked tirelessly over the course of the pandemic to provide emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need.



Prior to the pandemic, the Food Bank provided food assistance to 350,000 people per month. This skyrocketed to **600,000 people per month** at the height of the pandemic due to the huge increase in need.



From mid-March 2020 to the end of June 2021, the Food Bank distributed more than **71 million pounds** of food to individuals, families and seniors affected by the pandemic.



The Food Bank partnered with **14 school districts, including 67 elementary schools**, to provide emergency groceries at “drive-thru” food distributions for families with children who receive free school meals. From mid-March 2020 to the end of June 2021, the Food Bank provided **3.5 million pounds of food** to families in need at these food distributions.



For low-income, homebound seniors during lockdown, the Food Bank partnered with Team Rubicon to deliver **2,161 food boxes** in a seven-week period to seniors in need across the county.



From March 2020 to June 2021, in order to keep up with the exponential increase in demand for food assistance, the Food Bank purchased more than **\$11 million** worth of food on the wholesale food market. In normal times, the Food Bank purchases, on average, \$2 million worth of food per year.



At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, over **1,500 volunteers** and dozens of businesses canceled their volunteer shifts. After a public call for help, the San Diego community stepped up, and **thousands of volunteers** answered our call.



Our Diaper Bank Program provides emergency diapers to working-poor parents struggling to make ends meet. From mid-March 2020 to end of May 2021, the Food Bank distributed more than **10 million diapers** to families financially impacted by the pandemic.



To serve our clients more quickly, safely and efficiently, the Food Bank launched our Super Pantry Program in July 2020. **Thirty-five Super Pantries**, located throughout San Diego County, continue to operate as high-volume distribution hubs, open a minimum of 3 days per week, **serving thousands of families every month**.

Food Bank Programs and Initiatives

In the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter fed an average of 550,000 people every month in partnership with 500 nonprofit community partners that operate feeding programs. Our nonprofit partners include food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, low-income day care centers, senior centers, faith-based organizations, schools, and day centers for the elderly and disabled.

By supplying food to the county's charitable food network and through our more than 200 direct distributions, the Food Bank provides food assistance

to those facing food insecurity in our community. Our client population includes children living in poverty, working-poor individuals and families, fixed-income seniors, low-income military families, and unhoused families.

Thanks to the support of our donors and volunteers, the Food Bank serves as a vital safety net for those individuals and families facing food insecurity in communities throughout San Diego County. The Food Bank supports our client population through the following programs and initiatives.



Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Emergency Food Assistance Program provides food packages to individuals and families who meet income guidelines. The Food Bank provides food assistance to more than 100,000 individuals at 90 distribution sites every month throughout San Diego County. A typical package will include: canned vegetables, canned soups, fruit juice, canned fruits, canned meats, spaghetti, rice, beans, occasional fresh produce, dairy, frozen meat, and frozen food items.

Senior Food Program

The Senior Food Program provides monthly 40-pound food boxes to senior citizens living at or near the poverty level and are aged 60 and over. The Food Bank distributes USDA-provided food at 65 distribution sites every month in communities throughout San Diego County. The program serves, on average, 14,000 seniors facing food insecurity.



Mobile Pantry Program

The Mobile Pantry Program distributes food to thousands of individuals and families once a month at more than 20 different sites throughout San Diego County, including rural and remote areas that lack access to nutritious foods. The distributions take place in our nonprofit partners' parking lots and offer drive-thru and walk-up services.

Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

The Food 4 Kids Backpack Program provides weekend food packages to chronically hungry elementary school students from low-income households who are at risk of hunger over the weekend when free school meals are unavailable. Each bag contains enough food to see the students through the weekend, and the discreet distributions remove the stigma that might be attached to the program.



Military Food Assistance Program

Many low-income military families struggle financially due to our region's high cost of living and a high spousal unemployment rate caused by frequent relocation and the cost of childcare. Through our Military Food Assistance Program, the Food Bank provides food assistance to nearly 39,000 low-income, active-duty military personnel, veterans and their dependents every month. We provide food to military families through direct food distributions at 16 military nonprofits that solely serve military families and at our general food distribution sites.



CalFresh Outreach Program

The CalFresh Program, previously known as Food Stamps, provides supplemental benefits to help low-income families access nutritious foods which tend to be more expensive such as fresh produce, dairy, and fresh meats. Households must meet federal income guidelines and benefits can only be used for food purchases. The Food Bank's staff and volunteers help our clients sign up for CalFresh benefits at locations throughout the county.

College Hunger-Relief Program

The College Hunger-Relief Program provides food assistance to food-insecure college students from low-income backgrounds. Last year, the Food Bank expanded the program to serve every public college and community college in San Diego County. Since the program's start, the Food Bank has distributed over 1 million pounds of food to students in need.



Diaper Bank Program

Our Diaper Bank Program provides emergency diapers to working-poor parents struggling to make ends meet. Last year, the Food Bank established 54 "diaper distribution hubs" through a network of nonprofit partners across the county and distributed a total of 8 million diapers to 45,000 families. By providing diapers to families in need, we are helping parents stay in work and provide for their children.



Fresh Rescue Program

Our Fresh Rescue Program is a food recovery program that reduces food waste by recovering wholesome, edible food and distributing it to individuals and families in need countywide. Since its inception, the program has established a network of grocery stores, food retailers, restaurants, and food manufacturers who donate surplus food to the Food Bank, which is provided to individuals and families in need. Last year, the Food Bank rescued 14 million pounds of food that would have been otherwise thrown away.





About the Food Bank and Our Mission

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank is at the forefront in the fight against hunger in San Diego County.

The Food Bank is a grassroots organization that feeds more than half-a-million people every month in communities throughout San Diego County.

The Food Bank provides food to 500 nonprofit partners with feeding programs, and we distribute food directly to those in need at 200 countywide locations every month.

The Food Bank distributes food from our 90,000-square-foot warehouse in San Diego and our 70,000-square-foot warehouse in Vista.

In the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Food Bank:

- ✓ Served, on average, **550,000 people** in San Diego County every month.
- ✓ Distributed **60 million pounds of food**, of which, **17 million pounds** was **fresh produce**.
- ✓ Provided food for **703 food distribution sites** throughout the county every month.
- ✓ Provided weekend backpacks filled with food to **3,300 elementary schoolchildren** living in poverty on our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program at **67 elementary schools** throughout the county.
- ✓ Served, on average, **114,000 people** every month through our Emergency Food Assistance Program at **79 distribution sites** throughout the county.
- ✓ Provided a monthly 40-pound box of food to **14,000 seniors** living in poverty on our Senior Food Program at **65 distribution sites** throughout the county.
- ✓ Our volunteers worked **89,722 hours** helping to inspect, sort and package food for individuals and families in need.
- ✓ The Food Bank had **35,014 volunteer visits** to our Miramar and Vista warehouse locations last year.
- ✓ Distributed **684,732 diapers** to low-income families each month totaling **8,216,780 diapers in the fiscal year**.

For more information about our programs visit:
www.SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Programs.

Food Bank Clients Share Their Stories



“After COVID started, the schools closed ... and I lost my income. We live in Carlsbad, and we share an apartment with my parents. My dad is disabled, and my mom worked with me as an in-home caregiver. Every time we bring food home from the Food Bank, we sit at the table as a family and pray and thank God for the help and everyone who donates to the Food Bank.”

- Anastasia, Carlsbad



“The [COVID-19] crisis has been hard for my family. 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 San Diego Food Bank for the help we have been getting with groceries. The Food Bank really helps a lot.”

- Lourdes, San Diego

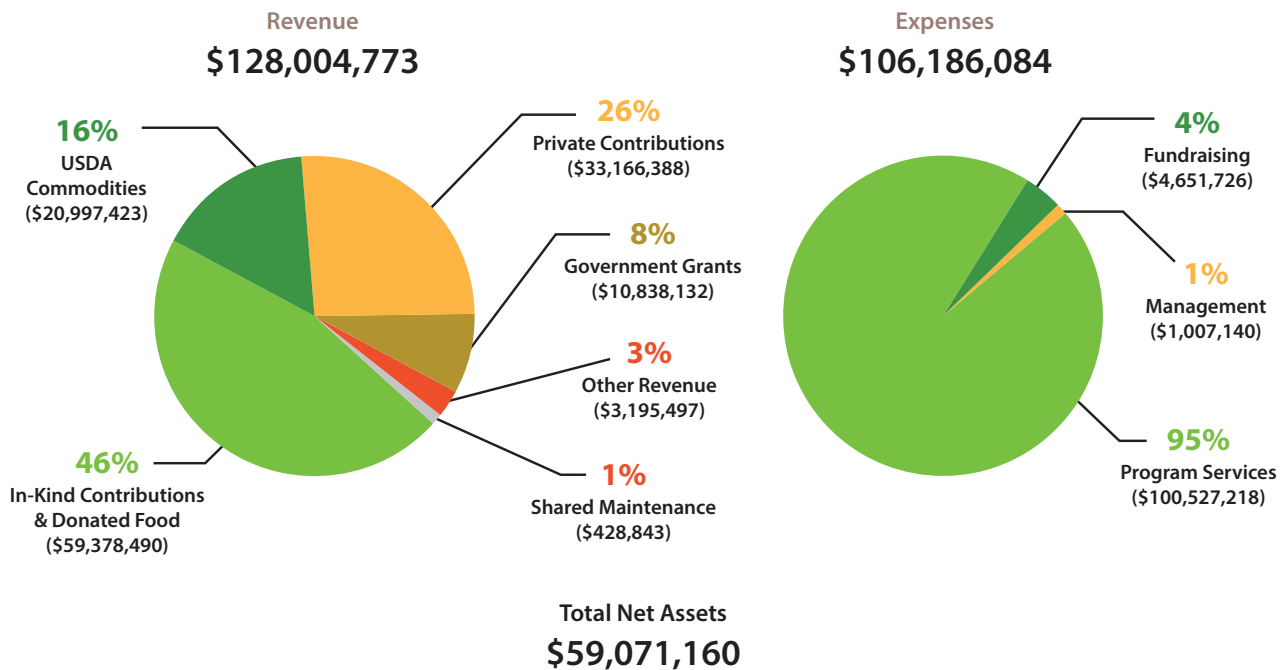


“My husband is in the military, and I was a pre-school teacher in Texas before we relocated prior to the pandemic. Now, I cannot get a job because of COVID. We have two young sons. The food from the San Diego Food Bank is really helping us right now.”

- Junko, San Diego

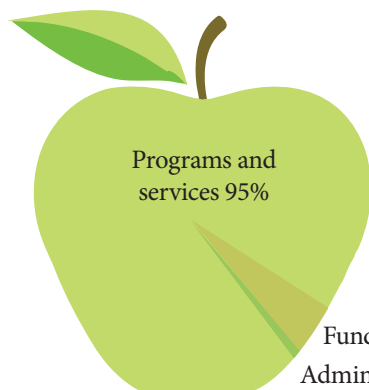
Financials

This report covers the fiscal year 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021



The Food Bank is a Charity Navigator Four Star Charity

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 Uses Your Donations Efficiently

The Food Bank is one of the most efficient charities in San Diego County. For every dollar you donate, 95 cents go directly to our food programs and services. Only 5 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!



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Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
9850 Distribution Avenue
San Diego, CA 92121
SanDiegoFoodBank.org



North County Food Bank
3030 Enterprise Court, Suite A
Vista, CA 92081
NorthCountyFoodBank.org

Our full financial report and donor list is available online at:
SanDiegoFoodBank.org/AnnualReport



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