

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WINTER 2023



Food Bank Distributes Turkeys and Groceries to Families for the Holidays

On a chilly November evening in City Heights, hundreds of low-income families, many with young children, received frozen turkeys and food packages ahead of Thanksgiving at a Food Bank food distribution.

Soledad arrived at 1 p.m. to get in line early for a frozen turkey and food for the distribution that started at 5 p.m. She came to the food distribution with her children (pictured above left). “My husband and I both have jobs, but we are struggling to feed our children. Rent, gas, electricity, and food have all gone up so much. The Food Bank is really helping us right now,” said Soledad.

“My husband, Saul, and I have four children. Jocelyn is a year old. Jonathan is three years old and in preschool at Head Start. Stephanie is seven years old and in the

first grade, and Saul Jr. is sixteen years old and in tenth grade,” she continues.

“My husband works as a cook in a restaurant eight to ten hours a day, six days a week, and I work in a restaurant three days a week. We take turns taking care of the kids. When he’s not working, he watches them, and I watch them when he’s working.”

Soledad and her husband applied for CalFresh (Food Stamps), but they do not qualify for the federal program because their combined income is slightly over the limit of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. **“Without the food we get from the Food Bank every month, we would have to buy cheaper foods and make smaller portions to make the food stretch,”** says Soledad.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Thank You for Your Support in 2022, San Diego!

PAGE 4

Aya Healthcare Donates \$50,000!

PAGE 5

Save the Date for the Food Bank’s 11th Annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SanDiegoFoodBank.org
NorthCountyFoodBank.org

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

9850 Distribution Avenue, San Diego, CA 92121
858-527-1419 www.sandiegofoodbank.org

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Thank You for Your Support in 2022, San Diego!



Happy New Year!

I am truly humbled by and am beyond appreciative, of your compassion and commitment to our mission of *providing nutritious food to people in need, advocating for the hungry and educating the public about hunger-related issues.*

Our focus on creating a hunger-free community keeps us motivated and moving forward. But we can't do it alone. And we don't.

Thanks to your generous donations of time, talent and treasure, 2022 was filled with stories of resilience, amazing events, and most importantly, the distribution of millions of meals to our neighbors in need throughout San Diego County.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us raise critical funds and food over the holiday season to meet the sustained high level of need among our service population due to soaring inflation and the long-lasting financial impacts of the pandemic.

And another big thank you goes out to our Holiday Food Drive sponsors – their partnerships are instrumental to the success of this large undertaking. This year's amazing supporters included Albertsons, Vons, Bank of America, First 5 San Diego, Toyota, Wawanesa Insurance, iHeartMedia, and FOX 5 San Diego.

I'd also like to thank the hundreds of local companies and organizations who held traditional in-person and virtual food drives to help keep our warehouses filled. We are so grateful for their ongoing commitment to creating a hunger-free community.

As we begin this New Year, our staff and Board of Directors remain focused on providing nutritious food and resources to the more than 400,000 individuals who need our help each month.

I hope you will join me in greeting the New Year with hope and optimism. Because together, we are changing lives.

Thank you for being part of the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank family.

With gratitude,

Casey Castillo,
Chief Executive Officer



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We are getting help from the Food Bank once a month at the food distribution in Clairemont, and we came here today to get a frozen turkey and food for Thanksgiving. If we didn’t get help from the Food Bank, we wouldn’t have a Thanksgiving this year,” explains Soledad.

Larell and her son, Cartier, (pictured top right on page 1) who live in Mira Mesa, also attended the distribution to receive a frozen turkey and groceries for Thanksgiving.

“I am a single mom of three, and I have a granddaughter. I work full time as a nurse, but I am currently on disability leave after a major operation. I will be out for a month, and my last paycheck was last month. I am worried that I won’t get my disability check since it’s taking too long to process. **I support all of my family, and this year without the Food Bank, we wouldn’t have had a turkey because we couldn’t afford it.**”

“My son, Cartier, is nine years old and in the fourth grade. My daughter, Daryl, is in college, and my son, Tyeshay, works as a driver. He has daughter Amara who is 8 years old,” says Larell.

“Most people think that nurses get paid a lot, but that’s not the case at all. I have not had a pay raise this year, and I am supporting our entire family. Our gas and electricity bills have gone through the roof, and the price of food is outrageous, so I am buying cheap, frozen, processed foods now because it’s cheaper. Meat and produce are too expensive. We also go to the Food Bank’s food distribution in Poway to get help with food.”



Soledad receives food and an emergency supply of diapers as she goes through the food distribution line with her children.

Thanks to the Food Bank’s donors, Soledad and Larell’s families received a frozen turkey and groceries ahead of Thanksgiving, and they are able to visit our emergency food pantries when they need help with food. 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 is one of the most efficient charities in San Diego County. For every dollar you donate, 95 cents goes 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!



Thanks for Supporting the 2022 Holiday Food Drive!

The Food Bank thanks everyone in the community who supported our 2022 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 at Albertsons and Vons. **We thank everyone who volunteered, donated online, and hosted a virtual food drive on behalf of the Food Bank!**



Thank You to Our Supermarket Partners



Thank You to Our Media Partners



Thank You to Our Partners



Aya Healthcare Donates \$50,000!

A HUGE thank you to Aya Healthcare for donating \$50,000 during the Holiday Food Drive! The Food Bank continues to serve record numbers due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic and record-high inflation. Aya Healthcare's donation helped provide food for 100,000 meals to local families in need in our community over the holiday season!

Thank you to Aya Healthcare!



Leave a Legacy in Your Will or Trust

Continue to touch lives long into the future by including the San Diego Food Bank in your will or estate plans.



Please join our Legacy Circle planned giving program. Your gift will help feed the families of tomorrow and inspire others to make a lasting impact on hunger in San Diego County today.

For more information, visit SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Legacy or contact **Maureen Polimadei** at MPolimadei@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5129.



North County Food Bank Volunteer of the Year, Steve & Corliss Vargas (center), received the award from CEO Casey Castillo.

North County Food Bank Hosts 3rd Annual Open House and Awards Ceremony

Our North County Food Bank chapter hosted our third annual Open House Reception & Community Awards in December. 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.

Save the Date for the Food Bank's 11th Annual

Chefs, Cork & Craft

GALA

Saturday, April 22, 2023



Join the Food Bank this April for our 11th annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala!

The Food Bank's annual gala has become a hallmark community event as we gather to raise vital funds for the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs.

This year's gala will be held outside, under the stars, on the grounds of the Food Bank's warehouse facility in Miramar. The opening reception and dinner will feature cuisine prepared by local, celebrated chefs who are donating their time and talent to support our annual fundraiser.

Guests will be treated to fabulous live musical entertainment, amazing silent and live auction items, delicious drinks and hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, followed by a beautiful outdoor dinner taking place on the grounds of the Food Bank's facility.

The event's live auction will raise critical funds for the Food Bank's Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, which provides weekend food-filled backpacks to children living in poverty.

For information contact, **Alexis Hernandez** at **AHernandez@SanDiegoFoodBank.org** or **858-863-5113**.

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

To purchase tickets, visit **SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Gala**.



Anna Couvrette, Raoul Martinez, Shally Zomorodi

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

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

When: 6:00 p.m., Saturday, April 22, 2023

Co-Chairs: Jeannie Johnson & Pamela Hunt

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations and organizations for their generous support received between September and December 2022.

Businesses

Diamond (\$50,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00)

AimLoan.com
Mission Federal Credit Union

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

Aztec Shops
Masco Corporation
Wells Fargo Bank

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

Baker Electric Home Energy
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Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
Shopcore – CoreGiving
Witman Family Foundation

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

Lamb & Barnosky Foundation
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The Balsamo Family Foundation
The Heller Foundation of San Diego
Youth's Friends Association Inc.

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

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Workers Local Union 569

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Price Philanthropies Foundation
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The Jensen Family Foundation

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Sycuan Resort & Casino

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

Barona Band Of Mission Indians
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Diego Foundation



**Thank
You!**

For more information, contact
Chris Carter, VP of Development
& Communications, at
CCarter@SanDiegoFoodBank.org
or **858-863-5131**.