



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 19, 2017  
Contact: Jan Kamman, Director of Corporate and Community Relations  
Telephone Number: (831) 498-4120  
Email Address: [jan@thefoodbank.org](mailto:jan@thefoodbank.org)  
Web address: [www.thefoodbank.org](http://www.thefoodbank.org)

# Second Harvest Food Bank Sends Aid To Victims of North Bay Wildfires

**Watsonville**— With donations from PG&E and Kaiser Permanente, Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County is sending 200 care packages equating to nearly 3,300 meals to residents affected by the fires in Napa and Sonoma counties. A donation from PG&E funded most of the food purchases, which employees of its Central Coast division packed for shipment at the PG&E Services Center on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Santa Cruz on Thursday morning.

“Our hearts go out to the families suffering through this horrific event,” said Rob Morse, Senior Manager of the Central Coast Division. “The PG&E employees here on the Central Coast are so thankful that in partnership with Second Harvest, we can provide some level of assistance to those impacted by the fires.”

The care packages contain pull-top canned meals, including chili, beef ravioli, tuna, and spaghetti, together with plastic utensils and napkins. And thanks to a recent donation from American Crown Circus, which performs in Wine Country and raised funds for fire relief, more food was added to the care packages: 81 cases of granola bars, fig bars, and cans of mixed fruit, items which are high in energy and don’t require a kitchen to prepare. Kaiser Permanente also donated 2-ounce bottles of hand sanitizers for each package.

The shipment is leaving on Friday, which the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa will receive and distribute to people in evacuation centers and other emergency housing situations in Sonoma County.

At least 42 people have died in the area fires and more than 15,000 people are unable to return to their homes, according to the Sacramento Bee.

Other Bay Area food banks are also organizing aid to support the communities served by the Redwood Empire and Napa Valley Food Banks.

“Second Harvest Food Bank relies on people coming together and working alongside one another to help those in need,” said Jan Kamman, Second Harvest’s Director of Corporate and Community Relations. “That is the greatest strength of Santa Cruz County.”

Second Harvest learned first-hand how communities rally and mobilize in the critical hours and days after a disaster in the aftermath of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake which devastated parts of Santa Cruz County. Second Harvest received as many food donations in the two weeks following that disaster as it normally did in a year. The donations fed those left homeless following the earthquake.

### **About Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County**

Founded in 1972, Second Harvest Food Bank was the first food bank in California and the second in the nation. Its mission is to end hunger and malnutrition by educating and involving the community. Its network of 200 local agencies and programs feeds 55,000 people in Santa Cruz County every month. For every dollar donated, it provides four healthy meals. “Together we fight hunger all year long.” [www.thefoodbank.org](http://www.thefoodbank.org). Find us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

# # #