

# ROPINION

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## WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

### CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

Gov. Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 558-3160

### U.S. HOUSE

20th District Rep. Jimmy Panetta  
Santa Cruz office: 701 Ocean St., Room 318C, Santa Cruz.  
Phone: 424-2229  
Web page: [www.panetta.house.gov](http://www.panetta.house.gov)

### STATE SENATE

17th District: State Sen. Bill Monning  
District Office  
701 Ocean St., Suite 318A, Santa Cruz, CA 95600  
Phone: (831) 425-0401  
Web page: [sd17.senate.ca.gov](http://sd17.senate.ca.gov)

### STATE ASSEMBLY

29th Assembly District, Mark Stone, 701 Ocean St., 318-B,  
Santa Cruz. Phone: 425-1563.  
Web page: [www.assembly.ca.gov/members/29](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/members/29)

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30th Assembly District, Anna Caballero, 275 Main St., Suite  
104, Watsonville. Phone: 761-7428.  
Web page: [a30.assembly.ca.gov](http://a30.assembly.ca.gov)

### WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

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Oscar Rios, Second District, phone: 768-3002  
Lowell Hurst, Third District, phone: 768-3003  
Jimmy Dutz, Fourth District, phone: 768-3004  
Rebecca Garcia, Fifth District, phone: 768-3005  
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Nancy Buncich, Seventh District, phone: 768-3007  
Mailing address: 275 Main St., Suite 400 (4th Floor), Wat-  
sonville, CA, 95076  
Web page: [www.cityofwatsonville.org/city-government/  
city-council](http://www.cityofwatsonville.org/city-government/city-council)

### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Greg Caput, Fourth District  
Zach Friend, Second District  
John Leopold, First District  
Ryan Coonerty, Third District  
Bruce McPherson, Fifth District  
County Government Center, 701 Ocean St., Room 500,  
Santa Cruz, CA 95600  
Phone: 424-2200  
Web page: [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

## WRITE US

The Register-Pajaronian welcomes letters. Letters and columns may be dropped off or mailed to the Register-Pajaronian, 100 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076.

Letters and columns may also be sent via email to [newsroom@register-pajaronian.com](mailto:newsroom@register-pajaronian.com).

All letters and columns must be signed and have an address and phone number for confirmation purposes. We reserve the right to edit and condense all submissions.

# REGISTER PAJARONIAN

100 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076

The Pajaronian, established March 5, 1868  
The Transcript, later the Register, established July 1, 1876  
Merged in 1937

How to Contact Us (page code 831)

FRANK DEFORD

FRANK DEFORD

Sportswriter,  
commentator  
extraordinaire.

- 30 -

## What's your skill? Everyone has something to give

CONTRIBUTED BY SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

**“W**hat can I do?” Sometimes we hear this in response to a daunting problem, like the number of people in Santa Cruz County who can't always afford enough food for their families.

But sometimes it means, “How can I help?” As in, “What can I do?”

The truth is, everyone has something to give. It takes money to fund the important work nonprofits do, but we simply couldn't help the community the way we do — feeding 55,000 people in need every month — without the work of volunteers.

Some people have special skills developed through their work and career. Some have hobbies or interests they can apply to volunteering. And some just have life experience and a willingness to help. Second Harvest and other nonprofits need them all.

Watsonville resident and mother of two Yvonne Perez decided she had a skill she could donate. She knew about Second Harvest, and knew people who needed a little extra food at some time in their lives.

“When a family's income decreases,” says due to temporary unemployment, Perez remarked, “and the money on hand must be used to pay rent, and there's not enough left for groceries — you can count on the Food Bank.”

“I've been wanted to help the organization that helped the people she knows. And Perez knows flower arranging.



Contributed

Before becoming a full-time resident, she created floral arrangements for an event management company. She offered those same skills to Second Harvest, and soon her creative centerpieces were decorating the rooms at Second Harvest's events, helping the group to connect with the community and raise funds for their work. “Sometimes it's not money,” Perez said. “Sometimes it's contributing with our talents or hobbies that makes the difference.”

Longtime Watsonville resident Ann Bornstein's skills are more technical. Before she retired 20 years ago, she worked as a computer modeler for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Their mathematical operations were quite different from Second Harvest's work fighting hunger and malnutrition, but Bornstein knew she could help. “I know statistics, I know spreadsheets. And many organization needs to manage and crunch data,” Bornstein said.

“It feels good to put my skills to use helping a nonprofit feed the community.”

Likewise, Santa Cruz Independent Database Developer Jerry Vilhaer enjoys donating his expertise to Second Harvest's mission. Though he contracts to implement a key database, he volunteers extra time to train staff to operate what he's built.

“I've always enjoyed working with the folks at Second Harvest,” he said. “They are a fun bunch to be around and always show their appreciation.”

Vilhaer and Bornstein contribute technical skills, but the needs of nonprofits run the gamut. Second Harvest is fortunate to have top chefs cook dinner for our annual Chefs' Dinner fundraiser, skilled photographers help communicate our work, and volunteers with great interpersonal skills educate the public and strike partnerships in the community.

One of the Food Bank's biggest ongoing needs is people to sort the produce we receive from local farms and bag it at our operations in Watsonville for the children, families, elderly, and others we help across Santa Cruz County. And that requires no special skills — just a kind heart.

“People bring all sorts of interests and abilities to volunteering,” reflected Ely Morales, Second Harvest's Volunteer Services Director, “but the most valuable asset of all is the desire to help.”

To find out how you can help Second Harvest Food Bank feed the community, contact Bly at [blb@thefoodbank.org](mailto:blb@thefoodbank.org) or 722-7110, extension 205.