



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Driscoll's to Take Top Award for Berry Donations to Second Harvest

Watsonville— In a roomful of elected officials and non-profit agencies from all corners of Santa Cruz County on **October 16**, Second Harvest Food Bank will present its 2017 Food Industry Donor of the Year award to Watsonville-based Driscoll's.

Second Harvest CEO Willy Elliott-McCrea will present the award during the lunch event at the Food Bank's annual Partner Agency Conference, **to be held at Twin Lakes Church in Aptos**. Elected officials will present official proclamations to mark the honor, including Congressman Jimmy Panetta, the new House Representative for California's 20th district, Assemblymember Mark Stone, and several local mayors and supervisors.

Since 2007 Driscoll's has donated over 5.4 million pounds of strawberries, raspberries, and other berries, greatly increasing the amount and variety of fresh and healthy fruit Second Harvest can offer their clients. That produce is distributed through the Food Bank's network of more than 100 partner agencies—non-profit food pantries, recovery centers, group homes, school programs, and more—to feed members of the community most in need of food.

"Donations from growers, distributors, and other food industry companies like Driscoll's are a major reason Second Harvest is able to turn every \$1 donated into four healthy meals," Elliott-McCrea explained.

Driscoll's also supports the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) and invests deeply in the communities where they grow. Their employees are frequent volunteers at Second Harvest's Watsonville operations, helping to sort and pack produce for the Food Bank's nutrition programs.

Second Harvest's 12th annual Partner Agency Conference is titled "Insights for Impact" and will offer Second Harvest's partner agencies the opportunity to strengthen their networks, build capacity, share ideas, and attend a range of workshops. The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and **the lunch honoring Driscoll's will take place from 12:00 to 12:20pm.**

For photos of the October 16 event and images of Driscoll's, please email chris@thefoodbank.org. To learn more about Second Harvest Food Bank and its partner agencies and food industry donors, please visit www.thefoodbank.org.

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 nearly 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

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