



WE ARE THE FOOD BANK

Partner Agency Food Distribution News

December 2023



From the CEO

Dear Partner,
The Holiday Season is a reflective time for me. During this period, I take stock of the work accomplished during the year, recognize those involved in good work, and begin to prepare for the coming year. Last December marked my 6-month tenure with Second Harvest. The plan for January of 2023 was to launch some minor changes to our practices as a way of improving our efficacy in all that we do, including how we work with you, our partner network. However, January 2023 offered us a different New Year's welcome and the impact of the winter storms ended up preoccupying our time and energy.



Many of you stepped up in a big way to support our impacted communities, and responded in various ways including ensuring that you offered support, resources, and additional nourishment. As I reflect on how we have survived this year, I think of the **power of our network here in Santa Cruz County**. Together, we are ensuring that our neighbors have access to healthy nourishment. As we continue to see the increased demand for nourishment throughout our county, Second Harvest remains committed to meeting that need. Despite the vast loss in resources post COVID, together we've managed to ensure access to healthy food for our community. We should all feel proud. I am proud of all of you and of our outstanding Second Harvest team – We are the Food Bank.

In partnership,

Erica Padilla-Chavez

Erica Padilla-Chavez
Chief Executive Officer

Programming Notes & ShopSmart Changes

Starting December 1 (today!), six specified shelf-stable items are provided at no cost if participation reports are submitted on time. Failure to submit before the 7th of each month, and being one month late (e.g., on Dec. 8th for missing Oct. data) will result in charges for the listed items. According to the contract, consecutive late submissions for two months will lead to the suspension of product access until the required information is received. **To promote timely submissions, agencies reporting by the 7th of each month will be eligible for a periodic raffle.**

We continue to ask that you be mindful and do not take the limits on the items unless you need to. **We want to be sure we can supply the entire network.**

Long Grain White Rice 24/1 LB	Peanut Butter 12/18 OZ
Milk 2% Shelf Stable 12/32 OZ	Pinto Beans Dry 24/1 LB
Pasta Spaghetti 20/1 LB	Tomato Sauce No Salt Added 24/14.5 OZ

The following two items will still have a 20% shared cost:

Long Grain Brown Rice 24/1 LB
Mixed Vegetable No Salt Added 24/15 OZ

December's Featured Recipe:

[Roasted Vegetable Medley/](#)
[Mezcla De Verduras Asadas](#)

Click
here!



Agency Participation Numbers

October		
County Zone	All Households	All Individuals
North County	17680	31545
South County	13871	25863
San Lorenzo Valley	5622	11394
Out of County	1078	1909
Total	38251	70711
Network Meals Served	22998	

Agency Spotlight - Mountain Community Resources

With a network of nearly 80 partner agencies, we strive to share information and learn from one another. Every quarter we'll highlight a different agency - in our inaugural post, **Mountain Community Resources** introduces us to food distribution in Felton.

Mountain Community Resources (MCR), a Family Resource Center under Community Bridges, manages **a market-style pantry with nearly 140 households per week**. Originally sourcing food from Food for Children and Passion for Produce, they now order all items. Community Bridges provides support, and the market-style pantry with volunteers aims for a welcoming and fair experience. Challenges arise from diverse clients, including seniors, families, and those facing housing or mental health issues. Badges help regulate food distribution, and various practices ensure fair allocation. Many items have no limit (a sign says, "Take what you can use") but other items must be labeled only "one per household regardless of size." They label produce that is organic and use the numbering system for some staples. The volunteers, mainly retirees, strive to make a positive impact with gratitude to Second Harvest Food Bank and Community Bridges for the opportunity.



Knowledge Corner: Connecting Participants with Community Services

"By focusing only on food, we miss the opportunity to help people address other challenges in their lives that contribute to their food insecurity. We can design food pantries as a platform to offer wrap around services and a space for communal engagement."

Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries, Katie S. Martin

Second Harvest Calendar

Mark your days with the warmth of giving! In the spirit of the season, **we kindly request agencies to keep us in the loop about any changes or cancellations in distribution dates and times for a seamless holiday season together.**

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>
				DEC. 1 - Free food available for eligible sites thru 12/6
4	5	6	7 - Reports due	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21 - Final day to order for Wednesday, 12/ 27	22 - Closed
25 - Closed	26 - Open: No deliveries/pickups	27 - Open: Regular deliveries/pickups begin	28	29
JAN. 1 - Closed	2 - Open: Regular deliveries/pickups begin	3	4	5
8 - Reports due	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22 - Partner Agency meeting	23	24	25	26 - Last Shipment/Pick-Up
29 - Inventory closure	30 - Inventory closure	31 - Inventory closure	FEB. 1 - Shipment/pickups resume	2

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