



For Immediate Release

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SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANNOUNCES HIRING OF CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

WATSONVILLE, CA – Second Harvest Food Bank proudly announces the appointment of Michele Bassi as Chief Development Officer, effective March 1, 2024.

Bassi was chosen after an extensive recruitment search by a national recruiting firm. “We are thrilled that she has been selected to lead the development arm of our organization. Her experience, commitment and leadership in our local community will be such an incredible asset to Second Harvest,” stated Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO of Second Harvest.

Bassi is an accomplished business executive with extensive experience in finance, nonprofit leadership and fundraising. Most recently, she served as Senior Vice President of 1st Capital Bank, and has served on numerous boards in the community.

Bassi’s extensive volunteer activities earned her the Woman of the Year award from the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, Be the Difference Award from the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County and the Sweetheart and Community Champion Awards from Meals on Wheels Santa Cruz County. “Michele is a tireless advocate for this community, and I cannot think of a better fit for Chief Development Officer of Second Harvest Food Bank,” said Board Chair Cameron Haste. “I look forward to what she will accomplish and to working together to further the mission and goals of this organization.”

One in three residents in Santa Cruz County is food insecure. Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County reaches over 65,000 people each month including children,

“The work that is being accomplished at Second Harvest is incredibly inspiring. Few organizations have such an important impact, and I’m honored to be a part of this critical community partner,” said Bassi. “This position feels like a natural fit for my experience and background, and I can’t wait to get started and put my skills to work for Second Harvest and for our community.”

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 inspire and support Santa Cruz County to provide nourishment for all community members. Its network of nearly 130 local agencies and programs feeds on average 65,000 people in Santa Cruz County every month. In our community’s efforts to ease food-insecurity, we recognize our donors, we celebrate our volunteers, we’re thankful for our partners and staff, and we truly see all our neighbors. We are the Food Bank.
TheFoodBank.org

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Michele Bassi,
Chief Development Officer
Second Harvest Food Bank
Santa Cruz County



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