



For Immediate Release

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Second Harvest Food Bank and Twin Lakes Church Team up again for Record Donation

Exceeding goals and setting precedents, TLC raises enough for over 1.5 million meals.

APTOS, CA - December 3, 2023, Twin Lakes Church (TLC) announced a record-breaking amount of funds raised during its recent Food & Fund drive benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County. In October, TLC set an ambitious goal of raising \$200,000, in an effort to raise funds to purchase over a half a million healthy meals for local food-insecure families. The church's congregation responded enthusiastically by more than doubling their original goal donating \$512,725.07 - the largest sum ever donated by an organization during the annual Holiday Food & Fund Drive. This figure translates to 1,530,494 healthy meals and goes towards The Food Bank's larger campaign goal of raising funds to provide 4,500,000 meals.

Of the funds raised during this campaign, 100 percent goes directly to food, and food distribution in Santa Cruz County and supports the mission of Second Harvest Food Bank to alleviate hunger in the community.

Pastor Rene Schlaepfer, of Twin Lakes Church expressed his enthusiasm, "*They are such a beautiful organization that works with many churches and other partners to help people get healthy meals*" When asked to explain his congregation's generosity, Pastor Schlaepfer said, "*I have a theory. When your imagination is captured by a vision of God's love, then that overflows from you to others. Loved people love people. I always hope our community sees the love of God showing through churches in practical ways. There are too many religious loud mouths getting negative attention. I hope this helps,*" he noted.

meals to food-insecure families in our community. It's organizations like this that form the backbone of our community." Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County.

Twin Lakes Church began participating in the food bank's Holiday Food Drive in 2006. Total donations that first year were \$947.70. Over 17 years, the food bank has captured the heart of Twin Lakes Church and has grown each year.

Second Harvest's annual Holiday Food & Fund Drive kicked off at Cabrillo College November 3, 2023, and runs through January 15, 2024. Co-chaired this year by Susan True, CEO of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, and Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, this campaign is the largest community-wide fundraiser for The Food Bank and supports year-round food distributions. For more information www.thefoodbank.org/holiday-food-fund-drive

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About Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County

Founded in 1972, Second Harvest Food Bank marks its 51st year this year in service to local food-insecure residents. Second Harvest 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 over 80 local agencies and programs feeds 65,000 people in Santa Cruz County every month. For every dollar donated, it provides three healthy meals. TheFoodBank.org

About Twin Lakes Church

Twin Lakes Church is a vibrant and community-focused congregation dedicated to making a positive impact in Santa Cruz and beyond. Led by Pastor Rene Schlaepfer, the Twin Lakes Church is committed to embodying the love of God through practical acts of service and generosity. TLC.org



Sunday Dec. 3, 2023

In Sunday's church service, Pastor Rene Schlaepfer (TLC), Erica Padilla-Chavez (Second Harvest Food Bank), and campaign Co-Chair Dr. Faris Sabbah (Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools) reveal the total of the congregation's efforts to enthusiastic churchgoers.

