



SECOND HARVEST

**FOOD BANK
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF

**FEEDING
AMERICA**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past fiscal year at Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County, I want to share the challenges and successes that have shaped our journey. While the pandemic posed significant hurdles, it's important to highlight another impactful event: the atmospheric river storms that struck last winter.



In the aftermath of these storms, we observed a notable decrease in both donated food and financial contributions. Many who had been steadfast supporters, found themselves grappling with their own difficulties. Yet, even as the availability of resources dwindled, the demand for our services intensified. The persistent need for food assistance underscores the critical nature of our mission, and we are committed to meeting this challenge head-on.

Despite these setbacks, our emergency response to the atmospheric river storms demonstrated our adaptability and resilience. We mobilized quickly, providing crucial aid to those affected by the floods and ensuring that hunger did not compound the challenges they faced. This experience has strengthened our resolve to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances and to continue evolving in response to the dynamic needs of our community.

Looking forward, we are actively laying the groundwork to address the root causes of food insecurity in Santa Cruz County. Collaborating with local partners, we are developing comprehensive programs that go beyond immediate relief, aiming to empower individuals and families to break the cycle of hunger.

In this Annual Report, you will find stories of resilience, community impact, and the transformative work we are undertaking. Your unwavering support remains the cornerstone of our ability to adapt and persevere. Together, we are the Food Bank.

Thank you for standing with us as we work towards a community where No one goes to bed hungry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica Padilla-Chavez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Erica Padilla-Chavez, CEO

2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Karina Diaz Alvarez
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Gensler

Laurie Negro
Betty Burgers

Alexander Pedersen
*Santa Cruz Small Business
Development Center*

Cesarío Ruiz
My Mom's Mole

We are the Food Bank!

FOOD DONOR OF THE YEAR

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

In the first half of 2023, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made a significant impact, donating over 312,000 pounds of essential items to the Santa Cruz County community. The contribution included rice, peanut butter, canned vegetables, baby formula, a truckload of drinking water, and more. A noteworthy initiative emerged as local church members organized a "jam drive," resulting in a generous donation of 2,378 pounds of jam to The Food Bank.

During the multiple 2023 atmospheric river storms, the church's swift response to The Food Bank's requests led to multiple truckloads of shelf-stable items, enabling emergency support of Santa Cruz County residents. The seamless logistics and substantial contributions showcased the church's commitment to community welfare.



HUNGER FIGHTERS OF THE YEAR



MARGO LOEHR

*Westview Presbyterian
Church's SonRise Kitchen*

Margo Loehr, Westview
Presbyterian Church's
SonRise Kitchen Manager,

feeds unhoused residents in Watsonville five days a week. At SonRise, Margo does more than provide hot soup, fruit and sandwiches, she also provides care and compassion. Recruited by a friend many years ago, Margo found herself volunteering on a regular basis and eventually began to build the outreach program. She soon moved to the kitchen in the landmark Westview Presbyterian Church where she has been feeding those who are food-insecure, for the past 13 years.



ANDREW TROWBRIDGE

*Andrew's
Lemonade Stand*

Six years ago, Andrew
Trowbridge started what
was to be a fun project

with his cousin – a lemonade stand. Every year since its inception, Andrew's passion project has grown and surpasses all expectations. It is now a much-anticipated community event which solely benefits The Food Bank and, in turn, the food-insecure families of Santa Cruz County. Last year, Andrew's Lemonade Stand offered a wide array of seasonal treats and beverages. The jazz band from his high school and a fire prevention organization added to the fun and made his "stand" an event.

OUR IMPACT

WE ARE THE FOOD BANK!

Through these narratives, we witness the resilience, strength, and hope in the hearts of neighbors within our community.



“Sometimes pride is a barrier to accepting help. Having food delivered is a blessing.”

Meet **Mike and Cheryl**, cherished pillars of our south county community, who have dedicated their lives to teaching and have woven a tapestry of love and compassion as long-time residents. Celebrating an extraordinary 52 years of marriage, this dynamic duo has gone above and beyond by fostering 100 local children over the years, creating a legacy of warmth and support.

Recently, they found themselves on the receiving end of the community's care when they were recipients of a discreet food distribution delivery, recommended by their thoughtful neighbors. In their own words, "Sometimes pride is a barrier to accepting help," yet both agree that having food delivered has become a profound blessing in their lives, a testament to the interconnectedness that makes our community strong.

Meet **Josefina and her family**. Receiving assistance from Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County proved to be invaluable for them. The aid was crucial as the little food they had tended to run out quickly. Her entire family appreciated the opportunity to cook with flavorful, fresh ingredients and having access to CalFresh provided relief. The introduction to the food co-op at PVUSD Wellness Center in Watsonville came from a family member. This is another connection to community support underscored by the positive impact on individuals and families in our community.





“Our family really appreciates the food we get from Second Harvest. Of course it helps us a lot because, with this food, we can survive. We are newcomers to the U.S. and we are a family of 13 people. Right now, only one member of my family is working regularly, so we rely mostly on Second Harvest for our food needs. When we have money, we can sometimes get certain things at a grocery store, **but we know we will be able to feed our family good tasting and healthy food with the help we get from Second Harvest.** Thank you.”

- A recent letter of thanks from **Najeeb**

Meet **Maggie**, a recipient whose journey began during a tour organized by former PVUSD Superintendent Dr. Rodriguez. Following this, Maggie started to visit twice a week and extend the support to neighbors and friends.

For Maggie, the Food Co-op is more than a resource; it’s a familiar and comfortable space. Having relied on WIC and CalFresh in the past, she notes the positive impact Second Harvest has had on her family, especially since her son aged out of WIC, and they no longer qualify for CalFresh. In Maggie’s story, Second Harvest emerges as not just a provider of sustenance, but a vital community hub fostering connection and resilience.





OUR MISSION

To inspire and support Santa Cruz County to provide nourishment for all community members.

In our pursuit of eradicating hunger, it is imperative to delve into the **root causes of food insecurity**, understanding the multifaceted challenges that perpetuate this issue within our community. Beyond the immediate lack of access to food, the complex web of factors contributing to food insecurity can include systemic poverty, unemployment, inadequate social safety nets, and limited educational opportunities.

Our strategy aligns with the concept of the **“three-legged stool,”** where **health and wellness, job development, and stable housing** serve as the foundational pillars supporting individuals, families, and ultimately our community.

Health and wellness initiatives not only enhance the overall physical well-being of our community members, but also contribute to their resilience in the face of adversity. By fostering **job development**, we empower individuals to break the cycle of poverty, promoting self-sufficiency and creating a path towards food security. Addressing **housing stability** ensures that families have a secure foundation from which to build their lives, reducing the vulnerability that often leads to food insecurity.

Second Harvest remains committed to strengthening each leg of this essential stool, recognizing that a balanced, integrated approach is key to lifting our community towards a future free from hunger.
We are the Food Bank!

FINANCIALS

Annual Revenue

Food Donations	18,271,979
Cash Contributions	2,937,679
Grants	4,621,738
Government Contracts	2,102,793
Fees and Other	907,756
Total Revenue	28,841,945

Annual Operating Expenses

Food Distributed	21,583,626 *
Food Purchased	1,227,762
Food Storage and Distribution	5,350,491
Programs	1,945,233
Administrative and General Fundraising	1,144,643

Total Expenses 31,251,755

**Required distributions of pandemic-era food donations and increased need due to natural disasters*

Assets

Cash and Investments	11,183,083
Accounts Receivable	409,715
Food Inventory	903,596
Prepaid Expenses	60,165
Land, Building and Equipment	6,582,807
Total Assets	19,139,366

Liabilities

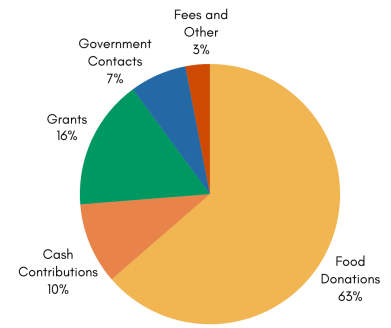
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	767,364
Long-term Payable (Building and Land)	798,138
Total Liabilities	1,565,502

Equity

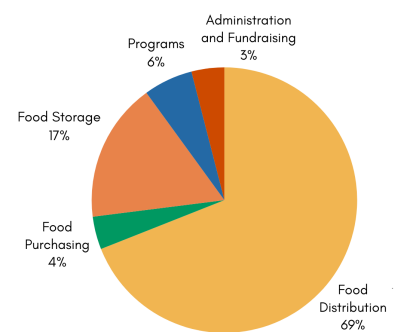
Without Donor Restrictions	2,687,264
Board Designated Funds	5,691,195
Land, Building and Equipment	6,582,807
Inventory	903,596
With Donor Restrictions	1,709,004
Total Net Equity	17,573,865
Total Liabilities and Net Equity	19,139,366

Second Harvest Food Bank serves **65,000** residents each month, **20,000** of whom are children.

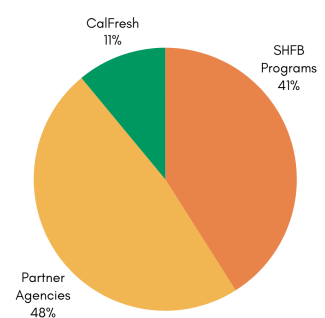
Where Our Funding Comes From



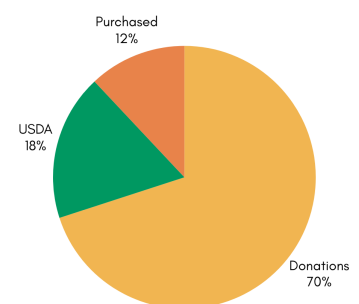
How We Use Our Resources



Where Our Food Goes



Where Our Food Comes From





Scan here to support
The Food Bank today!



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