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Staff of Life boosts Second Harvest

BY TARMO HANNULA • March 14, 2025 135



Staff of Life Natural Foods and Smart Chicken donate over a ton of high-quality chicken to Second Harvest Food Bank Wednesday. Shown here are Eric Gorkman (from left) of Smart Chicken, Brendan Miele, Second Harvest Food Bank COO, Nadia Scally, Staff of Life manager, Juan Ortiz, Second Harvest sort room specialist and Emily Freed, Second Harvest food sourcing and Inventory Director. (Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian)

Staff of Life Natural Foods teamed up with Smart Chicken Wednesday to donate 2,639 pounds of high-quality chicken to Second Harvest Food Bank through the Smart Giving Program.

“We are grateful to Staff of Life Natural Foods and Smart Chicken for their generous Donation,” said Second Harvest CEO Erica Padilla-Chavez. “With potential federal budget cuts on the horizon, the need in our community is growing. Access to high-quality protein is crucial for the health of the families we serve, and

this donation will make a meaningful difference.”

Staff of Life co-owner Gary Bascou said, “At Staff of Life, giving back to our community has always been at the heart of what we do. Being able to provide high-quality food to those in need—especially as our community continues to recover from recent challenges—is incredibly important to us.”

Founded in 1972, Second Harvest was the first food bank in California and the second in the nation and typically feeds 65,000 people in Santa Cruz County every month.

[Link to original story.](#)