



PARTNER AGENCY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



Dear Partner Agency,

Thank you for joining us at our recent Partner Agency gathering at Westview Presbyterian last month. It was truly a pleasure to be in community with you all, even as we confronted the challenges arising from shifting federal policies. As I shared in

my closing remarks, I remain hopeful. I deeply believe that our shared commitment to serving our community will lead us to innovative and effective ways to meet its nutritional needs.

Last month, I mentioned that we were in the final stages of selecting our new Chief of Community Impact, the role previously held by Josué. I'm delighted to announce that we have appointed Adriana Mata, a proud Santa Cruz County native, to this position. Adriana brings over 20 years of experience in coordinating and managing a wide

range of community programs. With deep knowledge of our community's strengths and prior experience at partner agency PVPSA, she is well-positioned to lead with both insight and compassion. Adriana officially began her role on May 1, and I'm sure she'll be connecting with many of you soon.

Lastly, as discussed during our gathering, the Shop Smart program will need to evolve in response to the challenges ahead. It will take all of us working together to ensure the continued flow of food to those who need it most. If your agency is not currently participating in the Shop Smart program and would like to learn more, please reach out to RJ or Fernando for an orientation.

In partnership and solidarity,

Erica Padilla-Chavez
CEO

AGENCY NETWORK UPDATE

NEW TEAM MEMBER

We are very excited to announce that Adriana Mata has joined The Food Bank as our new Chief Community Impact Officer! Adriana previously worked for PVPSA as their Chief of Operations and brings over twenty years of experience in the non-profit and social



service sectors. In addition to her work experience, Adriana has also served on many local boards and community committees, including the Women's Foundation of California. The CCIO position oversees the Programs department which includes partner agencies, community distributions, healthy food box program, and our outreach team.

Adriana Mata

adriana.mata@thefoodbank.org



CARDBOARD BOXES

Our operations team has confirmed that partner agencies who receive products in our branded cardboard boxes may return them to The Food Bank via our delivery drivers. We kindly ask that only clean, undamaged boxes be returned—please do not send back any boxes that are soiled or contaminated. We appreciate your help in keeping this process smooth and sanitary.

PARTNER AGENCY MEETING

Thank you to all the partner agencies who joined us—both in person and virtually—on Monday, April 21, at Westview Presbyterian Church for our third, quarterly Partner Agency Meeting of the fiscal year.

We truly value these opportunities to connect with our dedicated network. We were grateful to be joined by our CEO, Erica Padilla-Chavez, who shared insights on the shifting landscape of government funding and how we're working to continue nourishing our community.

We also heard from Emily Freed, our Food Sourcing & Inventory Director, who highlighted recent product donations and provided an update on the current food procurement market.



Tuesday, May 20

Agency Network Team Office Hours
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
[Join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 838 1212 9595

Monday, May 26

Food Bank Closure
Memorial Day

We ask that agencies notify us of any changes or cancellations to their distributions.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – JASON YUEN

Meet Jason Yuen, our Supply Chain Coordinator on the Supply Chain team.

Q How did you start at The Food Bank?

A I was contacted through an employment agency. The work that I did in the warehouse was recognized and I was hired as a SHFB employee.

Q How long have you been at Second Harvest?

A I started as a temporary employee and worked here for about eight months. I became a SHFB employee over 3.5 years ago.

Q Where did you grow up and where do you live now?

A I grew up in San Jose and spent some time in Southern California. I have since moved back up north to the Central Coast.

Q Why did you choose to start working at Second Harvest, what does The Food Bank mean to you?

A I was looking to fill some time, and it was an opportunity to help others in need. I believe SHFB has a great mission and provides hope to those who may need some assistance.

Q How do you fit into your department duty flow (and speak to the other team members' duties)?

A I handle many of the daily activities for my department. Other departments depend on these activities being completed before they can start their work. I review information in our ERP and identify errors before it becomes an issue. I make recommendations or develop tools to improve processes and to assist in preventing future mistakes.

Q What duties and responsibilities do you have?

A Much of what I do involves working with Ceres, our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. I use the ERP to receive donations, create orders for the food distributed at our community distribution sites, and support the management of our inventory. I am also responsible for converting individual items into produce bags, USDA bags, or various other packs in our ERP.



Fun Facts About Jason!

Q What is your favorite fruit and/or vegetable?

A A sweet, ripe peach or pear.

Q What is on your bucket list, and what have you already accomplished on it?

A I do not have a bucket list, but it would be fun to travel to other countries to experience other parts of the world. Years ago, I took an introductory tour of Europe.