

We Are The Food Bank

Partner Agency Newsletter
February 2026



Dear Partners,

Thank you for taking part in the first Partner Agency Meeting of the year. It was a great feeling to start the year in community with you all. We want to extend our gratitude to our Community Action Board Partners, Paulina Moreno, for taking the time to join us and sharing the valuable resources we have available in our community. We appreciate you for engaging in this discussion and found it fruitful and beneficial to the valuable work you all do.

The Agencies Team continues to conduct monitoring visits and gather the documentation needed for our upcoming audits. If you have any pending items that you have not yet submitted, please send them our way as soon as possible.

We hope you can join us for our virtual meeting on February 23rd. We will be sharing important information about pounds of food per household to better support the families we serve.

In Community,

Adriana Mata

Chief Community Impact Officer

Agency Network Updates

February Holiday Closure

There will be no delivery or pickup orders available as our offices will be closed on **Monday, February 16**. Please refer to the shifting ordering deadlines in the image below so that our Operations Team has time to fulfill order requests. Our Agency Network Team will make sure to always provide two business days for placing Agency Express 3 orders.

As always, please also be mindful to update our team if your organization has any closures, distribution date changes, or special distributions so that we can accurately communicate that to our neighbors who reach out to us. We ask that these communications be done by direct email or phone call so that our team can make sure to document that information correctly internally, as well as on our online Find Food Map.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns, or if your organization needs to shift any delivery dates due to this closure.

February 2026 - Holiday Closure						
SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Final Day to Order for Tuesday the 17th	Final Day to Order for Wednesday the 18th	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Food Bank Closed	Food Bank Open: Regular Deliveries and Pickups Begin				

Product Limits

To maintain continued product availability throughout the rest of the fiscal year, limits have been reduced on Agency Express 3 from their currently elevated status.

As a reminder, these levels are still higher than previously available, and the recently heightened levels were in response to the government shutdown and lapse in CalFresh funding. We ask that partners continue

to notify us about their distribution experience, particularly if they see an increase in participation, need, or first-time visitors.

Second Harvest Food Bank Staff Spotlight

Michele Bassi, Chief Development Officer:



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

- I grew up in Lompoc, which is in Santa Barbara County. It is the home of Vandenberg Space Force Base (used to be Air Force Base).

How long have you been at the Food Bank, and how did you start there?

- I have been with the Food Bank for almost 2 years. I was a member of the Board of Directors and was about to term off. I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay involved, and this opportunity came up.

What does the Food Bank mean to you?

- The Food Bank is the best form of community I have ever known. Every team member, every volunteer, every partner, every donor has the

same mission...to ensure our neighbors have access to healthy food.

What is your current role, and what department are you in?

- I am the Chief Development Officer. I am in the Development Department.

Fun Facts!

What is your favorite fruit and/or vegetable?

- Favorite fruit – blackberries.
- Favorite vegetable – French fries. Just kidding or course, artichokes.

What are some of your favorite foods?

- I love a good salad! I also love my husband's cooking.

What is your favorite animal?

- My Siberian Husky!!

Network Action Spotlight

Compliance Requirement — Monitoring Visits

Our Agency Network Team will continue to reach out to our partner network to schedule on-site agency visits. These annual monitorings not only serve to satisfy our national partner's, Feeding America, compliance requirements, but are also valuable face-to-face time between our Agency Network Team and partner agency representatives.

Site visits include a tour of agency facilities, food storage, and meal prep areas (if applicable), and it is preferred that these occur during community food distributions. This time is also used to learn more about the services that our partners offer so that we can better facilitate connections with other organizations and understand all the good work that our network accomplishes, as well as share other food bank support programs that participants might be eligible for.

Thank you to all the partner agencies that have already hosted a visit!
We appreciate all that you continue to do to help support our
community and neighbors.



[Pictured: Welcoming Network team at Resurrection Church and Tamalyn Nguyễn, Partnership Compliance
Coordinator.]

Save the Dates

Please add the following events to your calendar!
We ask that agencies notify us of any changes or cancellations to their
distributions.

Holiday Closures – No Delivery or Pickup Orders & Offices Closed
- Monday, February 16

Virtual Partner Agency Network Check-In Meeting

- Monday, February 23
- 9 — 10 a.m.
- [Join the Meeting](#)
- Meeting ID: 826 9259 2081

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