

We Are The Food Bank

Partner Agency Newsletter
December 2025



Dear Partners,

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the support we received this past month of November. With your support, we were present and served our community in a time when families felt vulnerable and uncertain. We all stood up for the occasion, and all of you immediately jumped into action without reservation or hesitation. THANK YOU!

This is what a partnership looks like. We could not have done it alone. As you reflect on your accomplishments during these last months, think about the volunteers who supported your organization's efforts in nourishing our community. It is not too late to nominate them for the Hunger Fighter of the Year award! Let us recognize those volunteers who stepped forward to serve others.

Seeing our community come together highlights the power we have as a collective, and due to this support, we will be able to provide Partners with the Winter Bonus. This is in response to the lapse in SNAP funding and made possible due to the donations that Second Harvest received. Starting in January, I will be scheduling site visits with each partner organization. Please be on the lookout for additional information.

Happy Holidays to all, and we hope to see you in January for our Partner Agency meeting.

In Community,

Adriana Mata

Agency Network Updates

Higher Item Limits

We are happy to announce that, after working with our Operations Team, item limits for some of the available products on our online ordering menu have been updated to reflect the increased community need.

This means that partner agencies will see higher available quantities on some key items on Agency Express 3 (AE3). Our Food Sourcing Director will continue to moderate the available quantities as we source more products and increase them whenever possible.

Winter Bonus Product

As another special boon to our Partner Agency Network, and due to our increased donations and purchasing during the lapse in SNAP funding, our Agency Network Team will be adding 20% to partner orders starting this week, continuing through January. We hope that this temporary increase in quantities will provide additional support and relief to our community.

Food Bank Holiday Closures

The food bank will be closed during the dates and times listed below. There will be no available pickup or delivery orders. Please also be mindful of the shifting ordering deadlines due to the closures, which are listed in the image below.

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Thursday, January 1

December 2025 & January 2026 Closure Calendar						
SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
21	22 Final Day to Order for Friday the 26th	23 Final Day to Order for Monday the 29th	24 Food Bank Closed	25 Food Bank Closed	26 Food Bank Open: Regular Deliveries and Pickups Begin	27
28	29	30 Final Day to Order for Friday the 2nd	31	January 1 Food Bank Closed: New Year's Day	2 Food Bank Open: Regular Deliveries and Pickups Begin	3

Inventory Audit Dates

We appreciate everyone's flexibility during our mid-fiscal year Inventory Audit, as our Operations staff endeavors to maintain good stewardship over our stock. During the two days listed below, our offices will be open, but there will be no delivery or pickup orders.

- Thursday, January 29
- Friday, January 30

Inventory Audit Calendar - January 2026						
SUN.	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
25	26	27 Final Day to Order for Monday the 2nd	28 Final Day to Order for Tuesday the 3rd	29 Food Bank Open: No Deliveries or Pickups	30 Food Bank Open: No Deliveries or Pickups	31
1	February 2 Food Bank Open: Regular Deliveries and Pickups Begin	3	4	5	6	7

Community Spotlight

Mass Community Distributions

We are deeply thankful for the remarkable efforts and dedication from the community and Partner Agency Network during the government shutdown and lapse in CalFresh/SNAP funding. As many in our

community were affected by the shutdown, Second Harvest hosted multiple mass food distributions at county buildings, school locations, the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, and the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds. Over 3,500 households were served at these extraordinary distributions, 2,000 of which were at our drive-through Fairgrounds distribution.



Network Action Spotlight

2026 Hunger Fighter of the Year

Know someone making a difference in fighting hunger in Santa Cruz County? Here's your chance to celebrate them!

Nominate an educator, advocate, activist, or volunteer who's dedicated to helping feed our community.

The Hunger Fighter of the Year will be honored at Second Harvest's Holiday Food & Fund Drive Awards Dinner in March.

Thank you for helping us recognize our community heroes!

Nomination closes Friday, January 9, 2026.

([Nomination Link](#))



We need YOU to... Nominate the Hunger Fighter of the Year!

**Do you know someone who goes above and beyond
in their efforts to help feed members of our community?**

This is your opportunity to recognize that special person who is actively involved in the mission of Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County. Your nominee may be an educator, advocate for the hungry, activist seeking food policy change, or volunteer who is using their time, energy and/or resources to fight hunger in our community.

The Hunger Fighter of the Year is recognized at our annual Holiday Food & Fund Drive Awards Dinner in March.

Thank you for helping us honor these Individuals.



Please scan the QR Code to nominate someone special

Deadline for nominations is Friday, January 9, 2026.



Necesitamos que USTED... ¡Nomine al Luchador contra el Hambre del Año!

**Conoces a alguien que haya trabajado arduamente
para alimentar a los miembros de nuestra comunidad?**

Esta es su oportunidad de reconocer a esa persona especial que está activamente involucrada en la misión del Banco de Alimentos Second Harvest del Condado de Santa Cruz. Su candidato puede ser un educador, una persona que lucha contra el hambre, un activista que busca un cambio en la política alimentaria o un voluntario que está utilizando su tiempo, energía y/o recursos para combatir el hambre en nuestra comunidad.

El Embajador del Año en la lucha contra el hambre será reconocido en Marzo 2025, en nuestra Cena Anual de Premios de nuestra campaña de Fondos Navideños.

Gracias por ayudarnos a honrar a estas personas.



Escanee el código QR para nominar a alguien especial

La fecha límite para las nominaciones es el viernes 9 de enero de 2026.

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

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Thursday, January 1

Partner Agency Virtual Check-In Meeting

- Monday, January 12
- 9 — 10 a.m.
- [Join the Meeting](#)
- Meeting ID: 853 6371 7825

Quarterly Partner Agency Meeting

- Friday, January 23
- 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
- Location: TBD

Inventory Audit - No Delivery or Pickup Orders & Offices Closed

- Thursday, January 29
- Friday, January 30

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