



Partner Agency Newsletter

September 2026

We are the Food Bank.

Dear Partners,

Where does the time go? It's already pumpkin spice latte season! September is also a month filled with important advocacy and awareness efforts, including Hunger Action Month. This is our opportunity to Go Orange! By wearing orange, we help raise awareness about hunger in our community and show our commitment to supporting our neighbors. Don't forget to wear your orange T-shirts while conducting food distributions this month to show your support and help spread awareness!

Diaper Need Awareness Week began September 14, 2026. Let's continue working together to ensure that our littlest neighbors and their families have access to the diapers and essential resources they need. Let us know if your organization is interested in becoming a Diaper Bank Partner.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who has participated in our Oasis information sessions and conversations. Your questions, feedback, and participation are important as we move through this process. Our next step will be to begin meeting with the committee as we continue moving the work forward.

Thank you for everything you do each day to support our neighbors and strengthen our community!

In Community,

Adriana Mata

Chief Community Impact Officer

Agency Network Updates

Partner Agency Meeting Recap

What is Power Outage's favorite dance move? The no-electric slide.

Thank you to everyone who could attend our first partner agency meeting of the quarter. It was truly a testament to our network's ability to prevail through the (flickering) darkness. For those unable to attend, or who need a reminder, here is a quick recap of important program information:

- PAM Structure changes – As we have previously discussed, the frequency and location of our partner agency meetings have changed to support program needs, such as increased communication between our partners and providing necessary trainings to our network. It also gives us more opportunities to showcase different organizations around the county and provide a wider network of resources for our community. We have decided to keep the next Partner Agency Meeting remote. Then, in October 2026, we will reconvene in person!

Oasis Update

Thank you to everyone who has remained patient with the announcement of the implementation of our new intake software – Oasis Insight. The team is working hard to acquire physical materials, finalize training materials, and identify agencies to pilot this program. Please remain patient with us as we navigate this new journey as a network.

Food Safety Training

Last week, Second Harvest hosted a training to support agencies in completing Feeding America's Food Safety requirement. This is a **mandatory course** for all pantries and partner agencies distributing dry goods. The exception to this course is for those who are serving hot meals and have a Food Safety Manager Certification. If you were unable to attend the Food Safety Training or would like to review the recap, please click the button below.

Network Action Spotlight

National Diaper Week

September 14-20 marks National Diaper Need Awareness Week. Every day, parents have to make the decision between purchasing diapers for their babies and other necessities. Thank you to everyone who has participated and helped spread awareness about diaper need in Santa Cruz County.



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SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

If you or your agency are interested in becoming a diaper bank partner, please fill out the application below:

Diaper Distribution Program Application

Staff Spotlight

Johnathan Hake – Inventory Coordinator

Please help us welcome one of our newest members of the Food Bank, Johnathan!

Johnathan works within the Supply Chain/Inventory team. Please read below to meet and learn more about Jonathan.



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

- **Response:** I grew up in Phoenix, AZ, for most of my life! I moved to San Diego for college and lived there for several years before moving to Santa Cruz with my wife in 2025.

How long have you been at the food bank and how did you start there?

- **Response:** I started at SHFB Santa Cruz County in December of 2025, so just shy of one year. I also worked in hunger relief in San Diego and really enjoyed knowing I was making a positive difference in the community.

What does the food bank mean to you?

- **Response:** The food bank is a place of hope and restoration. Food insecurity can affect people of all different walks of life, situations, and circumstances. There's no shame in that, and it's a joy to be part of the team of staff, volunteers, donors, and community members collaborating to empower one another.

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

- **Response:** I am the Inventory Coordinator for our Supply Chain team as part of the Operations department.

Fun Facts!**What is your favorite fruit and/or vegetable?**

- **Response:** Probably bananas for fruit and broccoli for vegetables.

What are some of your favorite foods?

- **Response:** Lasagna, marry me chicken, broccoli cheddar soup, and San Diego burritos!

What is your favorite animal?

- **Response:** I think birds are fascinating to watch, especially crows and shorebirds.

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

- **Response:** I've already been skydiving, been to several national parks I wanted to see, and gone to a World Cup match this summer! I still want to do a hot air balloon ride, visit many more national parks, and see the Northern Lights!

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.

October Partner Agency Meeting

October marks our first in-person Partner Agency Meeting of the quarter!
Please see below for meeting information and stay tuned for more.

- **Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Holy Cross Church Parish Hall | 170 High St., Santa Cruz, CA

800 Ohlone Parkway, Watsonville, California 95076

Agency Team Contact Information: 831.256.7201 | agencies@thefoodbank.org

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Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County

800 Ohlone Parkway

Watsonville, CA 95076

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