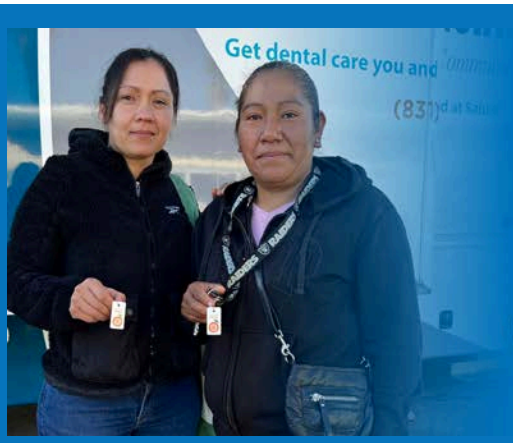


Partner Agency Newsletter

October 2026

We are the Food Bank

Dear Partners,

First and foremost, I want to welcome Natalia Ramos, our new Agency Network Manager! Natalia's role is instrumental to the work we do in supporting our partner agencies and strengthening services throughout our community. We are excited to have her in this role and look forward to the leadership and support she will bring to our Agency Network.

As we move toward the end of the year, there is a lot of important work taking place. This past week, we began implementing the Oasis participation database at Second Harvest distribution sites. We have had a very positive experience so far, and our neighbors have been receptive and welcoming of this new process. This is an important step toward strengthening how we understand participation, identify community needs, and improve access to services. Thank you to the Partner Agencies that have taken a role as part of the advisory committee.

I also want to remind everyone about the abundance of fresh produce we currently have available. We encourage our partner agencies to take advantage of this opportunity and help us get as much fresh, nutritious produce as possible out into the community.

October continues to be a busy month for our Agency Network team! We will be distributing both food and diapers at the annual Trunk N' Treat event at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on October 23 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. If you attend the event, please stop by and say hello! We would love to see you.

In Community,

Adriana Mata
Chief Community Impact Officer

Agency Network Updates

Oasis / Harvest Pass Updates

The team has been working both internally and with our community partners to continue our implementation plan. Part of this plan was coming up with a new name for this new season among us. Along with our Oasis Advisory Council, we have approved the new name… **Harvest Pass!**

We are also excited to announce that we will begin our cohort implementation model beginning in November 2026 and continue until the end of March 2027.

Please continue to stay informed of all Harvest Pass updates through our newsletter and team emails.





Network Action Spotlight

TLC HOPE Center

Congratulations to Twin Lakes Church and the People's Pantry team on the official opening of the TLC HOPE Center! This welcoming new center features flexible, multi-purpose rooms designed to support a variety of ministries and community activities. It will also serve as the new home of the People's Pantry, creating a dedicated space where neighbors can access food and connections.

This new center has been a long time coming, and we are thrilled to see the vision become a reality. We celebrate the dedication and collaboration that brought this space to life and look forward to seeing it nourish our community, strengthen connections, and support our neighbors.

Please feel free to visit the HOPE Center during its drive-through distributions on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 p.m.



Staff Spotlight

Natalia Ramos – Agency Network Manager

Please welcome Natalia Ramos to our Partner Agency team! Natalia will be taking on the role of Agency Network Manager here at the food bank. We are so excited to have her here and to introduce her to our wonderful network. Read more about Natalia below:



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

- Response: I grew up in the Watsonville area and have had the opportunity to live throughout the Central Coast. Most recently, I have been living in Yuma, Arizona, for about a year and a half, but have since moved back to California. This community has always been home to me, which makes the opportunity to join Second Harvest Food Bank especially meaningful.

What are you most excited about in beginning this new role?

- Response: What I'm most excited about as I begin my role as the Network Manager is the opportunity to work collaboratively with our partner agencies to

strengthen our network and better serve our community. I look forward to getting to know our partners, listening to their needs, and building strong relationships that help ensure our communities have access to the resources they need.

What does fighting hunger mean to you?
- Response: To me, fighting hunger means making sure that no one in our community has to go home without food. I have personally experienced the difficult choice between having enough money for food and using that money to keep a roof over our heads. It is a choice I believe no one should face. Food is a necessity, and everyone in our community should have access to it. I am grateful to be a part of an organization that is committed to connecting people to these essential resources.

Fun Facts!

What is your favorite fruit and/or vegetable?
- Response: My favorite would have to be mangoes and watermelon.

What are some of your favorite foods?
- Response: I enjoy many different types of food, but my favorites are Thai and Asian cuisine. At the same time, Mexican food will always hold a special place for me because it feels like a little piece of home.

What is your favorite animal?
- Response: My favorite animal is dogs, in particular pitbulls. I have always appreciated how loyal, loving, and joyful they are.

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.

Trunk or Treat!
Please join us for some fun festivities! The food bank will be present for the annual Trunk or Treat event, where diapers and food will be given to the community. Come to volunteer or just for fun, but either way, don't forget your costume!

- Date: Monday, October 26, 2026

- **Time:** 3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds | 2605 E. Lake Ave, Watsonville, CA

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800 Ohlone Parkway, Watsonville, California 95076

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www.thefoodbank.org

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