



**3+ million lbs of food distributed**  
**300,000 people served**

According to the California Department of Social Services, Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County distributed over 3 million pounds of food in a 13 week period from April to June.



Willy Elliott-McCrea

## It's Been a Wild Ride

When disaster strikes our community, Second Harvest Food Bank is on the front lines ensuring families have access to nourishing food. With each emergency the Food Bank faces its own challenges.

However, COVID-19 is like nothing we have ever experienced.

Work and school disruptions have strained families' budgets, causing many to turn to the Food Bank for the first time. Just like "Sam" whose story you can read on page 4.

In fact the number of first-time participants has increased from March to June, demonstrating continued growth in need.

Before the pandemic, we distributed an average of 650,000 lbs of healthy food per month across Santa Cruz County. That has now increased to more than one million pounds per month, an average of 270,000 lbs per week!

**"COVID-19 is like nothing we have ever experienced."**

The increase in demand for our services has been unprecedented during these past few months and your response to help us meet that need is humbling.

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## National Guard Arrives

In March, when the Stay at Home Order was issued, so many in the community, without hesitation, wanted to volunteer to help. However, due to health guidelines and to keep everyone safe, we had to put our warehouse volunteer program on hold. It was also at this time that we began experiencing an unprecedented need throughout our county.

In April the National Guard joined us to help implement our new drive through food distribution at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. You could see them whizzing around the warehouse unloading and loading trucks and sorting and preparing for our large community drive through distributions that we implemented in order to meet the unprecedented needs in our community.

Also starting in April, we began weekly drive through distributions at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

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Community Food Hotline: 831-662-0990

These distributions can accommodate hundreds of vehicles. Since our first distribution on March 27th, we have been distributing an average of 96,000 pounds of food each Friday for an average of 2000 families at our drive through distributions.

## Community Cares

These are impressive numbers and are the direct result of this incredible community we all share, Santa Cruz County. So many businesses, organizations, and individuals have donated their time, talents, and funds, (and even flowers) to make sure we have resources to rise up and meet these challenging times. Thank you so much.

## We could not do this without you!

Check out more great organizations that have made the Community Cares list on our homepage [www.thefoodbank.org](http://www.thefoodbank.org)



Our community is full of Hunger Heroes!

## Partner Agency Response

Healthy food would not reach those in need without our Partner Agencies, many of which are run by volunteers in the “at risk” category for COVID19. Though some sites had to shut down temporarily, other sites have grown their capacity to distribute more healthy food. In addition to that, they stepped up increased home delivery to those at risk.

As our National Guard volunteers begin to phase out in July, we are excited to start welcoming back some of our warehouse volunteers.

## Looking Ahead

We continue to monitor COVID19 and make adjustments to distributions as needed while understanding that increased need will most likely continue for some time.

This newsletter highlights a bit of the journey we’ve been on together these last few months. We know our road to recovery is going to be long and difficult, but I want to let you know that your food bank will be here with you, every step of the way. With the help of our community, we will continue feeling hope.

*Dilly*



Santa Cruz Warriors Mascot Mav'Riks helps feed hope!

**Second Harvest Food Bank**  
800 Ohlone Parkway  
Watsonville, CA 95076-7005  
PH: 831.722.7110

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# FeedHope

Summer 2020

## We Stand in Solidarity

As a community and a nation we are feeling the effects of generations of institutionalized racism, the consequences of which have deep and devastating impacts on our communities of color. We want you to know:

**Second Harvest stands in solidarity with all who are working to end racism and inequality in our community and remind everyone that a big part of our mission is working together.**

Food insecurity affects families of color at more than twice the national average. Work with us to remove the barriers to accessing healthy, nutritious food so we can reverse this trend.

Read more on our blog at: [www.thefoodbank.org/blog](http://www.thefoodbank.org/blog)

## Donor Becomes Client

"I have worked my entire life and never needed any social services...until now. I have a heart condition and I am unable to work. My doctor has asked me to stay at home and minimize my exposure to the public especially now during COVID-19. When I heard about Second Harvest's Friday distribution food program (an organization I have donated to) giving away food, I decided with great hesitancy to go. What a humbling experience, everyone was thoughtful and understanding and I received enough food to last two weeks or more. Thank you Second Harvest for all you do, you made me feel I wasn't alone in this pandemic fight." Sam

If you or someone you know needs food, please call our community food hotline at 831-662-991

Grants make it possible to provide food, nutrition education, and so much more. Here are just a few entities that have gone above and beyond during this epidemic.

- Feeding America
- Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
- Subaru of Santa Cruz
- Anthem Blue Cross  
(through Feeding America)
- Bezo Foundation  
(through Feeding America)
- Driscoll's
- Union Bank
- Nestle USA (through Feeding America)
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Bank of America
- Sunlight Giving
- The David & Lucile Packard Foundation



## IN MEMORY/IN HONOR

TAKE A MOMENT TO VIEW THE LIST OF DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR : [WWW.THEFOODBANK.ORG/MEMORY](http://WWW.THEFOODBANK.ORG/MEMORY)



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