

School's Out: Nutrition programs must fill the summer food gap.



Who remembers waiting for school to get out so summer could finally begin? As kids, summertime meant sunny skies and endless opportunities for fun and playing with friends. If we got hungry, we went to the fridge and got a snack. And, if it was getting late in the day, we'd be cautioned, "Don't spoil your dinner!"

"...it's hard to play and grow and enjoy being a kid with the constant stress of an empty stomach."

However, for 9,000 children in Santa Cruz County who rely on free or reduced-price lunches they receive through their school programs, the end of the school year can be fraught with anxiety. They and their families know that for the next few months they may not always have enough food to eat each day. And, for the children, it's hard to play and grow and enjoy

being a kid with the constant stress of an empty stomach. Thankfully, Second Harvest's Food For Children program provides basic staples and fresh fruits and vegetables at distribution sites throughout the county, from Ben Lomond to Watsonville. And I'm happy to report that there is another bright spot of good news to share.

Thanks to a generous campaign created by an anonymous local family, Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County will be able to match donations to Food For Children through September 15th. This means that any donations we receive up to \$100,000 will be doubled!

It's easy to lose sight of the fact that the most precious members of our community need our help throughout the year, not just during the holidays, and not just while school is in session. Your donations to Food For Children will allow these children and their families to grow healthy and strong all summer long without the worry of where their next meal is coming from.

Thank you, and I wish all of you a very happy summer,

A new Passion For Produce site opens in Live Oak!

For the past few months, Second Harvest's nutrition team has been preparing for the opening of a brand-new food distribution site at Live Oak Elementary School in Santa Cruz, the first location to be added to the program in several years.

Thanks to the Passion For Produce team, hardworking volunteers and a group of committed parents, the new site officially launched on April 24. Read more online about the unique way that the community came together to support its neighbors in need. Visit www.thefoodbank.org/blog



Thank you, Ag Partners!



65% of the food that Second Harvest distributes is fresh produce donated from our Ag Partners.

On April 12, the Pajaro Valley Engagement Committee held its third annual Ag Appreciation event at Second Harvest Food Bank to thank this community of donors for supporting the food bank and our agencies.

CalFresh Forum 2018

Food assistance helps those in need and benefits the community



State and local leaders, advocates, and policy makers came together on Friday, May 18, for the 7th Annual CalFresh Forum, which is hosted in Watsonville each May by Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department.

California has the highest rate of child poverty in the country, and yet one of the lowest rates of enrollment in nutrition assistance.

Hungry children have difficulty learning, hungry adults have difficulty working, and new studies are showing a high prevalence of food insecurity and hunger on California's college campuses, especially among low-income students.

The CalFresh program, (formerly known as food stamps), is the largest source of nutrition assistance in the state but currently only 71% of eligible individuals in Santa Cruz County participate in program.

Attendees at the CalFresh Forum are working collaboratively to help community organizations increase participation in the program by enrolling those who qualify, including families, senior citizens, and a growing number of students. When individuals are healthy, the community grows strong.

MariaElena de la Garza, Executive Director of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County was the event's Keynote speaker. "These resources directly impact the quality of life of some of our most vulnerable citizens, which, in turn increases our community's well-being."

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Second Harvest Receives Phil Rather Award



Watsonville Mayor Lowell Hurst presents the Phil Rather Award to Second Harvest CEO, Willy Elliott-McCrea

On May 16, the Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust honored Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz with the Phil Rather Award for the organization's "commitment to fostering food security and healthy nutrition among families struggling economically."

The Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust annually recognizes individuals and organizations in the community whose contributions of time, effort and/or philanthropy have helped make a difference in the quality of the community's health.

Visit from Fiona Ma



Fiona Ma, candidate for State Treasurer, toured the food bank on May 11, 2018.

A Special Interview



Ella Porter, an aspiring 10-year-old writer, interviewed Second Harvest CEO Willy Elliott-McCrea for a story she's working on. She brought food to donate, too. Thanks, Ella!

Santa Cruz

**Mark your calendars for
September 13th.**

Chefs' Dinner 2018

Our largest, most elegant event of the year, the Annual Santa Cruz Chefs' Dinner, will be here at summer's end. Enjoy delicious food prepared by award-winning chefs from top Santa Cruz County restaurants, fine local wines, and both a silent and a live auction chock-full of amazing items to bid on! All proceeds benefit Second Harvest's Food For Children program.

Tickets & Info:

www.thefoodbank.org/chefs-dinner2018

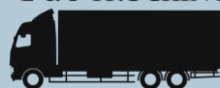
831-498-4119

maria@thefoodbank.org

We are currently collecting donations for our Chefs' Dinner auction. If you have items to donate such as wine, tickets, jewelry, vacation stays or fun tours and experiences, please contact Suzanne at 831-288-3002 or suzanne@thefoodbank.org.

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FeedHope

Summer 2018

Hunger is not a short-term problem. You can help.

Thank you for being part of the Second Harvest community. Your support has shown that you care deeply about feeding the hungry people of Santa Cruz County

Hunger is not a short-term problem and neither is the solution. We need reliable, steady support to allow us to feed those in need every day of every month.

“A \$30 monthly pledge would provide a child 120 meals per month...
...all year long.”

We hope you will consider joining our **Sustaining Partner program**. Join a community of supporters working all year long to help end hunger in our community. A \$30 monthly pledge would feed a child 3 meals a day...every month. For less than a cup of coffee each day, you could be that special someone who is always there for a child, making a huge difference in their life.

Donations made before September 15, 2018 will be doubled with the Food For Children match. This means every \$10 donated will provide 80 healthy meals.

Consider becoming a **Sustaining Partner**. It's simple. Sign up easily online at www.thefoodbank.org/mg. Because your gifts are automated, it means less work on your end and ensures that more of your donation goes directly to our program work. You may update or cancel your gifts at any time. **OR** you may also use the attached giving envelope and mark monthly, quarterly, or annual.



Let a child know that someone cares that she has a nutritious meal each night, that she isn't hungry on the weekend, and that she wakes up knowing where her next meal is coming from.

Thank you for caring.

SIGN UP AS A SUSTAINING PARTNER AT WWW.THEFOODBANK.ORG/MG

On-going Volunteer Opportunities. Join our team!



YOU'D BE PERFECT FOR THIS

- Corporate Team-Building
- CalFresh Intake
- Produce Sort Room
- Hospitality
- Janitorial
- Events

Interested in volunteering?
Contact bly@thefoodbank.org
or call 831.498.4115

In Memory/In Honor Gifts

Please take a moment to view the list of donations made In Memory and In Honor:
www.thefoodbank.org/memory

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