

The Value of the Volunteer

By The Second Harvest Food Bank

Priceless! Our volunteers are the driving force behind Second Harvest Food Bank's ability to provide healthy food to our community. This last year has shown us just how important our volunteers are to our food distributions. Overnight the need for food increased more than two-fold when the pandemic gripped Santa Cruz County. The resulting economic shut down caused mass unemployment in a demographic already struggling to make ends meet and Second Harvest was called in to make sure these families continued to receive nutritious foods to thrive. The crisis also caused many people to take action and help. Second Harvest has been fortunate that so many

stepped up, making it possible for the food bank to conduct the weekly community food distributions in response to the pandemic. These weekly distributions each require at least 120 volunteers, equating to around 600 volunteer hours each month. Morgan Imel, Robby Olson, and Justen Harper are just three of those volunteers, whose contributions of time and talent over the last year both in person and remote, have been truly priceless.

Morgan Imel
Morgan Imel is Product Operations Analyst at Looker in Santa Cruz. Looker is a local tech company that works with data and analytics. During this past year Morgan has been a driving force behind recruiting remote volunteers to help update over a years' worth of volunteer data into the

food bank's data base. "I am so grateful for Morgan and the Looker team for providing an important platform for us to move forward in engaging volunteers from afar." Jael Salinas, Volunteer Program Manager, Second Harvest Food Bank

This project has helped individuals that cannot volunteer physically to still take part by working remotely. As part of this project, the volunteers have provided critical data and streamlined reporting processes. **Thank you Morgan and Looker! Robby Olson**
When COVID19 shut down the economy and created a huge need for food, Robby Olson stepped up to help. Concerned with the overwhelming need, he contacted Second Harvest to see where volunteers were needed. He showed up at the community distributions a year ago and has volunteered at every single one since. As a local pastor, Robby's desire to help others in need runs deep and over the past year he has become a volunteer leader at these large distributions.

"His compassion, understanding, and great sense of humor uplifts all those around him. Robby has been vital in encouraging other volunteers and staff and is a perfect example of a real-life Hunger Hero." Jael Salinas, Volunteer Program Manager, Second Harvest Food Bank
After a year and over 160 hours of volunteer service, he still shows up with an enthusiastic smile and positive attitude. **Thank you Robby!**

Justen Harper
Justen began volunteering at Second Harvest's weekly community drive-through distributions in April 2020. As COVID-19 began shutting down the economy and the need for food grew, Justen wanted to help. Over the past year

he has contributed over 130 hours to Second Harvest's volunteer program. His positive outlook transfers to everyone around him.

"Justen is dedicated to service and is always willing to take the lead on any task he is assigned. He has become a great leader among the volunteers." Jael Salinas, Volunteer Program Manager, Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest is privileged to have Justen as an ongoing volunteer. **Thank you Justen!**

To all who are part of the Second Harvest Food Bank volunteer team.

THANK YOU... you are truly valued!

For more information on volunteering either in person or remote, contact Jael Salinas at (831) 232-8141 or visit www.thefoodbank.org/volunteer



Provided photo of Justen Harper



Provided photo of Robby Olson



Provided photo of Morgan Imel

The Value of a Volunteer is...

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Second Harvest

Millions of pounds of food distributed / Thank You!



Join the Second Harvest volunteer team: www.thefoodbank.org/volunteer or call 831-232-8141

Priceless!