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**Orange County Community Comes Together to Provide 63,000 Meals**

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Orange County community came together on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to pay tribute to our neighbors at-risk of hunger at Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual "No Lunch" Lunch event. Together with community leaders, donors and volunteers, we raised over \$21,000, enough to provide 63,000 meals this holiday season. Host Ed Arnold of KOCE-TV PBS So Cal recognized Tom Fuentes, the founding Chairman Emeritus of the Food Bank's No Lunch Lunch event, for his instrumental part in raising the funds to establish the Food Bank and leading it through an incredible capacity expansion in its early years. A special tribute was also paid to Dan Harney, Founder of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, who passed away in June, and had helped establish and grow the Food Bank with Mr. Fuentes.

Several outstanding Food Bank supporters were also honored throughout the program. The Angels Groundskeepers received the Community Partner Award for generously donating their time, facility, and resources to host one of Orange County's favorite food drives each Fall for over 11 years. From their efforts alone, Second Harvest has been able to provide over 270,000 meals for those struggling to make ends meet.

The Dhont Family Foundation received the Ed Arnold Humanitarian Award for their committed support as primary funders of Second Harvest's Emergency Food Box program, which is designed to provide a family of four with staple food items to last a week. Thanks to an increase in the Dhonts' commitment to the Food Box program this year, Second Harvest is now able to offer these much-needed boxes to agencies on a more frequent basis.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation received the Corporate Volunteer Award for their support of Second Harvest's hunger-relief efforts for more than a decade. Since 2010, we have had over 90 Bank of America volunteers donate their time at Second Harvest. In addition, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation has donated over 3,800 pounds of food, and granted Second Harvest with a 2010 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder award, which provided a \$200,000 grant commitment and leadership training over two years.

Finally, South Coast Plaza was presented with the Tomas A. Clavel Award for their role in raising significant funds for Second Harvest through our annual Food and Wine event, and our Harvesters Luncheon and Fashion Show. For 19 years, South Coast Plaza has reached out to its vendors and created a unique, multi-designer fashion show at the Annual Harvesters Luncheon and Fashion Show on behalf of the Food Bank. In addition to raising funds for Second Harvest, South Coast Plaza has also been a leader in raising awareness of the hunger problem in Orange County. South Coast Plaza has been instrumental in partnering with both of these critical goals, and their support has increased each year as Second Harvest's operations continue to expand.

We would like to give a special thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting our mission to eliminate hunger in Orange County, and for making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve. Sponsors include: Ralphs, Budweiser, A.G & Dianne Kawamura, 21st Century Communications Strategies, Golden State Foods, American Security Bank, PERC Water and Synoptek. Ralphs in particular has provided critical funding and volunteer manpower to the Food Bank over the years, and through this year's "No Lunch" Lunch sponsorship, provided 30,000 meals. We would also like to give a special mention to our long time supporter, Antonio Cagnollo and his restaurant Antonello Ristorante for providing lunch.

**Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County** is working to eliminate hunger in Orange County. Through a network of nearly 500 local member nonprofits, the Food Bank distributes over 16 million pounds of nutritious food to our neighbors in need every year. Learn more about our work in the community - and how you can help - at [FeedOC.org](http://FeedOC.org).

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