



# Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

## Press Kit

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v.01.09.12



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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## **Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County**

(All statistics apply to the Orange County area)

### Year Established

1983

### Member Charities

Nearly 500

### Individuals At-Risk of Hunger Each Month

Approximately 615,000

### Average Monthly Distribution

1.4 million pounds of food

240,000 people served

### Volunteer Hours Annually

105,000

### Volunteers Annually

10,500

### Efficiency Rate

Over 90 cents of every dollar is spent directly on programs and services.



## Frequently Asked Questions

What year did the Food Bank begin providing services to the Orange County community?

**1983**

What is the estimated number of individuals that are at-risk of hunger each month in Orange County?

**Given the increase in demand it is estimated that 615,000 Orange County residents are at risk of hunger each month. Over 50% of those at-risk of hunger are children and seniors.**

How many non-profit agencies does the Food Bank serve?

**Nearly 500 member charities.**

What are the Food Bank's efficiency rates?

**Over 90 cents of every dollar is spent directly on programs and services.**

Where do food donations come from?

**We collect from grocery stores, food manufacturers, distributors, community food drives, restaurants and fresh produce gleaned in the fields.**

What can I do to help?

- **Donate Money** – Make a tax deductible donation.
- **Donate Food** – Sponsor a food drive at your church, school, company or service club. Our food drive department will support your food collection campaign.
- **Volunteer** – Pick produce, sort food, help out at a special event, or share your special or professional skill with us.
- **Leave a Lasting Legacy** – Remember the Food Bank in your trust or will, or talk to us about planned giving.



## **MISSION**

We are working to eliminate hunger in Orange County.

## **STRATEGY STATEMENT**

We solicit and coordinate donations, grants, fundraising, food drives, food rescue, gleaning and volunteers to supply food, education and advocacy for the hungry through non-profit partners and direct feeding programs. We constantly seek innovative and cost-effective ways to reach more people.

## **HISTORY**

Founded by the Council of Orange, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in 1983 Second Harvest Food Bank launched operations in a former packing house in Orange under the leadership of founder Dan Harney. After distributing more than 200 million pounds of nutritious food over 25 years, in 2007 Second Harvest moved to a renovated facility at the former El Toro Marine Base, more than doubling its capacity to meet the needs of Orange County's hungry during the most difficult economic times since the Great Depression. In 2012, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County became an independent 501(c)3 non-profit corporation focused on eliminating hunger in Orange County.

## **MEMBER AGENCIES**

Second Harvest Food Bank serves nearly 500 member non-profit organizations that reach the hungry, including church pantries, shelters, senior centers, rehabilitation centers, and other emergency assistance organizations.

## **CLIENTS**

In partnership with member charities, Second Harvest Food Bank helps feed over 240,000 individuals each month. Those served include the working poor, children, seniors on fixed incomes, single parents, the disabled, the homeless and individuals experiencing medical emergencies or recent job layoffs.

## **FOOD SOURCES**

The primary work of Second Harvest Food Bank is acquiring and distributing donated and surplus food. Food sources include local grocery stores and supermarket chains, food manufacturers and distributors, the government, restaurants, trade shows, gleaning efforts, bulk food purchases, food drives and private individuals.

## **EFFICIENCY**

Over 10,000 volunteers provide more than 55 percent of our labor force - or the equivalent of 50 full-time employees – allowing over 90 cents of every dollar to be spent on programs and services for those in need.



## FOOD & HUNGER FACTS

### HUNGER IN ORANGE COUNTY

The current and on-going economic crisis has left many families with the difficult decision of buying groceries and other basic needs or paying their mortgages and medical bills. Second Harvest member agencies are reporting an average 42% increase in demand for food assistance. It is currently estimated that 21% of Orange County or 615,000 people are at-risk of hunger. The majority of people at risk of going hungry each month are children and single parents, seniors and other men and women confronted by financial difficulty or who are physically unable to earn a living.

### CHILDREN

One in four or 227,820<sup>1</sup> children in Orange County rely on the government's Free and Reduced Lunch Program as a steady source of nutrition. Research indicates that even mild malnutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth impacts the behavior of children, their school performance, and their overall cognitive development. As of December 2010, 63% of all food stamp recipients in Orange County were children.

### SENIORS

According to the Elder Economic Security Index, which figures in housing, food, transportation and health care, more than 15% of Orange County seniors don't have enough money for adequate food. Even with incomes above the Federal poverty level (\$10,400 for a single person, \$14,000 for a couple), seniors coping with high housing costs and rising medical costs simply can't afford nutritious food.

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<sup>1</sup> OC Department of Education 2010



## FOOD SOURCES & PROGRAMS

### **GROCERY RESCUE & FOOD RESCUE**

The Food Rescue and Grocery Rescue programs provide a vital bridge between perishable food donors and those in need. These programs partner with local grocers, restaurants, caterers and hotels to collect their prepared and perishable food for same day distribution to agencies serving those in need.

### **CHILD HUNGER STRATEGY**

The goal of the Child Hunger Strategy is to increase the food security, produce consumption and nutrition knowledge of children living in poverty in Orange County. Our Child Hunger Strategy consists of four programs: Kids Cafe, Summer Food, Nutrition Education and Backpack. All of the programs in our Child Hunger Strategy are designed to curb the effects of malnutrition experienced by children living in poverty. The Child Hunger Strategy programs are vital to the many children who rely on school meals as a steady source of food.

### **BROWN BAG FOR SENIORS**

The Brown Bag for seniors program is designed to address and help alleviate the hunger and malnutrition among the elderly of Orange County. We serve low-and fixed-income seniors with nutritional groceries twice a month.

### **MOBILE PANTRY**

The Mobile Pantry program provides fresh produce and other nutritious food directly to needy families and individuals in Orange County who struggle to make ends meet. Each Mobile Pantry transports 5,000 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables and dry goods directly into the community.

### **EMERGENCY FOOD BOX**

The Emergency Food Box program is a food purchasing program. The Emergency Food Box program came about to help counter the decline in shelf stable donations. The Emergency Food Box program provides families with food boxes that are easy to distribute and nutritious shelf stable food items.

### **OC HARVEST**

Volunteers custom plant and harvest much needed produce at our Incredible Edible Farm in Irvine. The OC Harvest has a unique educational component in which elementary school children can observe the growth of their very own plant. In the Seed to Harvest Program, students start the seedlings in the classroom, and then bring them to the farm for planting.

### **GOVERNMENT**

The Food Bank coordinates both The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) program for Orange County. Through these programs, the Food Bank distributes USDA commodities and other food products under administrative contracts with state and federal authorities.



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## HOW TO HELP

### DONATE FUNDS

**Make a tax-deductible donation.**

- Over 90 cents of every dollar is spent directly on programs and services.
- Go to [feedoc.org](http://feedoc.org) to make your online donation, or [feedoc.org/How to Help/Donate Funds](http://feedoc.org/How to Help/Donate Funds) for more information

### DONATE FOOD

- **Sponsor a food drive at your church, school, company or service club.**  
The Food Bank encourages partnerships with local organizations, schools, businesses, associations, service groups and churches to collect canned and dry food products throughout the year. The Food Bank provides a Food Drive department to support any food collection campaign. Please visit [feedoc.org/How To Help/Donate Food](http://feedoc.org/How To Help/Donate Food) for assistance with your plans.
- **Become a food donor.**  
The Food Bank needs a broad range of food, including canned fruits, vegetables and meat products, dry and packaged goods, refrigerated and frozen products, prepared and perishable food, and fresh produce. Non-food items like personal care products, paper products and diapers are also accepted and made available.
- **Donate now through our [Virtual Food Drive](#)**

### VOLUNTEER

- **Harvesting** – Volunteers custom plant and harvest much needed produce at our Incredible Edible Park through our Orange County Harvest program.
- **Food sorting and labeling** – Volunteers help sort and label donated food in our warehouse.
- **Advocating** – The Second Harvest Food Bank Ambassadors are dedicated to reaching out to the community and engaging them in helping feed the hungry.  
Visit [feedoc.org/How To Help/Donate Time](http://feedoc.org/How To Help/Donate Time) for more information, or contact our Volunteer department at [Volunteer@feedoc.org](mailto:Volunteer@feedoc.org)

### EDUCATE

- **Take a tour to learn more** – Bring your friends, family and employees to see how food moves through the food bank to those in need. For upcoming dates and reservations, visit [feedoc.org/How We Work/Take A Tour](http://feedoc.org/How We Work/Take A Tour)

### PLANNED GIVING

- **Planned Giving** – Today we are reaching less than half of the hungry in our county. With your help, we can expand our services and touch many more children, seniors and families in our community. Find out more information about our Continued Giving & Planned Giving programs by contacting [Give@feedoc.org](mailto:Give@feedoc.org) <mailto:Monica@FeedOC.org> or (949) 653-2900.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS & FOOD DRIVES

For a full list of upcoming promotions, visit [FeedOC.org/News And Events/Events/Calendar](https://www.feedoc.org/News-And-Events/Events/Calendar)

- May**                    ***Stamp Out Hunger – National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive***  
This largest food drive in the nation helps the Food Bank stay stocked during the summer months when donations of food are usually at their lowest. Mail carriers around the county participate by picking up non-perishable food, which residents leave by their mailboxes.
- June**                    ***Take a Swing Against Hunger Golf Tournament, Silent & Live Auctions***  
At our annual *Take a Swing Against Hunger* Golf Tournament, golfers receive a complimentary lunch and dinner the day of the tournament and a host of great gifts. Golfer prizes, silent and live auctions, and an opportunity drawing will also be featured.
- June/July**            ***Angels’ Food Drive***  
The Anaheim Angels team up with Second Harvest to collect food at weekend games, while offering free tickets and special promotional gifts to donors.
- July**                    ***Orange County Fair food drive***  
Second Harvest and Community Action Partnership receive food donations made in exchange for free admission at one OC Fair “We Care Wednesday” each year.
- September**           ***Hunger Action Month***  
Every September, Second Harvest teams up with Feeding America and other food banks around the nation to raise awareness and promote advocacy around the issue of hunger in America.
- October**                ***Scouting for Food Drive***  
In partnership with Albertsons stores, Boy & Girl Scouts collect nonperishable food from homes around the county and deliver it to the Food Bank.
- November**            ***“No Lunch” Lunch***  
Before Thanksgiving, we invite members of the community for a simple soup kitchen-style meal to remember those in need and honor our partners for their dedication to ending hunger in Orange County.