SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

Press Kit






THE NEED
IN ORANGE COUNTY

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

OUR WORK FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IS NOT DONE

Feeding America is a nationwide network of 198 food banks of which Second Harvest is a member. The organization released the latest statistics on food insecurity in America, and these staggering numbers prove our work at Second Harvest continues to be critical for the health and well-being of everyone in Orange County.

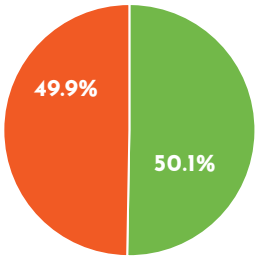
387,370
PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY ARE FOOD INSECURE
(+6% VS. YAG)

1 IN 8
INDIVIDUALS IS FOOD INSECURE

112,420
CHILDREN IN ORANGE COUNTY ARE FOOD INSECURE
(+27% VS. YAG)

1 IN 6
CHILDREN IS FOOD INSECURE

2024 OC FOOD INSECURE POPULATION ELIGIBLE FOR CALFRESH BENEFITS

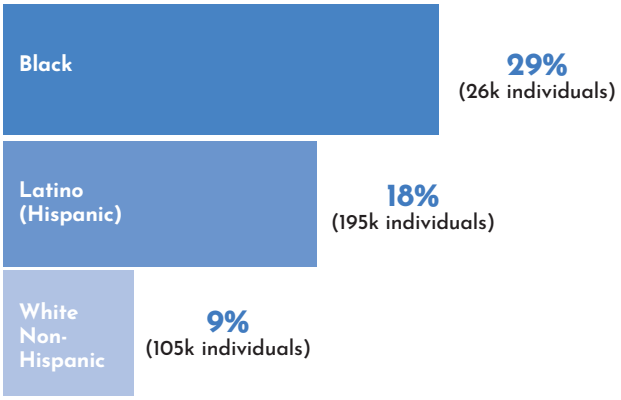


- Eligible
- Ineligible*

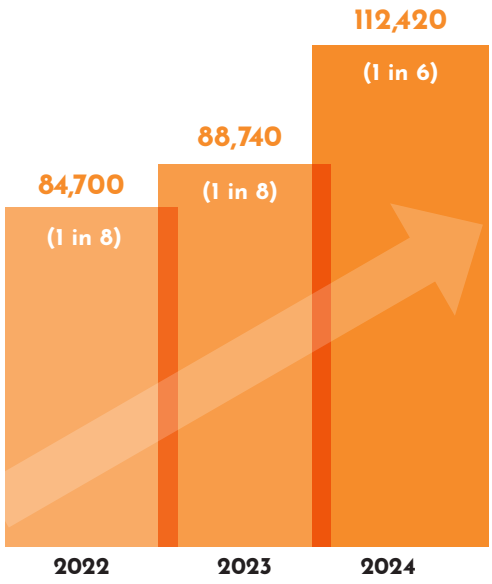
*Percent of food insecure people with incomes or assets that are too high to qualify for CalFresh/ SNAP benefits.

FOOD INSECURITY RATES IN ORANGE COUNTY BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Food insecurity rates in Orange County are highest in communities of color – 29% of the Black community are food insecure and 18% of the Latino community, versus 9% of individuals who are White.. The largest number of food-insecure individuals is in the Latino population (195,000 people).



FOOD INSECURITY ON THE RISE AMONG OC CHILDREN



As of July 28, 2026; Calendar Year 2024; Source: https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2024/overall/california/county/orange

8014 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618-2235 • 949.653.2900 • @SHFBOC
Federal Tax ID #32-0362611

DONATE AT FEEDOC.ORG

SECOND HARVEST
AT A GLANCE

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK WAS FOUNDED IN 1983 as the Food Distribution Center by the Council of Orange, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1997, the food bank was rebranded and named Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Second Harvest moved from its location in Orange to Irvine 10 years later.

We serve the Orange County community and distribute nutritious food through a network of partners and pantries throughout the county. They include houses of worship, schools, after-school programs, colleges and universities, senior centers, shelters for the unhoused, soup kitchens and transitional housing facilities.

OUR VISION

An Orange County with food and nutritional security for all.

OUR MISSION

In collaboration with our partners, we provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food, creating a foundation for community health.

OUR VALUES

- People First
- Integrity & Accountability
- Compassion
- Purpose Driven
- Stewardship

WAYS TO GIVE

- Volunteer
- Give a Gift
- Host a Virtual Food Drive
- Donate Cryptocurrency, Stocks, by IRA Rollover or through Legacy Gifts



OUR TEAM

Led by CEO Claudia Bonilla Keller, Second Harvest has 119 employees and is a member of the Feeding America network.

FACILITIES & FLEET

Second Harvest is located in Irvine on 6.5 acres. The 108,000-sq-foot **DISTRIBUTION CENTER** includes 14,550 square feet of cold storage including two cold docks. Our **FLEET** includes box trucks, tractors and 28'-53' trailers. Located 3.6 miles away from the Food Bank, **HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM** was launched in August 2021. Since its founding, the 40+ acre farm has allowed us to harvest more than 9.5 million pounds of nutrient-rich produce.



WE SOURCE FOOD FIVE WAYS

1 PURCHASING
nutritious food in bulk

2 ACQUIRING
large volume donations from major food manufacturers and distributors

3 RESCUING FOOD
donations collected from grocery stores

4 RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
from federal and local government

5 GROWING
our own produce at Harvest Solutions Farm



10-26

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HOW THE FOOD BANK WORKS
SOURCES AND DESTINATIONS

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

WE SUPPLY MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF FOOD from five primary sources to houses of worship, schools, after-school programs, colleges & universities, senior centers, shelters for the unhoused, soup kitchens and transitional housing facilities. Only with their help are we able to reach those facing food insecurity by:

PURCHASING nutritious food in bulk

ACQUIRING large volume donations from major food manufacturers and distributors

RESCUING FOOD donations collected from grocery stores

RECEIVING ASSISTANCE from federal and local government

GROWING our own produce at Harvest Solutions Farm & Founders Farm



HOUSES OF WORSHIP

SCHOOLS

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

SENIOR CENTERS

SHELTERS FOR THE UNHOUSED

SOUP KITCHENS

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITIES

As of May 30, 2025

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OUR IMPACT
IN FISCAL YEAR 2026

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

SERVING INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY

43.3M
POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

453,271*
PEOPLE SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

133,253
CHILDREN SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

105,281
SENIORS SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

PROVIDING FOOD THROUGH 281 PARTNERS AT 364 DISTRIBUTION SITES, INCLUDING:

7
PERMANENT SCHOOL PANTRIES

53
AFTER-SCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

78
MOBILE SCHOOL PANTRIES

50
SENIOR-SERVING LOCATIONS

18
COLLEGE PANTRIES

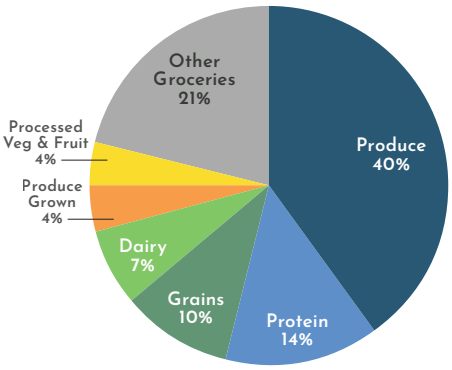
DID YOU KNOW?

IN FY 2026...

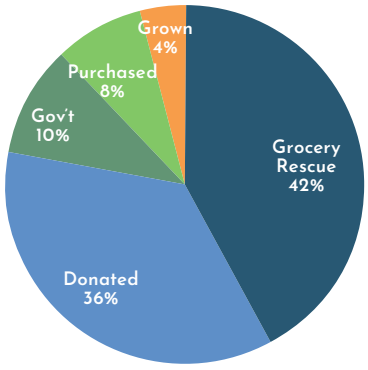
- **1.6 million pounds** of nutritious produce, equivalent to almost 40 truckloads, was harvested at Harvest Solutions Farm.
- Our trucks and drivers traveled **225,759 miles**, over 9 times around the globe.
- We purchased almost **623,000** dozen eggs– enough to make over 2.4 million omelettes.

FOOD DISTRIBUTED

BY TYPE



BY SOURCE



*Duplicated. Those seeking food assistance often visit a pantry more than once per month.

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FARM PROGRAMS

HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM

OVERVIEW

Harvest Solutions Farm is an innovative component of Second Harvest's strategy to provide food and nutritional security for all in Orange County. With Harvest Solutions Farm, we have strengthened operations and paved the way for a new focus on pursuing planned nutrition based on consistent access to fresh protein, produce and dairy—rather than relying on situational nutrition driven solely by donations. Our business model now focuses on the weekly purchase, bulk donation, and now **harvesting** of nutritious food.



Harvest Solutions Farm allows Second Harvest to mitigate challenges like rising food prices and supply chain disruptions. The Farm's location, just 3.6 miles from the Food Bank, greatly reduces the number of miles trucks drive to deliver ultra-fresh produce to our distribution center and thereby reduces the environmental impact. And, it drastically cuts the time from "farm to plate," providing children, families and seniors in our community with consistent access to the nutrient-dense food that can set them up for success in school, at work, and in life.

The Details

Farm Launch: August 2021

Partners: Solutions for Urban Agriculture, led by A.G. Kawamura, Board Chairman and former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and University of California South Coast Research & Extension Center (South Coast REC).

Location: The Farm is located at South Coast REC, a 200-acre agricultural research center in Irvine. The availability of fields for use by Second Harvest Food Bank for Harvest Solutions Farm is based on South Coast REC's research projects and is revisited semi-annually. Throughout the year, Harvest Solutions Farm encompasses up to 40 acres.

Crop Selection: Crops are selected for Harvest Solutions Farm based on several considerations including: soil and weather, availability, partner network interest, wide appeal among various cultures and ethnicities, and availability from bulk donation sources.

Crops:

- First planting in August 2021: 26,000 cabbage transplants
- Fall/Winter – Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, winter squash
- Spring/Summer – Bell peppers, summer squash and watermelon

Volunteer Support: Volunteers (ages 7+) are key to the success of Harvest Solutions Farm. Volunteer shifts are Tuesday through Saturday, and activities include planting, weeding and harvesting. To date, we have averaged 180 volunteers per week.

- Volunteer opportunities for kids ages 7-15 with chaperone.
- Volunteer opportunities for older teens ages 16-17 (no chaperone required)

"I love volunteering at Harvest Solutions Farm because I love being outside. It's nice to be outdoors in the quiet and experience the peacefulness of the farm. And it's an opportunity to see first-hand how our efforts are going toward feeding people with every piece of produce we harvest." -Steve Z.

HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM

OVERVIEW (continued)

The Impact

Total Pounds: Since the project began, we have harvested more than **9.5 million pounds** of produce for the community (through 6/30/26).

Harvest By Season in FY26:

Spring/Summer Harvest (lbs.)	
Zucchini	420,263
Watermelon	176,566
Yellow Squash	98,804
Bell Peppers	91,370
Other*	85,397
Subtotal	872,400

**Includes eggplant, green beans & tomatoes*

Fall/Winter Harvest (lbs.)	
Cabbage	282,849
Winter Squash *(butternut, spaghetti, acorn)*	137,697
Cauliflower	135,124
Broccoli/ Broccolini	77,678
Spicy Peppers	73,820
Other**	1,271
Subtotal	708,439
Total FY26	1,580,839

***Includes boy choy & kale*

Partner Distribution: Produce from Harvest Solutions Farm is distributed to our network of over 300 partner sites throughout Orange County.

The Future

We will continue to cultivate crops that are used frequently in the community, and we will look to diversify our selection of produce as the project progresses. We are continuing to market our volunteer opportunities to audiences. We hope to inspire other food banks across the nation to use this model as a blueprint for providing fresh, nutritious produce to local communities.







VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FARM PROGRAMS

Join us as we plant, harvest, weed and maintain the fields of **Harvest Solutions Farm** and the grow boxes at **Founders Farm**, both located just down the road from the Food Bank in Irvine. These are outdoor opportunities.



Individuals **ages 7 years and older** are welcome. Children 7-15 years must be accompanied by a registered adult chaperone. No chaperone is required for teens ages 16 and 17.

Harvest Solutions Farm shifts can accommodate groups of up to 70 people.

Volunteer shifts*:

- Harvest Solutions Farm: Tue./Wed./Fri./Sat.
- Founders Farm: Thursday



DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Volunteer at our Distribution Center at 8014 Marine Way in Irvine. Participants assist in a variety of projects, including processing nutritious food to be distributed to our community Partner Network and loading Park-It Market, our mobile market, with items such as fresh produce, non-perishable goods and other supplies needed for the distribution.

Individuals **ages 13 years and older** are welcome. Children 13-15 years must be accompanied by a registered adult chaperone. No chaperone is required for teens ages 16 and 17.

Volunteer shifts* are Tuesday-Saturday

For more information including shift days & times and volunteer waivers, please visit **feedoc.org/volunteer** or scan the QR code. For questions, please contact us at volunteer@feedoc.org.

VOLUNTEER

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE
OVERVIEW

What is a Virtual Food Drive?
A Virtual Food Drive is a fundraising platform that provides an opportunity to engage your employees, colleagues, friends, and family while helping to provide nutritious food for children, families and seniors in Orange County.

Skip the store with a Virtual Food Drive! This is an easy and convenient web-based tool that allows everyone to participate, regardless of location. Virtual Food Drive donations support Second Harvest's efforts including bulk food purchasing, operations, programming, and more.

Why Support a Virtual Food Drive?
Second Harvest Food Bank's Virtual Food Drives make it easy to help Orange County families in need and make a difference in our community. You can join us in making sure that all who need our help can access healthy food. With just a few clicks, you can help Second Harvest in our vision of an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all.

Example of How Your Support Helps
By supporting a Virtual Food Drive, you are helping to provide food for families like Kimberly's. Kimberly's family is among those we serve. Kimberly, a Vanguard University student, has turned to the school's pantry for food assistance, both for herself and her family.



"Not having access to food has been very difficult. College students shouldn't have to worry about what they're going to eat. They should be thinking about finishing assignments and studying for their exams."
– Kimberly

Learn more!
Visit https://feedoc.org/get-involved/#food-drive or point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right. Or email us at yourfooddrive@feedoc.org.



Note: Items on the Virtual Food Drive page and pictured here are representative of food Second Harvest purchases using Virtual Food Drive funds to provide food to people experiencing food-insecurity.

For media inquiries, please contact us at communications@feedoc.org or (949) 653-2900.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

10-2026