



HARVESTERS AND CITY NATIONAL BANK PRESENT SEVENTH ANNUAL INNOVATIVE SERVICE AWARD TO FOUR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN ORANGE COUNTY

Local entities feeding people experiencing food insecurity awarded a total of \$49,000 to increase capacity and impact

Orange County, Calif. (January 7, 2025) – Harvesters, an independent women-only volunteer organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, presented its seventh annual Innovative Service Award in collaboration with City National Bank on Tuesday, November 5. Four exemplary organizations received a total of \$49,000 to implement, reimplement (post Covid) or enhance their client choice food distribution model, which empower individuals and families to select foods that best meet their cultural preferences and dietary needs. The 2024 recipients – Families Forward, St. Justin Martyr, Latino Health Access and Boys and Girls Club of Garden Grove – were selected for their outstanding commitment to serving vulnerable populations with dignity and respect while working in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

The awards ceremony, held at Second Harvest’s Distribution Center in Irvine, marked the beginning of the holiday giving season – a particularly challenging time for families facing food insecurity. This crucial funding will enable each recipient to enhance their services to serve more neighbors in need, upgrade equipment and reach more individuals and families struggling to put nutritious food on their tables.

As rising food prices continue to strain household budgets and the need for food assistance grows, these awards provide timely support to organizations serving as lifelines in their communities. The 2024 award recipients serve their communities in the following ways:

- Families Forward (Irvine) assists people at risk of homelessness and experiencing food insecurity
- St. Justin Martyr (Anaheim) operates the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry, an entirely volunteer-run program serving people experiencing food insecurity
- Latino Health Access (Santa Ana) partners with communities to bring health, equity, and sustainable change through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic participation; including distributing food to over 1,000 families every Friday.
- Boys and Girls Club of Garden Grove’s ARCHES program supports low-income families and homeless youth by connecting them to essential resources, including an on-site food pantry that has been growing over the past year

As part of its ongoing mission to combat food and nutritional insecurity, City National Bank, a dedicated Harvesters partner, presented all four awards. The bank has been an integral part of the Innovation Service Awards program since it began, serving as the award presenter throughout its history. "We feel privileged to recognize these organizations that strive to meet the needs of the one in 10 people in Orange County facing food insecurity," said David Hasenbalg, senior vice president food & beverage for City National Bank and



Second Harvest Food Bank Board member. "We appreciate their hard work in creating a welcoming and respectful environment for our local Orange County communities."

For more information on Harvesters, visit feedoc.org/harvesters.

About City National Bank

City National Bank, a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), is the largest bank headquartered in Los Angeles. Founded in 1954, City National is a regional bank specializing in Consumer Banking, Wealth Management and Private Banking, Commercial Banking and Entertainment Banking with branches in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, Nashville, Atlanta, Delaware, Las Vegas, Washington D.C. and Miami.* For more information about City National, visit the company's website at cnb.com.

**City National Bank does business in Miami and the state of Florida as CN Bank.*

About Harvesters

Founded in 1992, Harvesters is a dedicated group of women committed to raising funds and awareness for Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Its members have donated thousands of hours of volunteer service and its annual campaigns have generated over \$20 million for Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County over the past 32 years. Learn more at feedoc.org/harvesters.

About Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

At Second Harvest Food Bank, our vision is an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all. In collaboration with our partners, we provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food, creating a foundation for community health. Our partner network includes houses of worship, schools, after-school programs, colleges and universities, senior centers, shelters for the unhoused, soup kitchens and transitional housing facilities, with sites at 394 locations throughout the county. In fiscal year 2023-2024, we distributed 35.8 million pounds of food to an average of 442,000 neighbors in need each month. Approximately 50,000-60,000 pounds of produce is harvested each week at the 40-acre Harvest Solutions Farm in Irvine, a collaboration with Solutions for Urban Agriculture and the University of California South Coast Research & Extension Center begun in August 2021. Second Harvest is a member of the Feeding America network and was named one of Orange County's 2023 Top Workplaces by the Orange County Register. For more information, visit feedoc.org.

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