



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF ORANGE COUNTY RECEIVES \$150,000 GRANT
FROM S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION**

Funding will support the Food Bank in continuing to meet the rising rate of local food insecurity

IRVINE, Calif. (February 19, 2025) – Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County is pleased to announce a grant recently awarded by the S. Mark Taper Foundation, a Los Angeles-based organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of people’s lives by supporting nonprofits’ work.

Orange County’s rate of food insecurity is rising faster than the state of California as a whole. As a result, Second Harvest Food Bank is feeding an average of 446,673 community members each month—a number that is approaching the number of people served each month at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and nearly double our pre-pandemic average of 249,000. In response, the Foundation awarded Second Harvest Food Bank \$150,000 to meet this concerning trend.

“We are deeply honored to receive this prestigious grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation,” said Claudia Bonilla Keller, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. “This recognition comes at a crucial time as the level of food insecurity in our community continues to rise. This transformational gift will further our ability to provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food through our partner network to community members in need.”

The S. Mark Taper Foundation awards annual grants through a highly competitive application and review process. Second Harvest Food Bank is proud to be chosen as a recipient and will use these funds to address food insecurity throughout Orange County.

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 343 locations throughout the county. In fiscal year 2023-2024, we distributed 35.8 million pounds of food to an average of 442,154 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.

About S. Mark Taper Foundation

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities. The S. Mark Taper Foundation is committed to grantmaking that aligns with the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. In order to overcome the systemic disenfranchisement of people on the basis of race, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability, we join our philanthropic partners in a continuing examination of privilege and a commitment to advancing inclusion and opportunities for all people of Southern California.

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