



SECOND  
HARVEST  
FOOD  
BANK  
ORANGE COUNTY

Spring 2025

*Photo of Swiss chard grow box at Founders Farm*



# Nourishing Need, Growing Hope

Spring is finally here and with it comes even warmer days and a renewed appreciation for life here in beautiful Orange County. But for far too many of our community members, the changing of seasons doesn't feel hopeful and optimistic, full of newness and fresh possibility. Instead, it brings with it feelings of uncertainty about how to provide their families with the fresh, nutritious food we all need to thrive.

**There are many factors leading to this increasing uncertainty— from the rising cost of living in California, with 18.9% of residents living in poverty, to higher food and gas prices across the board.<sup>1</sup>**

Your help makes a real difference, bringing hope and relief to children, families and seniors in Orange County. As a supporter of Second Harvest Food Bank, your compassion and generosity make a real, tangible impact on our community, ensuring

<sup>1</sup> <https://calbudgetcenter.org/news/new-census-data-show-california-poverty-soared-to-alarmingly-high-levels-in-2023/>

that no one in Orange County has to face food insecurity alone.

At Second Harvest Food Bank, we're being called upon to provide food to more and more people.

**In fact, the numbers of those we serve are approaching the numbers at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and nearly double our pre-pandemic average of 249,000 people served per month.**

These staggering numbers are more than just statistics—they represent children, seniors, families and individuals who rely on Second Harvest to access fresh, nutritious food. With your assistance, we are answering the call, ensuring that every community member has the nourishment they need to thrive.

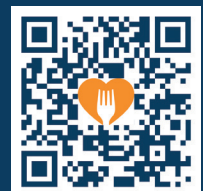
**Please join us in feeding OC.**

**Point your phone's camera at this QR code to give now.**



## Set It and Forget It!

With steady support, we can move closer to a future where everyone has access to nutritious food—every month, every day. Monthly giving helps ensure that families, children and seniors don't go without the food they need. **Would you consider signing up to support Second Harvest Food Bank with a monthly gift of \$25?** Consistent gifts enable us to plan ahead and ensure our Distribution Center is stocked and ready to deliver fresh, nutritious food to our Partner Network, so no one wonders how they'll feed themselves or their families. Set it and forget it at **[feedoc.org/give-monthly](https://feedoc.org/give-monthly)**.



# Planned Giving: Leaving a Legacy of Impact

At Second Harvest Food Bank, we envision a future where every person in Orange County has access to the food and nutrition they need to thrive. One of the most powerful ways to contribute to this vision—and to create a lasting legacy—is through planned giving.

## TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS

There are many ways to make a planned gift, including:

- Bequests in your will or trust
- Beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or life insurance policies
- Charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts
- Gifts of appreciated securities or real estate

## THE BENEFITS OF PLANNED GIVING

- **Leave a lasting legacy**
- **Potential tax advantages**
- **Flexibility**
- **Membership in the Daniel J. Harney Legacy Society:**  
By including Second Harvest in

your estate plans, you become part of a distinguished group of donors. Legacy Society members enjoy VIP tours, specialized educational sessions and recognition for their vital role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our mission.

## LEARN MORE

Whether you're interested in honoring a loved one, supporting a cause close to your heart, or taking advantage of tax savings, planned giving offers a variety of options to suit your goals. Or if you have already included Second Harvest in your plans, please let us know! Please contact Christine Montevideo, Major Gifts Officer, at [christine@feedoc.org](mailto:christine@feedoc.org) or **(949) 208-3150**.

## A SPECIAL EVENT: DANIEL J. HARNEY LEGACY SOCIETY BREAKFAST

On January 30, 2025, we hosted an event to honor those who have included Second Harvest in their estate plans, as well as longtime supporters who came to learn more about planned giving. We celebrated our Legacy Society members and heard from experts at Whittier Trust, who shared valuable insights on the power of philanthropy and the strategic role of planned giving. Our CEO, Claudia Bonilla Keller, also spoke about the profound impact even a single planned gift can have on our ability to nourish our Orange County community members.





# Taking Steps to End Hunger: Walk to Feed OC 2025

Despite a rainy week, on Saturday, March 15, at Tanaka Farms in Irvine, we welcomed an enthusiastic crowd close to 1,000 people for the Third Annual Walk to Feed OC. Friends, families and corporate teams joined together for a 1.5-mile non-competitive walk, united by a shared purpose to raise funds and awareness about food and nutritional insecurity in Orange County.

**Together, we walked and raised \$222,912 - that's enough to provide almost nine truckloads of produce to our community!**

We were overwhelmed with the support of individuals from all walks of life coming together – from volunteers to participants, supporters and sponsors. We all took steps toward an Orange County where everyone has access to nutritious food.

**Thank you to our Walk to Feed OC presenting sponsor:**



There's still time to make a difference! Scan the QR code or visit [feedoc.org/walk-donate](https://feedoc.org/walk-donate) to give.



Thank you to the top Walk to Feed OC sponsors for stepping up:



# Behind the Scenes: Our Sourcing Team

At Second Harvest Food Bank, our Sourcing Department is the driving force behind our mission to provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food for community members across Orange County. All the food we distribute starts with this team's tireless efforts to secure high-quality, nutrient-rich produce, dairy, lean proteins and dry goods for our community.

How does the sourcing process work? By purchasing food in bulk, securing large-scale donations from major food manufacturers and distributors, and rescuing surplus food from local grocery stores, the Sourcing Department ensures a steady flow of essential items to our Partner Network.

Our commitment to fresh, locally grown food really shines in the Sourcing Department, evident in our Farm programs. These programs include Harvest Solutions Farm – an innovative collaboration with the University of California South Coast Research & Extension Center and Solutions for Urban Agriculture – and Founders Farm located at Southwinds Farm & Gardens. Through these important partnerships, we're not only feeding families, but also investing in sustainable solutions for the future.

**We're always seeking partnerships with local businesses and farms to expand our impact. If you're a food manufacturer or distributor, join us in helping to feed OC. Email [FoodSourcing@feedoc.org](mailto:FoodSourcing@feedoc.org) today!**



*Pallets of food await distribution to the community, thanks to Second Harvest's Sourcing Team's efforts.*



*Photo Courtesy of Boys & Girls Club of Capistrano Valley - Aliso Viejo*



*Photo courtesy of Families Forward*

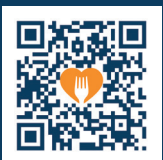
## PROUD OF OUR PARTNERS!

Our nearly 300 partners share our commitment to ensuring that everyone in Orange County has access to fresh, nutritious food. We're pleased to share some exciting updates from our Partner Network!

In February, **Boys & Girls Club of Capistrano Valley - Aliso Viejo** became our newest partner! Their ribbon-cutting and distribution were a huge success, bringing fresh, nutritious food to an often forgotten community in OC.

Also in February, **Families Forward**, one of our longest serving partners, celebrated the ribbon-cutting and opening of their newly designed client choice pantry.

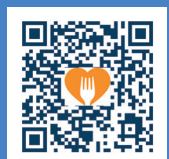
We're grateful for the collaboration with these wonderful partners!



**See which Second Harvest partners are helping out your community members by scanning the QR code here.**

## A NOTE ABOUT COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES

Second Harvest no longer directly accepts food drive donations because our main focus is to provide the highest level of nutrition and quality to those we serve. Instead, we process bulk pallets and truckloads of food from local and national commercial manufacturers and distributors that meet the current high volume of need. However, many of our partners and pantries welcome food drive donations! **Please scan the QR code to find one near you that will accept your contribution.**



# Founders Farm–Fresh Recipe

Try this fresh, bright dip just in time for Spring picnics. This dish highlights Swiss chard which can be found growing at our Founders Farm. Enjoy this delicious dip with any flatbread or chip!

## SWISS CHARD TAHINI DIP

Makes about 2½ cups

Dip can be made 3 days ahead

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 bunches green-stemmed Swiss chard (about 1½ lb.)
- 2/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided, plus more
- 5 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup tahini
- 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
- Kosher salt
- Toasted flatbread and lemon wedges (for serving)

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Remove ribs and stems from Swiss chard leaves and finely chop. Tear leaves into small pieces. Set both aside separately.
2. Heat 2/3 cup oil in a large pot over medium-low. Cook reserved ribs and stems, stirring often and adding a splash of water if they start to brown, until tender, 5-7 minutes. Add garlic; cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add reserved chard leaves by the handful, letting them wilt before adding more; cook, tossing, until all the leaves are wilted and tender, 10-12 minutes total. Let cool. Squeeze excess liquid from mixture into a measuring glass (You should have about ½ cup liquid).
3. Place Swiss chard mixture and 1 tbsp. cooking liquid in a food processor and add tahini, lemon juice, and 1/3 cup oil. Season with salt and process, adding more cooking liquid if needed, until dip is creamy and only speckles of chard remain. This could take up to 5 minutes. Season with more salt if needed.
4. Transfer dip to a serving bowl and drizzle with more oil. Serve with flatbread and lemon wedges.
5. Cover and chill.



# Thank You To Our Funders

We appreciate these generous supporters who have made recent grants of \$5,000 or more to Second Harvest. Ask your company if employee nominations for grants are accepted. Contact [grants@feedoc.org](mailto:grants@feedoc.org) for more information.

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Labcorp Charitable Foundation  
O.L. Halsell Foundation  
Orange County United Way  
S. Mark Taper Foundation  
The Walt Disney Company

## In The News

Second Harvest continues to shine in key local media coverage. Here are some recent clips:



Daily Pilot/TimesOC | Second Harvest Food Bank Enjoys Life on the Farm



The Orange County Register | Many Hands Make Harvesting Crops for Second Harvest Food Bank Successful



8014 Marine Way  
Irvine, CA 92618-2235

## Contact us

**WAYNE STICKNEY**  
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
**949.208.3176**  
[wayne@feedoc.org](mailto:wayne@feedoc.org)

**CRYSTAL TOSELLO**  
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN  
**949.620.3994**  
[Crystal@feedoc.org](mailto:Crystal@feedoc.org)

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