

IN THE NEWS: *Legislative Season is in Full Swing!*



Last month, Second Harvest held our annual Legislative Staffer Luncheon where we welcomed federal and state district staffers to the Food Bank. A highlight of the afternoon was when one of our Community Champions, Mia, shared her personal hunger story with the group.

On April 22, Congressman Lou Correa led a community conversation at Community Action Partnership Orange County with several Orange County organizations, including Second Harvest, to discuss food insecurity.

At the end of April, Second Harvest traveled to Sacramento along with a dozen other anti-hunger and anti-poverty groups as part of the California Hunger Action Coalition's annual Hunger Action Day. We met with our State Senators and Assemblymembers to highlight the heightened food need here in Orange County, as well as to educate them on the importance of protecting and strengthen investments in food banks, CalFresh, and school meals.



LEARN MORE: [Learn more about our coalition partners, including California Hunger Action Coalition, on our advocacy page on our website](#)

Photos clockwise from top: Second Harvest CEO Claudia Bonilla Keller with Advocate Mia; Congressman Lou Correa with Malia Cary, Second Harvest Government & Public Affairs Manager, and Mark Lowry, OC Food Bank Director; Hunger Action Day in Sacramento

BEYOND POLICY: *Welcoming our New Policy & Advocacy Fellow*

We are thrilled to welcome Alejandro Aular as our new Dr. John Ralls Policy & Advocacy Fellow at Second Harvest. Alejandro brings a wealth of experience in policy analysis and government relations. We are excited to have him join our advocacy team!



Alejandro Aular

The Fellowship position is named in honor of Second Harvest Board Member Dr. John Ralls, who passed away in 2024. Dr. Ralls was a valued advisor and champion of Second Harvest's advocacy work, having spent a majority of his career in the public health sector here in Orange County. We will miss Dr. Ralls and his contributions to the Food Bank, but we are grateful to be able to have this Fellowship in his honor.



Dr. John Ralls

ENGAGE: *Protecting SNAP/CalFresh*

Take a moment and [send an email to your Member of Congress](#) to urge them to protect SNAP/CalFresh.

ON THE CALENDAR:

May 14 – California budget May revise released

May 24-31 – Congressional Recess