SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

Spring 2026

Helping Families Keep Up in Uncertain Times

For many families across Orange County, the margin between feeling financially stable and overextended has grown thinner. This is due to the need to navigate ever-increasing prices for necessities such as rent, fuel, food and unexpected medical bills. As Second Harvest Food Bank CEO Claudia Bonilla Keller recently shared in a letter to The Los Angeles Times, it often takes just one small shift in circumstances to change what feels manageable into something uncertain.

We strive to remain a steady source of support as living expenses continue to change for the families and individuals we serve. Through our network of nearly 300 partners, Second Harvest provides reliable access to nutritious food across Orange County, helping community members to stay nourished as they navigate the financial challenges they may face.

Together, we are meeting the need with care and hope, working toward a healthier Orange County for all.

Los Angeles Times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 A13

OPINION VOICES

The fragility of the middle class

Re "Is the middle class shrinking or just struggling?," Opinion Voices, Jan. 16

THE recent opinion piece questioning whether the middle class is truly shrinking raises an important point about how economic health is measured. But from where I sit, as the CEO of a regional food bank, the picture is more complicated.

Orange County's median household income exceeds $110,000. By most national definitions, that level of income places a household squarely within the middle class. Yet local data shows that more than 50% of Orange County renters spend at least 30% of their income on housing, and nearly all households struggling to meet basic needs include at least one working adult. When the gap between income and essential costs is this narrow, even working families have little margin for disruption. A single increase in housing, healthcare or child-care costs can quickly push households into food insecurity.

The middle class may not be shrinking, but for many families who remain in it, it has become far more fragile. Any assessment of economic well-being should consider not just income mobility, but stability and resilience as well.

This writer is CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

CLAUDIA BONILLA-KELLER
Irvine

> "When the gap between income and essential costs is this narrow, even working families have little margin for disruption. A single increase in housing, healthcare or childcare costs can quickly push households into food insecurity."
>
> CLAUDIA BONILLA KELLER, SECOND HARVEST CEO

Scan to read Claudia's letter

Turning Generosity Into Greater Impact

With food insecurity affecting an increasing number of households across Orange County, your support has never been more important.

Because Second Harvest sources food on a large scale, every dollar donated goes significantly further than it would at a grocery store. A financial gift to the Food Bank has far greater impact than a donation of food items because it allows us to leverage bulk purchasing power, secure deeply discounted pricing and buy exactly what's needed most.

That efficiency means your support helps provide more food to more people. **When you support Second Harvest, your impact fortifies a system designed to meet growing need with care, dignity and efficiency.**

Visit feedoc.org/newsletter-gift/ to donate.

What you can buy with $25 at the store...

VS.

What we can source with a $25 donation...

Pricing comparison based on major OC grocery store costs and Second Harvest's negotiated pricing as of February 2026.

Meet Shari & Harold Horne: Changing the Conversation Around SNAP

Shari Horne is a community leader and full-time caregiver for her husband, Harold, who is in hospice care. Like many seniors living on fixed income in Orange County, she relies on SNAP benefits (called "CalFresh" here in California) to help put food on the table.

When delays and uncertainty around SNAP began impacting households across the country in the fall, Shari chose to speak publicly about her experience. She shared her story with CBSLA and NBC4 to help address common misconceptions, reminding people that SNAP recipients include seniors, caregivers and working community members.

SNAP is the nation's primary food assistance program and the safety net for many individuals facing food insecurity. For every nine meals SNAP provides, food banks provide one.* At Second Harvest, we serve as the safety net to the safety net — stepping in when benefits are delayed, disrupted or simply not enough.

We are deeply grateful to Shari for lending her voice to this moment and helping our community better understand the realities facing many Orange County households today.

** www.feedingamerica.org/about-us/press-room/feeding-america-SNAP-lapse*

READ SHARI'S FULL STORY ON CBSLA

Walk to Feed OC Is Back This Spring!

Walk with friends, family and colleagues to support local community members!

On Saturday, April 18, Second Harvest Food Bank invites you to be part of the fourth annual Walk to Feed OC! This fun-filled event brings the community together to support our mission of providing dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food.

Taking place at Tanaka Farms in Irvine, this free, family-friendly and noncompetitive 1.5-mile walk is open to participants of all ages. Every step helps raise critical funds to support Second Harvest and our network of partners serving communities throughout Orange County.

With a goal of raising $300,000, Walk to Feed OC will help provide the equivalent of nearly 120,000 bags of groceries to community members facing food insecurity.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities are open. We hope you will join us and help take steps toward a more food-secure future for Orange County.

JOIN US!
Scan this code to register and learn about corporate sponsorship opportunities!

A Decade of Impact: Food From The Bar

Food From The Bar is a unique annual campaign that brings together members of the legal community to help feed Orange County. This year marks a decade of participation that has generated over $694,000!

Throughout the month of June, participating law firms, legal departments and individuals join in friendly competition and collective giving. The funds they raise support Second Harvest Food Bank's vision of an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all, helping the Food Bank to source and distribute food to community members who rely on our Partner Network.

This initiative is about more than fundraising. It is about using professional networks and shared purpose to create real impact. Every contribution helps strengthen our ability to meet rising needs and ensure consistent access to food for families, seniors and individuals throughout the county.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support this impactful campaign, **visit feedoc.org/food-from-the-bar/.**

FOOD FROM THE BAR ORANGE COUNTY
CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 FOOD FROM THE BAR SPONSORS!

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Chef Tony's Spring Recipe

Beautiful Bounty of Broccolini at Harvest Solutions Farm

Spring is bringing a fresh burst of flavor to Harvest Solutions Farm, especially broccolini! Knife Pleat's Chef Tony Esnault is celebrating the season with a delicious soup that lets this early spring star shine.

Join us in the fields! Help harvest broccolini, along with cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and winter squash, all headed straight to our network of partners and into the hands of community members facing food insecurity. Learn more and sign up to volunteer at **feedoc.org/get-involved/#volunteer.**

BROCCOLINI SOUP | Yields 5 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups diced white onions
- 3 tbsp. chopped garlic
- 3 tbsp. chopped ginger
- 8 cups thinly sliced broccolini
- 2 liters filtered water
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil (optional)
- 1 tbsp. salt
- Additional broccolini, cabbage or cauliflower (optional garnish; please see notes below for preparation)

EQUIPMENT

- 2 pots (with a medium to large surface area)
- 1 spatula
- 1 immersion blender

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by gathering all your produce and equipment.
2. Clean and thinly slice the broccolini.
3. Dice the onions and rough-chop the garlic and ginger.
4. On medium heat, cook the onions, garlic and ginger. Add salt and cook until tender (about 5 minutes).
5. Next, add the broccolini and cook for 2 minutes while stirring until tender.
6. While the vegetables are cooking, bring the water to a boil in a separate pot.
7. Pour the boiling water over the vegetables and immediately blend with immersion blender until smooth. Next, add the olive oil if desired.
8. **Enjoy!**

NOTES: This delicious soup may be served hot or cold. Consider adding a garnish of blanched broccolini, cabbage or cauliflower; to prepare, cut into 1/2-inch diameter, cook in boiling salted water for about 2 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

Thank You to Our Funders

We appreciate these generous supporters who have made recent grants or contributions of $5,000 or more to Second Harvest. Ask your company if employee nominations for grants are accepted and contact us at grants@feedoc.org. Reach out to give@feedoc.org to learn about our corporate partnerships, where your brand will be recognized as a driving force for good. Together, we can have an even greater impact, providing a foundation for community health.

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In the News

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

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

$2.50 | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 | OCREGISTER.COM

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Second Harvest Food Bank supplies nourishment to 380 county pantries

By Andre Mouchard
AMOUCHARD@SCNG.COM

Looking for someone to help? Every weekday from now through mid-December we'll offer brief descriptions of nonprofits that might benefit from your generosity.

CHARITY NAME: Second Harvest Food Bank

WHAT IT DOES: The Irvine-based agency provides food to about 380 pantries in Orange County, a network that this year has fed nearly 450,000 people a month. The group offers help to anyone who needs it.

Orange County Register | Second Harvest Food Bank Supplies Nourishment to 380 County Pantries

December 4, 2025

BLUEDOOR

ROOTED IN GENEROSITY

How a 30-plus-year partnership has helped Second Harvest Food Bank nourish a growing need

COMMUNITY

Blue Door Magazine | Rooted in Generosity: How a 30-Year Partnership Has Helped Second Harvest Food Bank Nourish a Growing Need

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