SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

Press Kit

THE NEED
IN ORANGE COUNTY

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

OUR WORK FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IS NOT DONE

Feeding America is a nationwide network of 198 food banks of which Second Harvest is a member. The organization released the latest statistics on food insecurity in America, and these staggering numbers prove our work at Second Harvest continues to be critical for the health and well-being of everyone in Orange County.

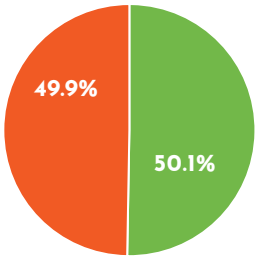
387,370
PEOPLE IN ORANGE COUNTY ARE FOOD INSECURE
(+6% VS. YAG)

1 IN 8
INDIVIDUALS IS FOOD INSECURE

112,420
CHILDREN IN ORANGE COUNTY ARE FOOD INSECURE
(+27% VS. YAG)

1 IN 6
CHILDREN IS FOOD INSECURE

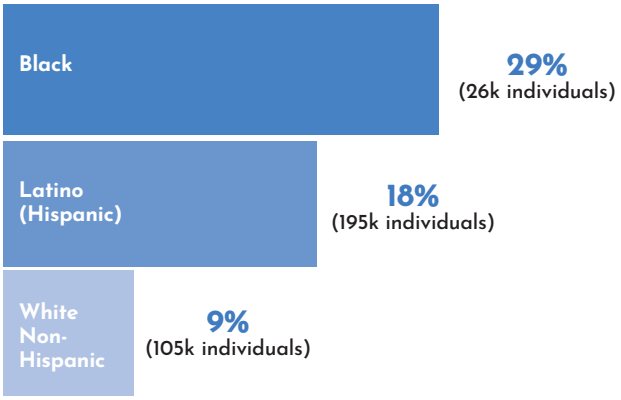
2024 OC FOOD INSECURE POPULATION ELIGIBLE FOR CALFRESH BENEFITS



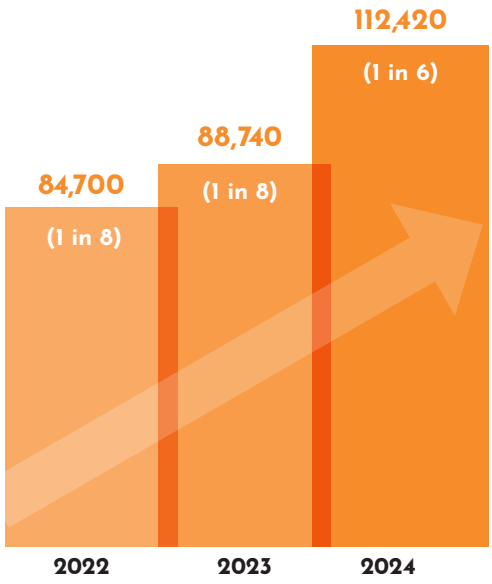
*Percent of food insecure people with incomes or assets that are too high to qualify for CalFresh/ SNAP benefits.

FOOD INSECURITY RATES IN ORANGE COUNTY BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Food insecurity rates in Orange County are highest in communities of color – 29% of the Black community are food insecure and 18% of the Latino community, versus 9% of individuals who are White.. The largest number of food-insecure individuals is in the Latino population (195,000 people).



FOOD INSECURITY ON THE RISE AMONG OC CHILDREN



As of July 28, 2026; Calendar Year 2024; Source: https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2024/overall/california/county/orange

8014 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618-2235 • 949.653.2900 • @SHFBOC
Federal Tax ID #32-0362611

DONATE AT FEEDOC.ORG

SECOND HARVEST
AT A GLANCE

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK WAS FOUNDED IN 1983 as the Food Distribution Center by the Council of Orange, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1997, the food bank was rebranded and named Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Second Harvest moved from its location in Orange to Irvine 10 years later.

We serve the Orange County community and distribute nutritious food through a network of partners and pantries throughout the county. They include houses of worship, schools, after-school programs, colleges and universities, senior centers, shelters for the unhoused, soup kitchens and transitional housing facilities.

OUR VISION

An Orange County with food and nutritional security for all.

OUR MISSION

In collaboration with our partners, we provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food, creating a foundation for community health.

OUR VALUES

Integrity & Accountability, People First, Compassion, Purpose Driven, Stewardship

WAYS TO GIVE

- Volunteer
- Give a Gift
- Host a Virtual Food Drive
- Donate Cryptocurrency, Stocks, by IRA Rollover or through Legacy Gifts

OUR TEAM

Led by CEO Claudia Bonilla Keller, Second Harvest has 107 employees and is a member of the Feeding America network.

FACILITIES & FLEET

Second Harvest is located in Irvine on 6.5 acres. The 108,000-sq-foot **DISTRIBUTION CENTER** includes 14,550 square feet of cold storage including two cold docks. Our **FLEET** includes box trucks, tractors and 28'-53' trailers. Located 3.6 miles away from the Food Bank, **HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM** was launched in August 2021. Since its founding, the 40+ acre farm has allowed us to harvest more than 7 million pounds of nutrient-rich produce.

WE SOURCE FOOD FIVE WAYS

1 PURCHASING
nutritious food in bulk

2 ACQUIRING
large volume donations from major food manufacturers and distributors

3 RESCUING FOOD
donations collected from grocery stores

4 RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
from federal and local government

5 GROWING
our own produce at Harvest Solutions Farm

As of May 15, 2025

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HOW THE FOOD BANK WORKS
SOURCES AND DESTINATIONS

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ORANGE COUNTY

WE SUPPLY MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF FOOD from five primary sources to houses of worship, schools, after-school programs, colleges & universities, senior centers, shelters for the unhoused, soup kitchens and transitional housing facilities. Only with their help are we able to reach those facing food insecurity by:

PURCHASING
nutritious food in bulk

ACQUIRING
large volume donations from major food manufacturers and distributors

RESCUING FOOD
donations collected from grocery stores

RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
from federal and local government

GROWING
our own produce at Harvest Solutions Farm & Founders Farm

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

SCHOOLS

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

SENIOR CENTERS

SHELTERS FOR THE UNHOUSED

SOUP KITCHENS

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITIES

As of May 30, 2025

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OUR IMPACT
IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

SERVING INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY

42.1M
POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

458,995*
PEOPLE SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

138,231
CHILDREN SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

100,844
SENIORS SERVED PER MONTH ON AVERAGE

PROVIDING FOOD THROUGH 286 PARTNERS AT 380 DISTRIBUTION SITES, INCLUDING:

7
PERMANENT SCHOOL PANTRIES

67
AFTER-SCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

76
MOBILE SCHOOL PANTRIES

53
SENIOR-SERVING LOCATIONS

18
COLLEGE PANTRIES

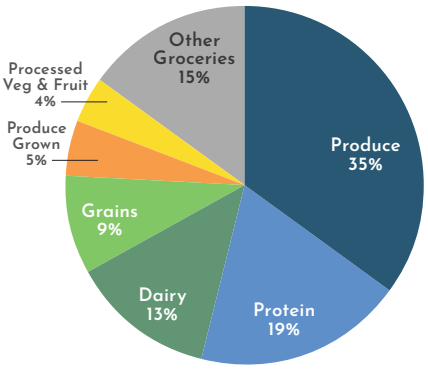
DID YOU KNOW?

IN FY 2025...

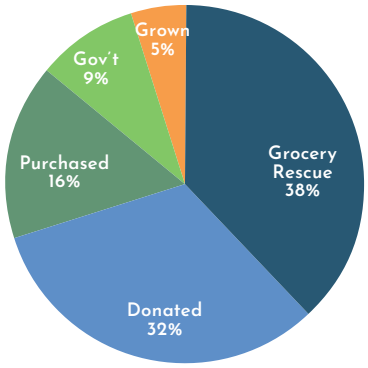
- Over **2 million pounds** of nutritious produce, equivalent to 50 truckloads, was harvested at Harvest Solutions Farm.
- Our trucks and drivers traveled **208,000 miles**, over eight times around the globe.
- We purchased over **637,000** half gallons of milk – enough to give every O.C. resident and more a glass of milk (cookies not included).

FOOD DISTRIBUTED

BY TYPE



BY SOURCE



*Duplicated. Those seeking food assistance often visit a pantry more than once per month.

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FARM PROGRAMS

HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM

OVERVIEW

Harvest Solutions Farm is an innovative component of Second Harvest's strategy to provide food and nutritional security for all in Orange County. With Harvest Solutions Farm, we have strengthened operations and paved the way for a new focus on pursuing planned nutrition based on consistent access to fresh protein, produce and dairy—rather than relying on situational nutrition driven solely by donations. Our business model now focuses on the weekly purchase, bulk donation, and now **harvesting** of nutritious food.

Harvest Solutions Farm allows Second Harvest to mitigate challenges like rising food prices and supply chain disruptions. The Farm's location, just 3.6 miles from the Food Bank, greatly reduces the number of miles trucks drive to deliver ultra-fresh produce to our distribution center and thereby reduces the environmental impact. And, it drastically cuts the time from "farm to plate," providing children, families and seniors in our community with consistent access to the nutrient-dense food that can set them up for success in school, at work, and in life.

The Details

Farm Launch: August 2021

Partners: Solutions for Urban Agriculture, led by A.G. Kawamura, Board Chairman and former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and University of California South Coast Research & Extension Center (South Coast REC).

Location: The Farm is located at South Coast REC, a 100+ acre agricultural research center in Irvine. The availability of fields for use by Second Harvest Food Bank for Harvest Solutions Farm is based on South Coast REC's research projects and is revisited semi-annually. Throughout the year, Harvest Solutions Farm encompasses up to 40 acres.

Crop Selection: Crops are selected for Harvest Solutions Farm based on several considerations including: soil and weather, availability, partner network interest, wide appeal among various cultures and ethnicities, and availability from bulk donation sources.

Crops:

- First planting in August 2021: 26,000 cabbage transplants
- Fall/Winter – Cabbage, broccoli, broccolini, cauliflower, spaghetti squash, acorn squash and butternut squash
- Spring/Summer – Zucchini, yellow squash, bell peppers, spicy peppers (jalapeño), watermelon and green beans

Volunteer Support: Volunteers (ages 7+) are key to the success of Harvest Solutions Farm. Volunteer shifts are Tuesday through Saturday, and activities include planting, weeding and harvesting. To date, we have averaged 180 volunteers per week.

- Volunteer opportunities for kids ages 7-13 with chaperone.
- Volunteer opportunities for older teens ages 16-17 (no chaperone required)

"I love volunteering at Harvest Solutions Farm because I love being outside. It's nice to be outdoors in the quiet and experience the peacefulness of the farm. And it's an opportunity to see first-hand how our efforts are going toward feeding people with every piece of produce we harvest." -Steve Z.

HARVEST SOLUTIONS FARM

OVERVIEW (continued)

The Impact

Total Pounds: Since the project began, we have harvested more than **7.8 million pounds** of produce for the community (through 6/30/25).

Harvest By Season in FY25:

Spring/Summer Harvest (lbs.)	
Bell Peppers	66,747
Green Beans	23,785
Honeydew Melon	52,502
Hot Peppers	9
Jalapenos	32,878
Mixed Produce	1,867
Tomatoes	2,359
Watermelons	71,646
Yellow Squash	80,708
Zucchini	321,867
Subtotal	654,368

Fall/Winter Harvest (lbs.)	
Acorn Squash	25,864
Broccoli	374,207
Broccolini	21,678
Butternut Squash	39,111
Cabbage	686,566
Cauliflower	184,606
Spaghetti Squash	68,545
Subtotal	1,400,577
Total FY25	2,054,945

Partner Distribution: Produce from Harvest Solutions Farm is distributed to our network of over 300 partner sites throughout Orange County.

The Future

We will continue to cultivate crops that are used frequently in the community, and we will look to diversify our selection of produce as the project progresses. We are continuing to market our volunteer opportunities to audiences. We hope to inspire other food banks across the nation to use this model as a blueprint for providing fresh, nutritious produce to local communities.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FARM PROGRAMS

Join us as we plant, harvest, weed and maintain the fields of **Harvest Solutions Farm** and the grow boxes at **Founders Farm**, both located just down the road from the Food Bank in Irvine. These are outdoor opportunities.

Individuals **ages 7 years and older** are welcome. Children 7-15 years must be accompanied by a registered adult chaperone. No chaperone is required for teens ages 16 and 17.

Harvest Solutions Farm shifts can accommodate groups of up to 70 people.

Volunteer shifts*:

- Harvest Solutions Farm: Tuesday – Saturday
- Founders Farm: Tuesday and Thursday

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Volunteer at our Distribution Center at 8014 Marine Way in Irvine. Participants assist in a variety of projects, including processing nutritious food to be distributed to our community Partner Network and loading Park-It Market, our mobile market, with items such as fresh produce, non-perishable goods and other supplies needed for the distribution.

Individuals **ages 13 years and older** are welcome. Children 13-15 years must be accompanied by a registered adult chaperone. No chaperone is required for teens ages 16 and 17.

Volunteer shifts* are Monday-Saturday

For more information including shift days & times and volunteer waivers, please visit **feedoc.org/volunteer** or scan the QR code. For questions, please contact us at volunteer@feedoc.org.

VOLUNTEER

2026 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING & TEAM BUILDING

Provide a positive and meaningful volunteer opportunity for your employees by volunteering with Second Harvest! Volunteer shifts often involve individuals working in teams, encouraging collaboration while making a positive impact on the community. According to a recent study, **74% of employees experience increased job satisfaction when their employers provide volunteer opportunities that impact the community**. (Source: 2016 Cone Communications Employee Engagement Study)

Farm Programs – Plant, harvest, weed and maintain the fields of **Harvest Solutions Farm** and the grow boxes at **Founders Farm** in Irvine (ages 7+).

Volunteer shifts*:

- Harvest Solutions Farm: Tuesday – Saturday
- Founders Farm: Tuesday and Thursday

Distribution Center (DC) – Assist in a variety of projects in our Irvine DC that help us process food to send out to the community (ages 13+).

Volunteer shifts* are Monday – Saturday

*Shift times vary and are shown on our website.

Visit feedoc.org/volunteer or scan the QR code for current schedule and more information. Contact Volunteer@feedoc.org for questions.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Walk to Feed OC
Sat., April 18, 2026
Support our fourth annual walk event by sponsoring and/or signing up your company as a team and inviting staff and family members to join the walk and make an impact on the community.

Food From The Bar (FTTB)
June 1 – June 30, 2026
A friendly month-long competition within the OC legal community, FFTB allows employees to connect while making an impact. Support this competition with your office by sponsoring, raising funds and volunteering.

"No Lunch" Lunch
Th., November 19, 2026
Our signature annual event brings together the community for a soup and bread lunch. Together we reflect and celebrate gratitude in your partnership, as well as look toward the year ahead.

2026 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Second Harvest Tour – Get a behind-the-scenes look at our 108,000-square-foot Distribution Center or the Farm Programs – the 40-acre Harvest Solutions Farm and Founders Farm. Hosted tours allow you to see how your support impacts the community.

Employee Lunch & Learn – Invite a Second Harvest representative to visit your office, in-person or virtually, to facilitate a 1-hour educational meeting to share an overview about how food banking works and explore how your team can get involved.

Your Corporate Foundation – If your company has a corporate foundation, consider introducing Second Harvest to explore how supporting the Food Bank will align with your foundation's mission and values.

Employee Giving & Employer Matching – Many employers encourage employees to support their favorite causes by matching their donations. If your company has an employee giving program, let's connect to see how we can partner together and make Second Harvest a favorite nonprofit among your employees!

Virtual Food Drive (VFD) –
feedoc.org/get-involved/#food-drive
VFD is an online fundraising platform that provides your employees a way to tap into their social network to raise funds to support our mission. Through our online fundraising platform, VFDs are user-friendly and a great way to get the whole office involved – you can even make it a friendly competition!

In-Kind Giving – Consider a contribution of goods, services, or expertise, especially donations of paid advertising (in business journals, digital ads, at sports venues, etc.) to Second Harvest to help spread awareness about food and nutritional insecurity in Orange County.

Second Harvest's Associates Board – Consider nominating an executive or leader to serve on the Second Harvest Associates Board.

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE
OVERVIEW

What is a Virtual Food Drive?
A Virtual Food Drive is a fundraising platform that provides an opportunity to engage your employees, colleagues, friends, and family while helping to provide nutritious food for children, families and seniors in Orange County.

Skip the store with a Virtual Food Drive! This is an easy and convenient web-based tool that allows everyone to participate, regardless of location. Virtual Food Drive donations support Second Harvest's efforts including bulk food purchasing, operations, programming, and more.

Why Support a Virtual Food Drive?
Second Harvest Food Bank's Virtual Food Drives make it easy to help Orange County families in need and make a difference in our community. You can join us in making sure that all who need our help can access healthy food. With just a few clicks, you can help Second Harvest in our vision of an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all.

Example of How Your Support Helps
By supporting a Virtual Food Drive, you are helping to provide food for families like Kimberly's. Kimberly's family is among those we serve. Kimberly, a Vanguard University student, has turned to the school's pantry for food assistance, both for herself and her family.

"Not having access to food has been very difficult. College students shouldn't have to worry about what they're going to eat. They should be thinking about finishing assignments and studying for their exams."
– Kimberly

Learn more!
Visit https://feedoc.org/get-involved/#food-drive or point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right. Or email us at yourfooddrive@feedoc.org.

Note: Items on the Virtual Food Drive page and pictured here are representative of food Second Harvest purchases using Virtual Food Drive funds to provide food to people experiencing food-insecurity.

For media inquiries, please contact us at communications@feedoc.org or (949) 653-2900.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

07-2026