



SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD
BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

Fall 2026

The Need Is Growing

New data shows food insecurity is rising across Orange County, with children experiencing the sharpest increase.

The new *Map the Meal Gap* report from Feeding America shows **387,370 Orange County residents – one in eight – experienced food insecurity in 2024 (the most recent year available)**, a 6% increase from the previous year. Even more concerning is the increase in food insecurity among children (please see the "By the Numbers" graphic to the right).

Behind these numbers are community members balancing the rising costs of food, housing and other essentials. Nearly half of those experiencing food insecurity are not eligible for CalFresh (nationally called SNAP or sometimes referred to as food stamps) because their income or assets exceed eligibility limits.

These figures predate recent changes to CalFresh eligibility. As those changes take effect, Second Harvest anticipates more community members may turn to local food assistance.

Together with our Partner Network, Second Harvest is providing consistent access to nutritious food while working toward an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all. **Thank you for being someone who shares that vision. Your generosity helps put it into action.**

Source: Feeding America, *Map the Meal Gap*, 2024 county-level data.

Donate. Volunteer. Tour. Advocate.

Visit feedoc.org/get-involved to learn more.



BY THE NUMBERS

FOOD INSECURITY IN ORANGE COUNTY

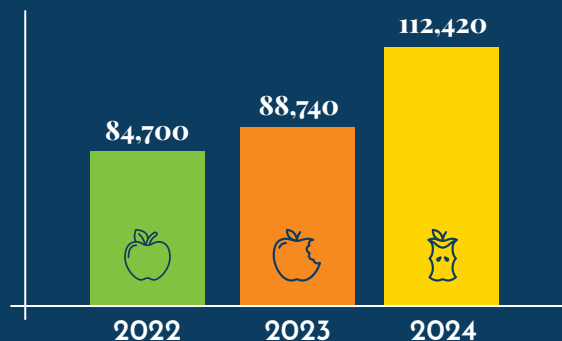
1 in 8

387,370 ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY

1 in 6

112,420 ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY

FOOD INSECURITY AMONG OC CHILDREN IS RISING



Simply Indispensable

The *Orange County Business Journal* recently named two Second Harvest team members among its **2026 Indispensables**, recognizing professionals outside the C-Suite who help their organizations thrive. Honors went to **Agriculture Manager Hannah Ortiz** and **Director of Sourcing Rachel Parris**. Their dedication helps ensure a consistent supply of nutritious food for the families, seniors and children we serve across Orange County. **Congratulations, Hannah and Rachel!**

Join us! Volunteer with Hannah at Harvest Solutions Farm or sign up for a volunteer shift in our Distribution Center.

Learn more at feedoc.org/volunteer.



L-R: Hannah Ortiz and Rachel Parris, Second Harvest Indispensables

KEEP THE
MOMENTUM
GOING
VISIT [FEEDOC.ORG](https://feedoc.org)/
GET-INVOLVED

Orange County Took Action

Each September, **Hunger Action Month** brings the community together to raise awareness and take action against hunger. In 2026, the **Orange County Board of Supervisors** and **ALL 34 OC City Councils** issued official Proclamations declaring September as Hunger Action Month. The community stepped up by joining us for special activities, such as a **Hunger Action Month kickoff** and **youth volunteer activity** with **Pretend City Children's Museum**, a **Cal State Fullerton** volunteer day in our Distribution Center and our **Food Insecurity 101** webinar.

Thank you for sharing our belief that everyone in Orange County should have consistent access to nutritious food and for supporting our efforts to address it.



September is
**Hunger
Action
Month**



The Orange County Board of Supervisors officially declare September as Hunger Action Month



Pretend City Children's Museum in Irvine kicked off the month with a proclamation and youth volunteer activity



Second Harvest CEO Claudia Bonilla Keller, Tuffy the Titan and Cal State Fullerton President Dr. Ronald S. Rochon

Announcing Second Harvest's New Board Directors

Second Harvest is pleased to welcome our new Board Chair & Directors!



Maria Zlidar Richards
Board Chair



Kathy Bronstein
KB Consulting



Matt Greville
Farmers & Merchants Bank



Kristin Lynch
Edwards Lifesciences



Mark Minyard
Minyard Morris



Amanda Neal
PwC

Together, they bring deep expertise spanning business, finance, banking, law and community leadership to help advance our vision of an Orange County with food and nutritional security for all.

We're grateful for our leaders who generously share their time and talents to strengthen our community.

Save the Date: Walk to Feed OC

Save the date for the **5th Annual Walk to Feed OC!** Walk with us, rally a team or become a sponsor to help support our efforts to ensure food and nutritional security throughout Orange County.



New Location!

Great Park, Irvine

Saturday, April 17, 2027

Walk. Fundraise. Sponsor.
Make an Impact.

Lean more at feedoc.org/walk



Chef Tony's Guide to Fall Produce

Chef Tony Esnault of Knife Pleat shares his tips for picking and prepping the types of produce grown at Harvest Solutions Farm, our partnership with Solutions for Urban Agriculture and University of California South Coast Research & Extension Center, where volunteers harvest about 50,000 pounds of fresh produce each week for our community.

A TOAST TO FOOD SECURITY

This Hunger Action Month, **Knife Pleat** raised a glass for a good cause with a special cocktail supporting Second Harvest. **Cheers to Chef Tony and Knife Pleat co-owner and Second Harvest Board Director Yassmin Sarmadi.**



PICK LIKE A CHEF



Butternut Squash

Look for one that feels heavy for its size with firm, smooth, deep-beige skin and a dry, firm stem.



Broccoli

Choose tight, dark-green florets and a sturdy stalk. It should feel heavy and compact.



Cabbage

Pick a head that feels heavy and dense with crisp, fresh-looking outer leaves.



Cauliflower

Look for a firm, compact, creamy-white head surrounded by fresh green leaves.

PREP LIKE A CHEF

A Better Way to Prep Butternut Squash

Butternut squash's thick skin can be difficult to cut, so Chef Tony has some suggestions on how to safely prepare it.



Stabilize



Trim



Peel



Halve



Scoop



Cube

Trim both ends and peel to reveal the orange flesh. Separate the narrow neck from the bulb. Cut the neck into cubes, then halve the bulb lengthwise, scoop out the seeds and cube.

Chef Tony's Easy Roasted Fall Veggies

The easiest way to bring out the flavor in all four vegetables? **Roast them!**

High heat creates deliciously browned, caramelized edges.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 small butternut squash
- 1 head broccoli
- 1 head cabbage
- 1 head cauliflower
- 2-3 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- Red pepper flakes to taste
- Juice of 1 lemon



ROAST

Heat oven to 425°F. Wash and cut vegetables into bite-sized pieces or wedges. Toss with olive oil and seasonings, then spread in a single layer on a large sheet pan. **Roast 25-35 minutes**, turning halfway through, until tender and browned. Finish with a squeeze of fresh lemon.

Bon appétit!





Food From The Bar participants and award winners.

Raising The Bar Even Higher

Orange County's legal community celebrated the **10th anniversary of Food From The Bar** in record-breaking fashion, raising **\$220,000** to support Second Harvest – the highest total in campaign history! Over the past decade, the friendly competition among local law firms, attorneys and legal associations has now raised more than **\$912,000** to help provide nutritious food throughout Orange County.

Southern California sculptor Raymond Persinger, known for his expressive public art throughout Orange County, has created an original perpetual Pro Bono Publico Award (pictured to the right) for our Food From The Bar campaign, which will honor a new participating law firm each year.

Thank you to co-title sponsors **Manly, Stewart & Finaldi** and **Minyard Morris**, and to everyone who put their generosity into action for our community.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 ADVISORY BOARD

Mark Minyard, Chair
Kay Anderle
Kayla Arnoni
Var Fox
Julian Freeman
Todd Friedland
Melissa Gorin
Ashley A. Halberda
Isaiah Leslie
John Manly
Garett Sleichter
Reza Torkzadeh

AWARD WINNERS

Pro Bono Publico Award (Overall Winner)	Minyard Morris
Rockstar Rainmaker (Raising the Most Funds)	Crowell & Moring (large), Judicate West (medium), Bienert Katzman Littrell Williams LLP (small)
Rockstar "Ranglers" (Outstanding Coordinators)	Kayla Arnoni (Palmieri Tyler) and Isaiah Leslie (Regal Court Reporting)
Rockstar Rookie (First-Year Participant Raising the Most Funds)	Crowell & Moring
Raising the Bar (Largest Individual Donor)	Var Fox (Judicate West)
Rockstar Voluntarius (Most Volunteer Hours)	Minyard Morris

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 how to become a **Corporate Impact Partner** – where **your brand will be recognized as a driving force for good** – such as the companies **bolded below**. Together, we can have an even greater impact, providing a foundation for community health.

The Alberta S. Kimball - Mary L. Anhaltzer Foundation

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Feeding America

Fletcher Jones Management West

The Fluor Foundation

Golden State Foods Foundation

Keller Anderle LLP

Lionakis

Minyard Morris LLP

Nationwide Foundation

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Parker Foundation

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Whole Foods Market

Wright Ford Young & Co.

In the News

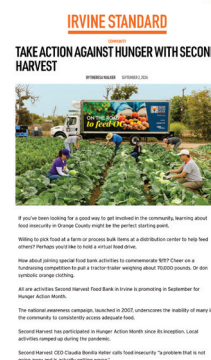
Second Harvest continues to shine in key local media coverage. Here are some recent clips:



Orange County Register
July 31, 2026



NBC4
August 5, 2026



Irvine Standard
September 2, 2026





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