

NewsFeed

ENDING HUNGER THROUGH FOOD RESCUE





PAGE 04



PAGE 08



PAGE 09



PAGE 11



PAGE 12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From Our CEO	04
BY THE NUMBERS	
What Was Achieved Last Year With Your Help	05
NEIGHBOR IN NEED	
A Newly Divorced Mother of Five Finds Herself in Need of a Helping Hand	08
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT	
How Feeding San Diego’s Programs Support Thousands of San Diego Students	09
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT	
How One Volunteer Creates Transformational Impact Through Donated Time	11
FOOD RESCUE SPOTLIGHT	
New Legislation Makes Food Rescue Mandatory	12
Our Generous Donors	13
How You Can Help	15

OUR MISSION is to connect every person facing hunger with nutritious meals by maximizing food rescue. **JOIN US.**



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Hello friends,

July 1 marked the start of Feeding San Diego's new fiscal year. Looking back, I am proud of what we were able to accomplish last fiscal year (July 2020 - June 2021): **40,373,990 meals** were distributed to people facing hunger. We couldn't have done it without you — thank you! This was achieved at a time when more than one million people were reported to be facing hunger in San Diego, including more than 284,00 children.*

Our three-year strategic plan has defined aggressive goals to help close the meal gap in San Diego County. In the months and years ahead, you will see our organization working with many other people and nonprofit organizations in a variety of ways. We welcome the opportunity to forge strategic alliances with other inspiring thought leaders and agents of change so we can create an even bigger impact. As a community, we are better together

In the spirit of new beginnings we have redesigned this newsletter to better showcase the work you make possible and to highlight the ongoing opportunities for you to get involved. In the pages ahead, we share stories that span new legislation that promotes food rescue to a feature on a volunteer who has donated more than 700 hours to our organization in just two years. The accomplishments that we bring to light in this newsletter would not be possible without the many people who are involved: our volunteers, partners, staff, board of directors, and donors.

Thank you for being a part of our mission.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Shea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Shea

*According to a report published in November 2020 by the San Diego Hunger Coalition.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Your support made the following possible between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021:



27,282,775

pounds of food rescued



70%

of food distributed was rescued



24,282

metric tons of CO₂ equivalent averted from the atmosphere due to pounds of food rescued.



The sum of greenhouse gases averted is the equivalent of taking **5,281** cars off the road for a year.



21,720

donors supported our mission, including individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations, and government partners



14,739

volunteer hours donated



292

community partners helped distribute meals to the community



Rescued high-quality food from **400** food donors



41

types of produce distributed



FEEDING
SAN DIEGO

~~HUNGER~~

FEED. RESCUE. UNITE.

Food or
medicine?

FOOD
SHOULDN'T
BE AN

IMPOSSIBLE
CHOICE



TAKE ACTION

feedingsandiego.org/cross-out-hunger

Hunger Action Month | FEEDING
AMERICA



A Newly Divorced Mother of Five Finds Herself in Need of a Helping Hand

The fallout from the pandemic continues to affect lives well over a year after it upended life as we knew it. We met Karlyn at one of our Together Tour sites that are dedicated to large-scale food distribution in “hunger hot spots.” She shared more about what led her to need a helping hand and how the pandemic completely changed her life.

“I got divorced in the pandemic. I wasn’t working, I was staying home, homeschooling prior to the pandemic and my divorce. Obviously, I had to be home with my kids to homeschool, so I couldn’t go out and get a full-time job. I’m the only parent. I didn’t have a choice,” she shares.

“Together, me and the kids were doing Instacart as a family. It’s just having to be really creative. I don’t know if the kids will go back to school full-time this fall yet. They haven’t told us anything. I wasn’t working before, so to just jump into a job, I’m all of sudden single, with five kids, and they’re homeschooled. I have the kids 100% of the time.

There was a lot of emotional abuse in my marriage and now the kids and I are doing great. I love being with my kids. Weirdly, the pandemic was a good experience for us. It was a healing time for us except for the fear of the finances, and the food. That’s been hard. So now we’re rebuilding and things like this help. I never knew there was stuff like this out here because I didn’t have to look for it.”

Fortunately, she found out about the Together Tour on Facebook. “I didn’t even know people were still doing this. We had a church who was giving food but then they just stopped doing it. Then I saw this and thought ‘This is awesome.’”

To learn more about the Together Tour series of large-scale free food distributions and see a list of all dates and locations, please visit [**feedingsandiego.org/together-tour**](https://feedingsandiego.org/together-tour).

How Feeding San Diego's Programs Support Thousands of San Diego Students

Feeding San Diego has long provided support to San Diego County students through various programs that alleviate child hunger by providing free, nutritious food to children, youth and their families at their schools. This ensures consistent, reliable access to healthy food in convenient locations where they are already comfortable.

When classrooms in California reopen for the fall term, all 6.2 million public school students will have access to free school meals, regardless of their family's income, thanks to the universal school meal program covered by the California state budget. This is an important step forward, however, hunger extends beyond the walls of the classroom. Feeding San Diego will continue to help feed kids after school, at home, on weekends and during the summer months by working with local schools and community partners. Our programs provide nutritious produce, dry goods, and prepared meals to low-income students and their families at different times of the day and week.

Our **School Pantry Program** provides routine food distributions consistently in the same locations at each campus as well as additional community resources.

The **Backpack Program** provides local students with an easy-to-carry bag filled with healthy staple items and three to four pounds of fresh produce when leaving school on Thursday or Friday afternoon.

The **Youth Meals Program**, which operates the federally funded Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program, helps meet children's needs during the summer months and after school by providing free and nutritious meals and snacks at accessible sites throughout San Diego County.

To learn more about our Feeding Kids initiative and all the programs it encompasses, visit:
feedingsandiego.org/feeding-kids.







Above: Volunteer Gil at the Feeding San Diego distribution center.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

How One Volunteer Creates Transformational Impact Through Donated Time

It's 9 AM on a Friday morning and Gil is ready to serve. In fact, he's already been at this site for three hours, getting everything set up for the day's food distribution. The sun is shining intensely in the parking lot of Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Escondido, but Gil is prepared. He's got his sunglasses, a safety vest, and light-colored clothing to keep him comfortable while checking in over 260 cars that day to receive food assistance. This food distribution alone will support more than 1,200 people facing hunger.

Since Gil started volunteering with Feeding San Diego in June 2019, he has donated 725 hours of his time to our organization. From his presence at every single Together Tour food distribution (34 and counting!) to his creation of a special tool to measure and cut the mesh bags Feeding San Diego packs its produce in, Gil's contributions are many. He finds community in his work with Feeding San Diego, which is what keeps him coming back.

"Everybody seems to enjoy what they are doing," he shares. "I noticed this the very first day I went in for my interview to be a recurring volunteer. I enjoy meeting the different volunteers not only in the warehouse but also at the large distributions. This doesn't overshadow the reason why I volunteered in the first place: I hope I am helping those that are in need a little bit."

You most certainly are, Gil. Thank you for your dedication and support!



New Legislation Makes Food Rescue Mandatory

Starting on January 1, 2022, Senate Bill 1383 will make it mandatory in California for businesses that regularly have surplus edible food, like grocery stores and food distributors, to donate excess food to hunger relief organizations like Feeding San Diego and our community partners. The purpose of this legislation is to minimize the amount of organic waste in landfills, which is a leading cause of methane emission in the atmosphere, according to CalRecycle. In 2024, additional businesses like restaurants and hotels will join the list of those who must donate.

This new legislation makes Feeding San Diego's mission—ending hunger through food rescue—part of the fabric of everyday business for countless companies that regularly have excess food that could feed people facing hunger. It's a major victory for hunger relief organizations throughout the state and will benefit the more than one million people in San Diego County who face hunger.

Feeding San Diego has been rescuing food since it was founded 14 years ago because it was clear that diverting good food from the landfill is a forward-thinking solution to ending hunger and protecting our planet. In our last fiscal year, we rescued 27,282,775 pounds of food and distributed it to those in need. But there's more work to be done: According to ReFed, 35% of all food in the U.S. goes to waste every year. That's \$480 billion worth of food!

Feeding San Diego uses MealConnect, a free app developed by Feeding America, to enable food donors to easily notify our organization when there is excess food to pick up. It's time to feed people, not landfills. If your business has surplus food to donate, or you work for an organization that could distribute food, please visit feedingsandiego.org/donate-food to learn how to get involved.

Below: Vegetables rotting in a landfill that could have been rescued to help feed people facing hunger.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Feeding San Diego extends gratitude to our generous supporters who made gifts of \$2,500 or more, from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

\$100,000 & Above

James Doehring, Estate of Frederic
Mizen Doehring

\$99,999-\$50,000

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Resources Recycling and Recovery
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The Patriots Connection, a program
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we do possible.**



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HOW YOU CAN HELP



FEED 365

A recurring gift of just \$42 per month feeds a family in San Diego for a week! Become a Feed 365 member and join our community of monthly donors. Visit feedingsandiego.org/feed-365



INCLUDE FEEDING SAN DIEGO IN YOUR LEGACY

Make a lasting impact by making a planned gift to Feeding San Diego. We've partnered with FreeWill to help you create your legal will or revocable living trust for free. Call Ali Colbran at (858) 452-3663 x156 or visit feedingsandiego.org/planned-giving.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are critical to our mission. There are many different types of opportunities available for youth, adults, seniors and groups to get involved. Visit feedingsandiego.org/volunteer.



DONATE YOUR CAR

A vehicle donation can help those facing hunger! Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, RV or golf cart in any condition for an impactful tax-deductible donation. To get started, call (855) 500-7433 or visit feedingsandiego.org/donate-your-vehicle.



For more ways to get involved, visit feedingsandiego.org/get-involved or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera.