The incredible story of two local students and their Hunger Action Heroes!
Make a Difference Every Day of the Year

You have the power to provide life changing nutritious meals all year long by joining the Feed 365 community of monthly donors.

$15 a month can provide a meal a day to help military families like Leo’s.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY
feedingsandiego.org/feed-365

Fueling San Diego County Kids

SUMMER MEALS PROGRAMMING GIVES KIDS THE FUEL FOR SUMMER

Did you know that almost 50% of San Diego County students are at risk of losing access to nutritious meals in the summer months? There are nearly 500,000 K-12 students in San Diego County, and over 240,000 of those students rely on free or reduced-price meals while in school! Feeding San Diego’s summer meal programs provide the food needed to play, jump, and grow — the fuel for summer!

This summer, thanks to support from stakeholders like you, Feeding San Diego provided meals for kids at 22 sites across San Diego County and hosted food distributions at San Diego County libraries. Our youth meals team worked with library staff to prioritize rural and high-need communities and worked with recreation centers and other non-profits to establish distribution sites across the county.

We also welcomed local Olympic skateboarder and Feeding San Diego ambassador Bryce Wettstein to Memorial Recreation Center in Logan Heights to kick off the summer and show kids some of her skills!

Pictured: Olympic skateboarder Bryce Wettstein with students at Memorial Recreation Center in Logan Heights.

A Message From Our CEO

Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

While this is certainly not the year we expected when we set out to celebrate our 15-year anniversary, we recognize that even during dark times, there is light. As we continue through the year, this milestone is recognized amidst ongoing upheaval and challenges that continue to test communities and countries around the world. Inflation, war, pandemics, extreme weather, economic uncertainty, the list of hardships goes on. At Feeding San Diego, we see the light in the faces of those we serve. When their need for nutritious meals is met at food distributions across the county, there is a brighter outlook for the future.

The light can also be found in new opportunities. Seeing the local students’ joyous reactions to winning our Hunger Action Hero Art Contest is, quite simply, incredible. To be so young and to have your artwork displayed in a museum is not something every kid gets to experience. We are thankful to Aiden and Sirenna for participating in our contest and congratulate them on having their Hunger Action Heroes, Hunger Halter and Demeter, debuted to the world during San Diego Comic-Con® this past July (read their full story on pages 3-4).

We now have the opportunity to meet more of our neighbors at the Feeding San Diego Marketplace, a new program that is helping provide food to those in Sorrento Valley and surrounding areas. The Marketplace is located at Feeding San Diego’s headquarters and prioritizes client choice and convenience. By allowing people to choose their groceries, order ahead, and pick them up at a time that is convenient for them, we can provide a better experience for those who need access to food assistance.

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September is Hunger Action Month and we are calling on the public to help us Cross Out Hunger. Whether you start a fundraiser, make a donation, or come in to volunteer, we are grateful to you for helping us end hunger through food rescue.

With gratitude,

DAN SHEA
CEO

KEEPING UP WITH OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS

The Good Neighbors program recognizes companies and community groups that help end hunger through food rescue with an annual contribution of $2,500 or more.

CoreGiving is a fellow non-profit that supports Feeding San Diego with its “DOLLARS HOURS MEALS” program. A partner since 2001, CoreGiving helps fight hunger one DOLLAR, one HOUR, and one MEAL at a time.

Target has supported Feeding San Diego since 2010 by providing grant opportunities and financial support. They even included Feeding San Diego in the Target Circle annual campaign last fall!

Recently, Cox Charities awarded Feeding San Diego a grant to support the Feeding Heroes program, which provides food assistance to military families and veterans. In addition to grants and employee giving programs, staff also volunteer at our distribution center to give back.

Become a Good Neighbor! Email Frances Burnett, Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships at fburnett@feedingsandiego.org.

Target Circle

CoreGiving

Cox Charities

GIVE FUNDS. GIVE TIME. GIVE VOICE.

Visit feedingsandiego.org or call 858.452.3663 to get involved.
Hunger Action Heroes, Assemble!

TWO LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED WINNERS OF THE HUNGER ACTION HERO ART CONTEST

Every comic book fan dreams of having their heroes step off the page and into reality. For two talented young artists, this dream has been realized.

14-year-old Aiden Prior of Encinitas and 17-year-old Sirenna Ascencio of Chula Vista are the winners of our Hunger Action Hero Art Contest, a first of its kind collaboration with the Comic-Con® Museum. The heroes Aiden and Sirenna ideated and illustrated, Hunger Halter and Demeter, have been brought to life by a renowned costume designer, made their debut to the world during the 52nd annual San Diego Comic-Con®, and are now on display at the Comic-Con® Museum through the end of the year!

Aiden and Sirenna were two of almost 300 students that entered the contest. K-12 students from around San Diego County were invited to create a Hunger Action Hero who rescues food before it goes to waste and helps provide nutritious food to community members facing hunger. There was one requirement: use Feeding San Diego's Cross Out Hunger logo in the design as an emblem of fighting hunger. The goal of the contest was to inspire the next generation of hunger relief and food rescue advocates, while rallying the community around those in need of food assistance. Even superheroes need help sometimes!

Hunger Halter experienced hunger as a young boy and set out to prevent anyone else from experiencing the same thing. Born with his powers, Hunger Halter would lose them if he didn’t have a full stomach. One day, he walked by a community center handing out food and was able to strengthen his powers with the nourishing food he needed. One day, he woke up with two new superpowers, super speed and senses, and started traveling the world to gather items for those in need. He gathers and distributes all types of food and drinks, fresh, canned, and any unwanted food, before it goes to waste.

Demeter is Julie Anders, whose day job is working as a news reporter. The character is based on Greek mythology — Demeter is the goddess of harvest and agriculture. Demeter can accelerate the growth of crops and rejuvenate them if they are diseased. In her day job, Julie reported on increasing famine and hunger, and she wanted to help. Demeter was appointed by the 7 Provisions, a council of heroes related to the wellbeing of humankind. The council appointed her and provided her with a motorcycle that travels at the speed of light, allowing her to travel around the globe to help those facing hunger.

Initially, there was only supposed to be one winner, but costume designer Allan Lavigne decided to bring the first and second place winners to life. Lavigne is the studio head of The Bronze Armory Studios and has created costumes for legendary comic book films including “Iron Man” and “Captain America.” In addition to Lavigne bringing their heroes to life, these talented young artists also each won four passes to San Diego Comic-Con®.

Don’t let people tell you that you can’t do anything.

Keep your eye out for Hunger Halter and Demeter in future Feeding San Diego campaigns to educate youth on the importance of hunger relief and food rescue in San Diego County.

You Can Be a Hunger Action Hero!

September is Hunger Action Month. Cross out hunger by starting a fundraiser or making a donation. Anyone who donates $50 or more to this campaign will be entered to win one of three exciting prizes!
"You generous support in showing someone cares during the worst of times is inspiring, makes people feel valued, and gives hope. We should not lose sight of that message," said Feeding San Diego’s Founder and Board Chair, Gwenolyn Sontheim.

John is retired from the Navy and has a number of health issues from an injury that make daily tasks difficult. He lives on a fixed income, made up of his military retirement and disability. He rents a room in a house nearby, and recently his son and his family — including two grandkids — moved in while they save up to try to buy their own house. He likes to pick up food for his grandkids to make sure they are eating their fruits and vegetables. John and his family show that small programs can make a big difference in people’s lives.

A huge thank you to the Aqualia International Foundation LTD for its generous donation that made the Feeding San Diego Marketplace possible!
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join others who are passionate about ending hunger through food rescue and have fun while giving back! Volunteers are needed in the following areas and more:

**FOOD RESCUE**
Become a MealConnect driver! Our online platform, MealConnect, serves as a hub to connect food donors, agency partners, and volunteer drivers to rescue food that would otherwise go to waste.

**FEEDING SAN DIEGO MARKETPLACE**
The new marketplace needs volunteers to help check out customers and pack orders from the OrderAhead app for our nearby neighbors.

**DONOR RELATIONS**
Have you ever received a gratitude call? We have volunteers who help us thank our many donors for their generosity, and you can be one of them. Join the chain of gratitude!

Visit feedingsandiego.org/volunteer or call 858.452.3663 to get started.

Thank You
TO THESE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DONATED SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME TO SUPPORT FEEDING SAN DIEGO’S TOGETHER TOUR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS:

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Total hours donated between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Join our email list to receive our monthly News Bites e-newsletter and add impact to your inbox. Sign up at feedingsandiego.org/stay-inspired.