Your Generosity Provides Holiday Spirit to Families Like Erika’s
Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to introduce myself and express my gratitude to each of you for being an invaluable part of the Feeding San Diego network. After nearly three years as Chief Strategy Officer at Feeding San Diego, I assumed the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer in September 2023 after the retirement of Dan Shea, who led this organization through the pandemic. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to connect with you through this work, and whether you contribute funds, dedicate your time, or donate food, your gifts make it possible to operate our hunger-relief and food rescue programs.

According to Feeding America, nearly 300,000 people in San Diego County are experiencing food insecurity, including almost 80,000 children. Earlier this year, a number of pandemic-era federal benefits were cut, including vital supplemental CalFresh benefits, California’s version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Child Tax Credit. People who are experiencing food insecurity need these benefits. On top of this, there is the added stress of persistent high inflation and stagnant wages on working families.

Your generosity changes this. Having access to nutritious food when neighbors otherwise wouldn’t—and seeing the friendly faces of our amazing volunteers at our Feeding San Diego Marketplace or at a food distribution—conveys that they matter and are cared for. Thank you for continuing to show up.

People shouldn’t have to make impossible choices between buying groceries and paying for healthcare, housing, or utilities. Because of your generosity, we are able to rescue and purchase food to distribute with the help of our nearly 350 partners, which include local charities, schools, colleges, faith communities, healthcare providers, and meal sites.

By showing up for your community all year long, you show us that the spirit of giving exists beyond the season. By being a part of our mission, you’re helping make change happen. With appreciation,

Bob Kamensky
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Keep up with our GOOD NEIGHBORS

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

A longtime partner that does exceptional work for the community, SDG&E awarded Feeding San Diego a Community Assistance Fund grant this fiscal year. In addition, members of the SDG&E team also regularly volunteer.

Coregiving is great at giving, and we are grateful to be on the receiving end. This year marked their 3rd annual Coregiving Day, a day of service where team members donate their time together on one day.

Become a Good Neighbor

Email Brenda Mangru, Corporate Partnerships Manager, at bmangru@feedingsandiego.org.

With appreciation,

Bob Kamensky
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Join our list today and be one of the first to hear about the upcoming 2024 dinner parties.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR
Interim Chief Executive Officer

858.452.3663

858.452.3663

GIVE FUNDS.
GIVE TIME.
GIVE VOICE.

Visit feedingsandiego.org or call 858.452.3663 to get involved.

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Interim Chief Executive Officer

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Caring for Our Community

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN

"Don’t get me started..." warns Erika, when asked about how inflation has impacted her and her family recently. She lists items that have been too expensive for her to purchase like milk and eggs. She says something that a lot of people running households have been thinking over the past few years: "Every penny counts."

Persistently high inflation over the past two years has made life increasingly difficult for families like Erika’s. Erika is a single mother of three children and is their sole provider. She works full time to maintain her household, but even working full time does not net her enough money to cover all her and her kids’ expenses. Her paycheck goes directly to the essentials like rent and bills. There’s not much left to grocery shop for the nutritious foods she’d like to feed her kids.

"When my kids have access to food, they are very energetic, very animated. They have energy to do what they need to do. You can totally tell that it lifts them up."

Finding the Resources

Thankfully, Erika found out about Feeding San Diego. Quickly, she felt some of the pressure lift off of her to provide everything by herself. She saw an ad on Facebook about Feeding San Diego’s food distribution in Carlsbad and made the decision to go.

"Feeding San Diego was the program that opened up the doors. It was welcoming. They said ‘Ok, you guys need food? How many families?’ We picked up for another family and it was fine, no questions asked. They got us what we needed. We’re very grateful for this program, because if it wasn’t for it we wouldn’t be having anything," she shared.

The warm reception she received at the food distribution convinced her to keep coming back.

New Healthy Habits

Attending the food distribution has had another positive benefit in Erika’s household. Now, her kids are eating vegetables.

"Before, they would not even touch vegetables, I kid you not," she shared. But now, they are getting more used to eating fresh produce. She says her kids are happier, too.

"When my kids have access to food, they are very energetic, very animated. They have energy to do what they need to do. You can totally tell that it lifts them up."

The Challenge Continues

While receiving food from Feeding San Diego has helped Erika and her family, she is still apprehensive about what lies ahead for her and her children. Her health suffered during the pandemic with the stress. She was laid off for a month and a half and was extremely worried about her future.

"The main thing that scares me is not being able to pay rent," she shares. "I don’t want to be on the streets with my kids. If we weren’t able to have programs like Feeding San Diego we’d probably be in a terrible situation, looking for other places to eat. Most people, I guess their pride gets in the way. I can assure you, put your pride aside. You have your kids to feed."

If you want to help families like Erika’s, you can. By supporting Feeding San Diego through a donation of funds or time, you help food get to families who need it.

If you have to make sure that you give up your plate for them, you do.

"You have to provide for them and if you have to make sure that you give up your plate for [your children], you do. You are there for them. That’s your main goal. I just want to make sure they are well fed and have what they need to keep going."

This holiday season, give time or funds to help make a difference for your neighbors facing hunger.

FEEDING SAN DIEGO

This holiday season, give time or funds to help make a difference for your neighbors facing hunger.

FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

feedingsandiego.org

Give during GIVINGTUESDAY and your gift will be matched to help provide 4 meals for every dollar donated! NOV 26-28
Iris, Market with rescued food.

**FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM HELPS STOCK THE SHELVES**

From the Market to the Feeding San Diego Marketplace

Elliot Collins, 6 years old

Here are three kids we’re inspired by:

- Many other things, young people turn up at Feeding San Diego Marketplace—often with their friends and family—to donate their time and give back.

Here are three kids we’re inspired by:

- **Elliot Collins, 6 years old**

  Elliot turned six this year (the minimum age required to volunteer) and couldn’t wait to start coming in with his nana, Mary, who is also a dedicated volunteer. His favorite activity is sweeping.

- **Connor Gupta, 17 years old**

  Connor started a Feeding America club at his high school, Torrey Pines High School, and signed up over 80 fellow students! The club comes in regularly to volunteer. Connor is also a teen ambassador for Feeding America, working with Feeding San Diego as his home food bank.

- **Iris Korn, 15 years old**

  Iris spends time volunteering with her family, brother Lucas, mom Lisa, and dad Tommy. She chose Feeding San Diego as the place for her family to volunteer because she finds satisfaction packing food knowing it’s going to families in need.

**With Gratitude**

TO OUR CORPORATE DONORS WHO MADE GIFTS OF $25,000 OR MORE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022 AND JUNE 30, 2023.

City of Chula Vista
Arnab Chatterjee
River Cohen
Combined Federal Campaign
CoreGiving
The Country Friends
Critch
The Jane and William Curran Foundation
E & J Gallo Winery
The Alfred & Karen Esser Charitable Fund
Exact Sciences
Max and Sharon Gardner
General Mills
Halfway Dimebridge Construction Co
Henry Barne Fairley
Pfizer and Bill Hodgtes
Clark and Lanelet Howard
James and Glynda Hoehn
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Kristi De Meuwere
Kug Family Trust
LBA Realty
Davis and Pam Lint
No Kid Hungry
Precision Medicine Group
Qualcomm Charitable Match Program
QuidelOrtho
Ralphs, Food 4 Less and the Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste
The Freed and Maxime Runmark Family Foundation
The San Diego Lions Welfare Foundation
San Diego Tourism Authority
Schwepp Family Charitable Fund
Cynthia and Aaron Sherman
John and Ruth Schmid Charitable Fund
Glen Sparrow
David Tanner
Target Corp
Thin-Tail Family Giving Fund
The Waters/McCroskey Family Trust
Anonymous (8)

For a list of all individual donors who gave $1,000 or more during this time period, please see here:

**Thank You**

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO GAVE $5,000 OR MORE BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30, 2023.

Feeding San Diego in Sorrento Valley, is currently serving about 640 households every month. This includes seniors who live on social security, local college students, families with small children, people with mobility issues who can’t work, and immigrants who are new to the U.S. It is available for anyone experiencing food insecurity.

**$100,000 and above**

- Aquila International Foundation LTD
- California Department of Social Services
- County of San Diego
- Sharon MacDonald
- Price Philanthropies
- Greenblyth Synnheim
- Valhalla Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,999**

- The Beverly Community Impact Fund
  - County of San Diego, District 2
- Hervey Family Non-Endowment Fund
- Issa Family Foundation
- Las Patrones
- Qualcomm Foundation
- RTX
- SDGE
- SOLV Energy

**$25,000 - $49,999**

- The Albertsons Companies Foundation
  - David C. Copley Foundation
- County of San Diego, District 4
- DAVE, inc
- Michael and Regina Dowd
- Epstein Family Foundation
- Hunter Industries
- The Lauer Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- Nordson Corporation Foundation
- Johanna Unger
- Walker J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation

**$10,000 - $24,999**

- A.M. Ortha Construction
- American Physical Therapy Association
- Richard and Rosemary Albert
- Kennetth and Barbara Bango
- Bright Funds Foundation
- Bruce and Renee Persky Charitable Fund
- California Foundation for Stronger Communities
- Carolyn Bell Walker and Gordon Kent Walker
- Family Trust
- Chelk Works
- Chevron Corporation
- Lisa Nastasi-Clifford and Paul Clifford

**$5,000 - $9,999**

- AEO, Inc.
- American Eagle and Aeropostale
- Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation
- Amazon
- APM Healthcare Services, Inc.
- AP Wireless
- Attisha Family Fund
- Warren and Elexa Batt
- BMW of North America
- Callie
- Frank and Lisa Cassella

**$1,000 - $4,999**

- The Alfred & Karin Esser Charitable Fund
- The Jane and William Curran Foundation
- E & J Gallo Winery
- The Alfred & Karen Esser Charitable Fund
- Exact Sciences
- Max and Sharon Gardner
- General Mills
- Halfway Dimebridge Construction Co
- Henry Barne Fairley
- Pfizer and Bill Hodgtes
- Clark and Lanelet Howard
- James and Glynda Hoehn
- W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- Kristi De Meuwere
- Kug Family Trust
- LBA Realty
- Davis and Pam Lint
- No Kid Hungry
- Precision Medicine Group
- Qualcomm Charitable Match Program
- QuidelOrtho
- Ralphs, Food 4 Less and the Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste
- The Freed and Maxime Runmark Family Foundation
- The San Diego Lions Welfare Foundation
- San Diego Tourism Authority
- Schwepp Family Charitable Fund
- Cynthia and Aaron Sherman
- John and Ruth Schmid Charitable Fund
- Glen Sparrow
- David Tanner
- Target Corp
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- The Waters/McCroskey Family Trust
- Anonymous (8)

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Give Back This Holiday Season With

MAKE TWICE THE IMPACT
This GivingTuesday, from November 26 through 28, your gift can double—up to $150,000—thanks to a generous match made possible by the David C. Copley Foundation and the San Diego Foundation. During a match, every $1 donated helps provide 4 meals.

FEEDING FAMILIES: BUY A FAMILY MEAL, FEED A FAMILY
Through the end of the year, Luna Grill is donating $2 to Feeding San Diego from the sale of every family meal purchased online or at one of their restaurants.

INCLUDE FEEDING SAN DIEGO IN YOUR LEGACY
If you believe in Feeding San Diego’s mission to end hunger through food rescue, you can ensure our organization exists for future San Diegans through a planned gift. Contact Ali Colbran at 858.500.7799 or acolbran@feedingsandiego.org.

BECOME A FEED 365 MEMBER
Join our community of monthly donors to make a difference in the lives of San Diegans facing hunger year-round. A monthly donation of any size helps us plan, budget more effectively, and support hunger relief and food rescue programs throughout the year.

GET INVOLVED
Visit feedingsandiego.org/get-involved or scan the QR code to get started.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?
Join our email list to receive our digital monthly newsletter, News Bites, and add impact to your inbox. Sign up at feedingsandiego.org/stay-inspired.