A DECADE OF HUNGER-RELIEF

This October, Feeding San Diego is celebrating its 10 year anniversary! Sparked from the 2007 wildfires, Feeding San Diego was established with just two employees, and no forklift or warehouse. The original team provided 3 million pounds of food in its first year. Ten years later, FSD distributes 25 million meals annually as the leading hunger-relief organization in San Diego County.

As we look back on all the growth and accomplishments over the last decade, we are inspired and motivated to continue in our fight to end hunger.

To those who have been with us since the beginning, we cannot thank you enough for your support and passion for this cause.

And to those just starting their hunger-relief involvement, we welcome you and hope you will join us as we work to end hunger in our community.

Earlier this year, FSD adopted a new mission:

“We are committed to a culture of responsibility and dignity, and to leading our local community in the fight against hunger by efficiently providing access to food and nutritious meals. Feeding San Diego builds local and national partnerships with purpose.”

With this mission in hand and our values as our foundation, we are looking forward to the future and the end of hunger in San Diego.
Dear Friends,

My name is Michele Bart and I’ve recently joined Feeding San Diego as Chief Development Officer. I help support the incredible work of ending hunger in our community by raising much needed funds for this crucial cause.

Most of my entire career I’ve spent in nonprofit organizations raising philanthropic support for where my heart is: human services and basic needs. My passion to work in community nonprofits was instilled at a very young age, growing up with my grandmother. She was a model of someone who benefited from services provided by organizations like Feeding San Diego. She also gave back, volunteering every opportunity she could. During my childhood I was the “tag-along” for all her volunteering commitments. I enjoyed being involved, helping to find solutions, and working with people towards a common goal where you could see an impact.

I’m still doing this work today. It gives me great joy to share the work of Feeding San Diego and connect people to our meaningful programs and initiatives.

My goal at Feeding San Diego is to engage as many people as possible to join us in ending hunger. We all have a role, we all can help.

Thank you, Michele
“THIS IS WHAT I WAS MADE FOR”

“All they can do is say no,” shares Ruth Henricks with a shrug and a smile. Ruth is the Executive Director of Special Delivery, a non-profit located in Mission Hills in operation for over 25 years providing homemade and nutritious meals to medically homebound people living with AIDS, cancer and other critical illnesses throughout the San Diego community.

This can-do attitude has grown the impact that Ruth and her team have for residents of San Diego, especially in the past ten years in partnership with Feeding San Diego (FSD).

Due to a connection from a persistent volunteer, Special Delivery was present at Feeding San Diego’s first distribution back in the parking lot of the San Diego Rescue Mission in 2007. “Everybody I met was delightful, the food was new and I have never been sorry [about the partnership],” Ruth disclosed.

As the partnership evolved over the years, staff at FSD connected Henricks with a pantry in Corpus Christi, Texas, who was running a special pantry for people with diabetes. Ruth and her husband took a road trip to visit and were inspired to expand Special Delivery’s services to include a weekly class and specialized food for individuals with diabetes. The class began with about ten participants and last week had over 35, growing mostly due to word-of-mouth.

One those individuals, Gilbert, who is 69 years old, says his life changed because of Special Delivery’s classes. He now volunteers on a weekly basis with Special Delivery. “My kidneys were beat up because of my diabetes; the doctor said I couldn’t do anything about it. But I went to class and learned how to eat, got the healthy food, lost 100 pounds and now I tell everybody about it everywhere I go,” Gilbert shared.

Along with the expansion of a diabetic pantry, FSD also partners with Special Delivery in grocery rescue pick-ups. This model of food rescue pairs grocery stores with a FSD partner agency that picks up food the store can’t sell any longer, but is still fresh, safe product.

“We could not do what we do without the affiliation with Feeding San Diego,” said Ruth. “We could not do what we do without the affiliation with Feeding San Diego.”

As she stands up to coordinate a group of volunteers packing the meals while also directing volunteers to organize food to the right fridges and pantry shelves, Ruth smiles, “This is what I was made for.”

Advocate.
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps families make ends meet and makes all the difference in the world when it comes to putting nutritious meals on the table. We need to protect this vital program to ensure millions of Americans don’t go hungry.

Contact your Member of Congress to ask them to fight against any attempts to cut SNAP funding.

Donate
For every dollar donated, Feeding San Diego can provide four meals to those in need right here in San Diego. Get creative! Host a food and fund drive in your office.

Volunteer
Feeding San Diego relies on thousands of volunteers annually to help sort, bag, box and organize food for distribution. Sign up for a volunteer shift to help today.

Spread the Word
Raise awareness by sharing one way you can end hunger and share on social media using #HungerActionMonth and tagging @FeedingSanDiego on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to join the conversation.
Hello Friends,

On June 22, we attended the Oceanside Summer Meals Kickoff BBQ hosted by the City of Oceanside, Oceanside School District and the San Diego Hunger Coalition. This BBQ had community resources, music, games, and a meal provided to all attending adults and children. Feeding San Diego also provided bags of carrots and potatoes for families and had a table with CalFresh resources, information on other food distributions in Oceanside and fun nutrition information. For an activity, we played the “eat the rainbow” game where kids of all ages could play, putting fruits and veggies on to the coordinating color board, as well as identifying each fruit and vegetable. Many parents joined in, sparking conversations about which fruits and veggies they eat at home or should try. It was another beautiful day in San Diego fighting hunger!

See you around!

Wheelz and the NUcrew
Join Feeding San Diego and the 16,000 individuals who dedicate their time to help feed more than 490,000 children, families and seniors every year.

Feeding more than 63,000 children, families and seniors every week, FSD relies on the support of individuals, corporations and community groups. Through our highly organized distribution model, every $1 donated turns into four meals.

In order to achieve a hunger-free and healthy community, FSD advocates on behalf of the food insecure on a federal, state and local level. Lend your voice to the fight against hunger and share your support for hunger-relief by contacting your local representatives.