

NewsFeed



SOLVING HUNGER BY REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Feeding San Diego was awarded a \$500,000 grant by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through California Climate Investments. It will allow us to divert and redistribute an additional five million pounds of food to vulnerable populations in San Diego through the purchase of four modified vans and additional on-site cold storage capacity for partner agencies. Assemblymember Brian Maienschein and Vince Hall announced the award at Feeding San Diego on September 18.

“Reducing methane emissions by keeping edible food out of our landfills is an important step to help California combat climate change,” said Assemblymember Maienschein.

Feeding San Diego is working to solve hunger in San Diego County by rescuing good food before it goes to waste and getting it into the hands of people in need.

“Our unique food rescue model solves two problems at once — and they’re two problems we cannot afford to ignore any longer,” said Vince Hall, CEO of Feeding San Diego, in his recent talk at TEDxSDSU.

In the United States, 40 percent of food goes to waste every day. Resources including water, farmland and labor are spent producing food that needlessly ends up in landfills, which generates methane gas and contributes to climate change. In fact, food waste is responsible for roughly eight percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. By diverting good food from ending up in the landfill, Feeding San Diego is addressing hunger and reducing harmful greenhouse gases.

Ninety-seven percent of the food Feeding San Diego distributes each year is rescued from over 530 locations across San Diego County and 225 farms and packing sheds throughout California. “Taking a food rescue approach to hunger relief is not only great for people struggling with hunger, it’s great for the environment, the taxpayer, and for the future of our country,” said Hall.



LETTER FROM THE CEO

On June 30, Feeding San Diego closed out fiscal year 2019 (FY19). We are proud to share our impact thanks to the generous support of the local community. Together we provided 26,337,036 meals to those facing hunger in our service area, of which 53 percent was fresh produce and 97 percent was rescued. These efficiencies mean that every dollar donated helps provide four meals.

Feeding San Diego's decentralized distribution system is made possible by our vast network of partners and supporters. To our 530 food donors and 225 farms and packing sheds that we rescue food from, we sincerely thank you. We are also grateful to our 300 community partners — consisting of local charities, schools, faith communities, meal sites and food pantries who help us distribute meals to those in need.

We would be remiss not to acknowledge the incredible support of our financial donors, including individuals, foundations, and corporate partners who fund our critical work. Eighty-six percent of all funds raised last year came from private philanthropy.

Nothing makes me prouder than walking through our distribution center and witnessing first-hand the power of community. We are indebted to our 14,252 volunteers who donated 46,593 hours, the equivalent of 22 full-time employees. This is a scale of support we could not function without.

Hunger continues to be one of the most pressing issues our community faces on a daily basis. Your support drives our efforts to help end hunger in San Diego County. To all of our partners and supporters, we thank you!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vince Hall'.

Vince Hall
CEO



FY19 BY THE NUMBERS



8,569 total donors contributed **\$7.27M** in private philanthropy, totaling **86%** of our operating budget



14,252 volunteers donated **46,593** hours, the equivalent of **22** full-time employees



48% of the meals distributed never came through our distribution center — Feeding San Diego connected **110** partner agencies directly to **459** donor sites for direct pick-up, including **207** Starbucks stores



CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS

MARK

“I am 72 and my social security doesn’t do much to cover my expenses.”

At 72, Mark struggles to make ends meet. Social security doesn’t cover all of his expenses. Feeding San Diego’s twice monthly Oceanside mobile pantry distribution, in partnership with North County Health Services, helps alleviate his hardship. “My family and I have had some difficulties recently. This distribution has helped me quite a bit since I started coming in May this year. They always have lots of vegetables and other food. They are doing a good job here. I’m always appreciative of not just the food, but the volunteers who work at the mobile pantry.”

LYUBOV

“There have been a lot of times when we’ve gone hungry.”

Not everyone needs help all the time, but when they do they know Feeding San Diego is here for them. For Lyubov and her family of four, our Oceanside mobile pantry helps when she is not working, like now following the birth of her baby. The food helps bridge the gap when her family runs out of food. “There have been a lot of times when we’ve gone hungry. Because I am not working right now, the income is a lot less. Last week, we actually ran out of food because my partner doesn’t get paid until Thursday. There are times when I don’t need it, but when I’m not working it helps. I make soups out of a lot of vegetables. The quality of the food is good.”



“Starbucks is committed to doing our part to alleviate hunger in the U.S.”
Jane Maly
Social Impact Manager,
Starbucks



DONOR SPOTLIGHT STARBUCKS

Starbucks expanded on its commitment to end hunger with a generous \$150,000 grant to Feeding San Diego in August. Over the next year, the funding will support our hunger-relief programs at local distributions, including 40 school pantries, 16 rural mobile pantries, three senior sites, five community colleges, and two military pantries.

This was part of a Starbucks charitable contribution of \$1.5 million to Feeding America, supporting 17 food banks across the U.S. “Starbucks has been an incredible partner to Feeding San Diego since we first piloted the FoodShare program in 2017,” said Feeding San Diego CEO, Vince Hall. “Since then, Feeding San Diego has collected and distributed 986,450 meals to people facing hunger through the food rescue program. We thank Starbucks for their leadership and look forward to our continued partnership.”

As part of the FoodShare program, every night we coordinate trucks to pick up and deliver perishable meals from 207 Starbucks stores. The model has now expanded into 20 other U.S. cities with a desire to go global.



“We station our military here in San Diego, but we do not pay them enough to afford to live here.”

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT
FEEDING HEROES

The NBC Today Show recently highlighted a nationwide problem that significantly impacts San Diego: military servicemembers are struggling to feed their families.

San Diego County has the highest percentage of military in the country, with over 100,000 active servicemembers. Our military families find themselves falling short each month as rent and the cost of living absorbs so much of their salaries.

“I think it is a national outrage,” said Senator Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, a former army helicopter pilot. “Can you imagine being deployed and you’re in the Persian Gulf, or you’re in Iraq right now, and you’re worried about whether or not your kids are able to have a meal?”

Senator Duckworth and Representative Susan Davis of San Diego have been working on a provision to the National Defense Authorization Act that would help raise the income of some servicemembers whose basic pay is close to, or below, the poverty line.

In fiscal year 2019, Feeding San Diego provided more than 750,000 meals to military families through our Feeding Heroes initiative, including some of those featured in NBC’s news story at Dewey Elementary.

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT
CHEF ANGELO SOSA

Angelo Sosa is a talented chef from New York with an illustrious career, including Bravo’s Top Chef series. Moving to San Diego, Chef Angelo was inspired to get involved in tackling hunger. A chance meeting at Feeding San Diego’s *Pairings with a Purpose* event in 2017 led Chef Angelo to meet his future business partner, Jessica Mestler. Together they opened their highly successful Encinitas restaurant, Death by Tequila.

- Q** When did you first get involved with Feeding San Diego and why?
- A** It was important for me to integrate myself within the San Diego community when I moved here. I’m super passionate about hunger. Feeding people for me is like caring for them, feeding them love, nourishing them and bringing people together.
- Q** What inspires you to be active in hunger-relief work?
- A** The thought of children and families not having a meal at a table. Growing up, I learned that food is what connects people: laughter, love and memories. I want everyone to have that.
- Q** What has been the highlight of your experience with this work to date?
- A** The people behind the scenes have created a means to empower these families. They have purpose and drive. It’s selfless and I adore the selfless.
- Q** What is the one message you would like to convey to others regarding the issue of hunger in our community?
- A** Anyone can make a difference, on any scale. I think it’s about contributing to the cause in any way. The concept of giving magnifies.

“The bottom line is that hunger affects all of us. It could be a neighbor, or a family member. It may be surprising who is struggling.”





Photo: San Diego Magazine, Sydney Prather

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

THE FOOD CATCHER: ALICIA SAAKE

Feeding San Diego's Chief Operations Officer, Alicia Saake, was featured in the cover story of *San Diego Magazine's* September issue: "Women Firsts: The Mothers, Millennials and Mavens Changing our City and the World." Our maven, Alicia, was aptly named "The Food Catcher."

Beginning as a volunteer for Feeding San Diego nine years ago, Alicia became a receptionist and grew with the organization to eventually become the COO, a role she has held for over two years. Being the head of logistics of such a dynamic organization is no small feat. More than two million pounds of food moves through our distribution network each month, 53 percent of which is produce. Alicia and her operations team are responsible for coordinating food rescue from over 530 food donors and the distribution of more than 26 million meals each year in partnership with more than 300 community partners.

In the United States, 40 percent of all food produced is wasted, which is more than enough food to end hunger. It is a matter of logistics, not supply. In the article, Alicia said, "Right now, there's more food going to waste than we can capture. We haven't solved the problem yet, so that is the biggest inspiration."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT BLAKE HUNTER

Blake Hunger, age 19, has been an avid volunteer since March 2019, and has just surpassed 100 hours of service to Feeding San Diego. "The big thing that motivated me to start doing volunteer work was my mom. I live a nice life because my mother works really hard, but it wasn't always like that. Mom had to get food from food banks like this, so it gives me comfort to give back to them. Blake said, "Just because someone has money, doesn't mean they have money to spend on food."

For the past year, Blake has volunteered four times every week at Feeding San Diego and is now training to be a Team Leader. He believes this role is teaching him valuable job skills within a nurturing environment.

Blake's mom, June, said: "The people at Feeding San Diego are so encouraging. Not only do they help the food deficient in our community, but they also provide a very positive and wonderful environment for people like my son. Thank you Feeding San Diego for all that you do."



"Just because someone has money, doesn't mean they have money to spend on food."



THANK YOU

Feeding San Diego thanks our generous donors who contributed towards our mission from April 2019 to June 2019.

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ON THE GO

GREETINGS FROM WHEELZ & THE NUCREW

Hello Friends,

“Philanthropy” is usually a word we associate with the world of adults, but Feeding San Diego and our NuCrew — Corey, Tops and Wedge — are proud to have a number of young people supporting our mission:

- School groups, such as All Hallows Academy, East Village High School, La Jolla Country Day School, San Dieguito Academy Field Hockey team and St. Francis Catholic High School
- Volunteer groups, like Teen Volunteers in Action (TVIA), Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Families like Isobel Brewer’s, who chose to celebrate her 9th birthday with 35 friends volunteering at Feeding San Diego, and the Adkins family who asked for food donations in lieu of birthday presents for their son Logan’s first birthday!

A heartfelt thank you to all of our young supporters who are making a difference and learning about the world around them and the valuable lesson that every action and dollar counts! Small acts combined make a large impact on our community and the world!

Over and out,

Wheelz and the Nucrew

PS: We welcome pint size volunteers beginning at six years of age.



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FOOD FROM THE BAR

OVERRULE HUNGER
JUNE 1-15, 2020