

NewsFeed



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MEALCONNECT: A FREE NEW TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Feeding San Diego launched MealConnect™ in San Diego County, a free and innovative technology platform that connects surplus food from restaurants and other food service providers to local community partners serving people facing hunger. Developed in partnership with Feeding America, MealConnect is an exciting new way for the community to divert good food from going to waste and increase the availability of nutritious meals for the one in eight people facing hunger in San Diego County. Unlike other food rescue platforms, MealConnect is free of charge for food donors.

MealConnect enables food donors of all sizes, such as hotels, meeting and event planners, restaurants, farmers market vendors, and convenience stores to post surplus food to the system. Examples of this may include extra food from a caterer, a small load of meat from a butcher, or a box of tomatoes from a farmer's market. An algorithm matches donations to the best suited trained volunteer driver and community partner to quickly pick up and distribute the donation.

MealConnect is available to food donors from any smart-phone, tablet, or computer; donations are tax-deductible. Feeding San Diego maintains stringent food-safety standards to ensure food is handled and distributed safely.

Feeding San Diego received a \$51,500 grant from the Walmart Foundation to support the launch of MealConnect in San Diego County. MealConnect is now available in seven other markets across the United States, including: Lexington, Kentucky; Washington, DC; Baltimore, Maryland; St. Paul, Minnesota; Davenport, Iowa; San Antonio, Texas; and Austin, Texas.

Visit feedingsandiego.org/mealconnect to become a food donor or a volunteer driver.



Photo: Victoria Pearce

LETTER FROM THE CEO

On behalf of our Board and the entire team at Feeding San Diego, I would like to express my gratitude for all you do to help end hunger in San Diego County. Our mission would not be possible without our vast network of support.

Recently, we announced the launch of MealConnect in San Diego County, an innovative initiative that will allow us to help feed even more people facing hunger while preventing good food from going to waste. And you can help! We invite you to become a food donor or a volunteer driver.

Feeding San Diego also recently debuted our new mission statement: Connect every person facing hunger with nutritious meals by maximizing food rescue. I truly believe that we can accomplish this together — in partnership with our community.

Our message this holiday season is simple: give hope, share joy! Thank you for your support of the one in eight people facing hunger and for working with us to achieve a hunger-free and healthy San Diego.

Happy Holidays!

Vince Hall
CEO

FEEDING SAN DIEGO

MealConnect™ **FEEDING AMERICA**

A FREE NEW TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

BECOME A FOOD DONOR

BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER

feedingsandiego.org/mealconnect



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA

“The food is great and it helps our family a lot.”

With five kids at home, Jessica often needs support to feed her family. The Alpine mobile pantry has been her lifeline for almost a year. “It definitely helps with my kids’ school lunches. It also helps financially because food gets so expensive,” says Jessica. She is always excited to find fresh celery at the mobile pantry: “I like juicing, so I drink celery every day.”

MARK

“We don’t have to spend as much money on food, so we can make sure that my bills get paid.”

Mark has attended the Alpine mobile pantry for several years. “They give out more protein and fresh fruit, which is hard to find at distributions. Vegetables are in very good condition here.” Mark shared that his wife, who recently passed away from a long debilitating illness, loved eating canned ravioli from the mobile pantry, one of the few things she could easily eat.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

PERFECT SNACKS RAISES MORE THAN 158,000 MEALS

Recently, Sorrento Valley-based Perfect Snacks hosted their third annual fund drive for Feeding San Diego and raised nearly \$40,000! As a partner in our mission, Perfect Snacks is dedicated to providing healthy food to San Diegans in need. This year, they competed based on their four product lines: Perfect Bar, Perfect Bites, Perfect Cups, and Perfect Kids. Participants asked family members, friends, vendors, and other company contacts to join their cause. Thanks to regular social media updates on progress, a bake sale, raffle event, and a team passionate about making a difference, 176 donors gave to their fund drive!

Perfect Snacks challenges any company looking to make a significant impact in our community to do the same — this holiday season or any time of year. For more information on how to get started, visit feedingsandiego.org/corporatepartnerships.



“I’m constantly grateful for the community-driven mindset of our team, friends, and partners — and can’t wait to see what we can do in the years to come.”

Leigh Keith
President and Co-Founder, Perfect Snacks

FEEDING
SAN DIEGO



**GIVE HOPE
SHARE JOY**



GIVE TODAY

1 in 6 children face hunger in San Diego County,
while 40% of all food produced is wasted.

Join us in ending hunger through food rescue.

Presenting Sponsor



Supporting Sponsors



Community Sponsor



WAYS YOU CAN HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



TEAMS FOR GOOD

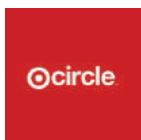
ONGOING

Unite against hunger with your colleagues by joining *Teams for Good*, a corporate giving and volunteering opportunity with Feeding San Diego to help ensure access to fresh and nutritious food for people in need. Visit feedingsandiego.org/teamsforgood to learn more.



BECOME A HUNGER-RELIEF CHAMPION

Individuals who make a monthly gift to Feeding San Diego help sustain critical programs for people facing hunger in San Diego County. Start your giving today at feedingsandiego.org/donate for an easy and impactful way to donate.



TARGET CIRCLE

THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2020

Support Feeding San Diego through Target. Download the Target app, shop, and vote today! The step-by-step guide on how to participate is available at bit.ly/targetcircle.



SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT SEAPORT VILLAGE

THROUGH DECEMBER 24, 2019

Join us for festive activities at Santa's Workshop at Seaport Village! Visit seaportvillage.com/holidays/santas-workshop for dates and times.



WELLS FARGO

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

Wells Fargo is generously matching donations made to Feeding San Diego at their ATMs or through their website at welcome.wf.com/foodbank. Donate today and the impact of your gift will double, up to \$5,000 per donor.

SHOP AND GIVE

Shop at any of the following stores this holiday season and make a donation to Feeding San Diego to help raise meals for our neighbors in need. Every dollar donated helps provide four meals to people facing hunger.



BARONS MARKET

THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2020



CRATE & BARREL

THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019



RALPHS AND FOOD 4 LESS

THROUGH DECEMBER 24, 2019



WHOLE FOODS

THROUGH DECEMBER 17, 2019

To learn more about holiday events and campaigns, visit feedingsandiego.org/eventsandcampaigns

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MICKY SANDS

What motivated you to volunteer with Feeding San Diego?

When I retired, I was searching online for volunteering opportunities. I found Feeding San Diego and when I looked at their website, I loved how many different opportunities there were to be involved and it was obvious this could be a long-term role for me. I had worked at other food banks where you simply process the produce. At Feeding San Diego, there are so many other roles.

What is the one highlight of your involvement at Feeding San Diego?

There are so many! I love seeing all the kids coming through the volunteer program and the staff is so patient and kind, helping them through the shift.

The biggest highlight for me, quite simply, is the variety — every day is different, you never know what to expect when you come in to volunteer. Feeding San Diego is such a dynamic organization. We are always changing procedures if we can find better ways of doing things. We are never stagnant. I love that my ideas are considered. For example, I



“We are always changing procedures if we can find better ways of doing things. We are never stagnant.”

recommended that we find a knife sharpener as we were going through so many pairs of scissors because they became blunt quickly; the batteries for the weighing scales were running down, so I suggested we moved to lithium nine volt for better lasting batteries; I built a lazy susan turntable to make it easier to work with the mesh bag material. I am always looking for ways to help improve things!

What is the one message that you would like to convey to others about the issue of hunger in our community?

If you want to be involved with a great organization that is making real change, Feeding San Diego is the place. We are helping empower our partner agencies to become more self-sufficient. Feeding San Diego is different from other food banks that I have worked at. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!



Feeding San Diego invites you to join *The Grove*, a giving circle for people who are passionate about ending hunger in San Diego County. Donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are honored for their investment in our mission. Member benefits include exclusive recognition, updates, and invitations to engage with others.

JOIN TODAY AT FEEDINGSANDIEGO.ORG/THEGROVE

THANK YOU

Feeding San Diego extends our thanks to generous supporters who made gifts of \$2,500 or more, from July 1 through September 30, 2019

\$1,000,000 and above

Gwendolyn M. Sontheim, Aqualia International Foundation LTD

\$100,000-\$999,999

Anonymous
California Department of Social Services
Ajay and Silvia Gupta
The Starbucks Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Walmart Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Ralphs and Food 4 Less Grocery Company / Kroger

\$10,000-\$24,999

Comic Relief Red Nose Day Fund
County of San Diego
DEG Trust at Fidelity Charitable
Darden Restaurants
General Mills
Carl and Esther Gerstacker Fund
Hervey Family Non-Endowment Fund at The San Diego Foundation
King Aminpour Auto & Motorcycle Injury Lawyers
The Kraft Heinz Company

Lauer Fund at The San Diego Foundation
The Stensrud Foundation
Windermere Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Flagship Cruises & Events
Marian and Pink Happ Fund
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
The Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation
SAIC
Teen Volunteers In Action (TVIA) Chapter 2
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Chosen Foods
Cisco Systems
City of San Diego, District 1
City of San Diego, District 6
Comerica Bank
Conagra Brands
Rancho Bernardo Sunrise Rotary Club
Union Bank

Visit feedingsandiego.org/donors for a comprehensive listing

ON THE GO

GREETINGS FROM WHEELZ & THE NUCREW

Hello Friends,

My name is Mattix. I am 10 years old and in 4th grade at San Luis Rey Elementary School. My favorite thing to do is play sports. I'm on a baseball team called the As.

I am a Student Ambassador for our School Pantry. I am one of the helpers who pass out food at the pantry, which is held in our lunch room. Lots of children come and use the pantry. You get a bag and you sign your name on a clipboard. Then you go to the tables and helpers pass out the food to you.

When we come into the lunch room, it is filled with food and lots of helpers. There are different kinds of drinks, like milk. There are lots of fruits, potatoes, pasta, apples, and a lot of vegetables. Lots of healthy food.

My favorite fruit is apples and my favorite vegetable is carrots. The healthy food gives me energy for my baseball practices after school. When the kids leave our school pantry, they have a smile on their faces and say, "Thank you for giving us vegetables!" There are some people in the world who don't have anything, no food, nothing. So thank you for our school pantry.

Happy Holidays!



Mattix with Wheelz & the NUcrew





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John Lennon **IMAGINE NO HUNGER** California License Plate

Sign up by December 31, 2019 for free registration!
7,500 plates must be pre-sold to commence production.
Preorder online now at californiaimage.com.

Proceeds benefit Feeding San Diego and food banks throughout California.