

# NewsFeed

ENDING HUNGER THROUGH FOOD RESCUE



PAGE 03

Pandemic aid has ended and inflation remains high. Families need your help.



# Help San Diegans Facing Hunger for Years to Come

MAKE A GIFT TO FEEDING SAN DIEGO IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

**Q: What are the benefits of making a planned gift?**

**A:** Your planned gift doesn't cost you a cent today, but it will have a major impact on our work to create a hunger-free and healthy San Diego. Plus, we get to thank you now!

**Q: What is FreeWill?**

**A:** FreeWill is a free estate planning resource to help you create or update your will and include a legacy gift in just 20 minutes!

**Q: What do I need to do to include Feeding San Diego in my estate plans?**

**A:** In most cases, you will just need Feeding San Diego's Federal Tax ID, address, and some simple bequest language that will make your plans clear. Questions about planned giving opportunities? If you have questions about planned giving opportunities, please contact Ali Colbran at 858.500.7799 or [acolban@feedingsandiego.org](mailto:acolban@feedingsandiego.org).



**MAKE YOUR PLANS TODAY**

[feedingsandiego.org/planned-giving](https://feedingsandiego.org/planned-giving)

## Driving Donations

### A MEALCONNECT DRIVER HELPS RESCUE SURPLUS FOOD

Kevin Gunning had free time and a pickup truck. Now, he's a volunteer MealConnect driver. When his daughter Christina started working at Feeding San Diego in 2021, she told him about MealConnect, software developed by Feeding America that helps simplify the process of businesses donating surplus food to food banks.

Since he's retired, his interest was piqued at the thought of helping out the non-profit his daughter was devoting her time to. He started volunteering as a MealConnect driver in August 2022, and now has a regular weekly schedule picking up food donations and delivering them to Feeding San Diego's food distribution partners.

"There is plenty of food available, but it is not always in the right place for the people who need it," Gunning said. "There have been days when I have picked up hundreds of pounds of meat that would have otherwise been thrown out. I never would have guessed the quantity of surplus food was so high. I am grateful that I have the time and the means to help."



Kevin Gunning with a Feeding San Diego MealConnect van.

# A Message From Our Chief Supply Chain Officer

Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

As chief supply chain officer, I lead the team that sources food that makes up the 35 million meals Feeding San Diego distributes annually. Here's something I think about daily: Each year in the United States, 119 billion pounds of food are wasted that could actually feed people facing hunger.\* Here in San Diego County, there are more than 330,000 people who are experiencing food insecurity,\*\* meaning they do not have access to enough food to live an active, healthy life. Feeding San Diego rescues high-quality food and gets it to people facing hunger.

You may wonder about how food rescue works, exactly. Much of the time, food rescue is surplus food that a business does not have time to sell before the use by date. There are also accidents such as mislabeled products that lead to food donations (we then relabel the product correctly). We recently had 25,000 pounds of blueberries donated from a local distributor who had an order canceled at the last minute. Last month, our team rescued thousands of cartons of soy and rice milk just before the best by date. We regularly rescue truckloads of crackers, cereal, and granola bars with slightly damaged outer packaging that cannot be sold but are perfectly edible to eat as the food inside is sealed in inner packaging. Every day, incredible MealConnect drivers like Kevin Gunning (see his story on page 01) and drivers from our partner organizations rescue extra meat, produce and dairy products from local grocery stores that need to move product to make room for incoming shipments.



HELPS PROVIDE



Food in this country is abundant, but not everyone has equal access. At Feeding San Diego, we prioritize reducing food waste so we can feed people. That's why we work with California farms to rescue fresh produce, and why we partner with local farms to feed animals when feeding people is no longer an option (read these stories on page 05).

I hope this Earth Month you join us in helping to feed people, not landfills. YOU make our mission possible!

With gratitude,



PATTY O'CONNOR  
CHIEF SUPPLY CHAIN OFFICER

\*According to ReFed \*\*According to Feeding America's 2022 Map the Meal Gap study

## KEEPING 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.



April's Feed People, Not Landfills awareness campaign is presented by San Diego-based renewable energy company SOLV Energy. Together, SOLV and Feeding San Diego developed the Climate Controller Food Rescue patch, a Girl Scouts patch promoting sustainability through food rescue.



Through the Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation, Ralphs/Food 4 Less has helped provide more than 2,360,000 meals to Feeding San Diego since 2009. This past holiday season, they were the presenting sponsor of our Give Hope, Share Joy fundraising campaign.



What drives Enterprise employees? Volunteerism! The Enterprise Holdings Foundation has helped provide 621,000 meals to Feeding San Diego since 2017. This good neighbor has helped support our operations through grant funding and employee volunteerism.

## BECOME A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Email Frances Burnett, Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships at [fburnett@feedingsandiego.org](mailto:fburnett@feedingsandiego.org)



GIVE FUNDS.



GIVE TIME.



GIVE VOICE.

Visit [feedingsandiego.org](http://feedingsandiego.org) or call 858.452.3663 to get involved.



## Feed More, Waste Less

WITH MORE THAN 330,000 PEOPLE FACING HUNGER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, FOOD RESCUE PROVIDES HUNGER RELIEF

Here are a couple of mind-boggling facts: according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, food is the single largest category of material placed in municipal landfills and food waste accounts for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This food represents nourishment that could have helped feed families in need, such as the 336,000 people in San Diego County who are experiencing food insecurity. Feeding San Diego prioritizes rescuing food as a sourcing strategy because it is one of the greatest solutions to help end hunger, while also protecting the planet. Already this fiscal year, we have distributed 26,630,848 pounds of food, the equivalent of 22,192,374 meals, to help support families in need. We met Eulalia at a recent food distribution, and she provided first-person insight into the paradox.

“It’s not good to throw out food because a lot of people and a lot of families don’t have enough, including myself,” she shared. “There are times that I don’t have food. We eat everything Feeding San Diego gives us.”



*Eulalia and the fresh produce she received at a food distribution.*

Hunger-relief must be fueled by food rescue because hunger is not a sourcing problem, it’s a distribution problem. You might be surprised to learn that the food Feeding San Diego’s network rescues is the same food you buy at the grocery store or a restaurant. Food rescue requires immediate action — our sourcing team receives unexpected calls daily from food donors who have donations to give, quickly. Food is perishable, businesses must adhere to sell by dates, and American



*The line of cars at a Feeding San Diego food distribution in late February that served over 2,000 households.*

consumers expect only the best when shopping at the grocery store. All these factors create an environment that necessitates food rescue.

Our stakeholders are increasingly interested in mitigating food waste, especially young volunteers. Arthur Wang, a 16-year-old volunteer lead with Feeding San Diego, runs our Produce Pantry that provides fresh produce at Feeding San Diego’s Sorrento Valley headquarters every Saturday.

“  
**There are times that  
I don’t have food. We  
eat everything Feeding  
San Diego gives us.**  
”

“Instead of food being thrown into the trash, Feeding San Diego rescues surplus food and redistributes it to folks in need. What’s even better is that non-edible food can go

to farm animals,” he shared. “My whole experience with Feeding San Diego started in eighth grade. Our school provided a free lunch program, and when the lunch service was over, I noticed all the food waste in the trash. I researched online and found out that 30 to 40 percent of all food produced goes to waste. That’s approximately 133 billion pounds of food wasted each year!”

“  
**Instead of food being thrown into the trash, Feeding San Diego rescues surplus food and redistributes it to folks in need.**  
”

Feeding San Diego rescues food three ways: our food distribution partners do fresh rescue themselves; our staff drivers pick up rescued food; and our MealConnect volunteer drivers do pickups as well. Our strategy is to connect food donors to the partner that’s closest to them to keep food local and lessen the impact on the environment. With 370 food distribution partners throughout San Diego County and more than 600 food donors, we make the connection between the food donor and the partner that can get the food to people in need the fastest. In our last fiscal year, 70% of the food we distributed was rescued, and we filled in

the remaining 30% gap with purchased food. Currently, there are over 800 scheduled food rescue pickups every week.

One food distribution recipient named Oliver highlighted the importance of redistributing food to people in need, telling us, “We have so much food in this country, but people waste it. It’s really bad because hunger is everywhere.”



Volunteer Arthur Wang at a produce pantry at Feeding San Diego’s headquarters in Sorrento Valley.



# You can help protect people and the planet

Your gift helps rescue surplus food and get it to people facing hunger in San Diego County

**GIVE TODAY**

[feedingsandiego.org/feed-people-not-landfills](https://feedingsandiego.org/feed-people-not-landfills)



# If You Can't Feed People Facing Hunger, Feed Animals

## LOCAL FARM ANIMALS ENJOY THE FOOD WASTE

Food waste is an unavoidable aspect of operating a hunger-relief non-profit, but it doesn't have to be a negative. Food is perishable and when it reaches a certain point, it can no longer be fed to humans. But it doesn't have to go to a landfill where it creates harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Feeding San Diego is proud to support three local farms by donating food waste from our distribution center to feed cows, pigs, and sheep.

"We've been working with Feeding San Diego for about a year and a half now," said Phil Noble, owner of Sage Mountain Farm, a farm in Anza that follows regenerative and sustainable practices and sells pasture-raised beef, pork, and lamb. "It really helps offset the cost of our feed. We pick up food waste



*Cattle at Sage Mountain Farm dig into food that couldn't be used by Feeding San Diego, including lettuce and cabbage.*

“  
**It really helps offset the cost of our feed.**  
”

from Feeding San Diego on the way back to our farm after doing deliveries in town. I'm honored to be involved with a hunger-relief organization.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy, feeding animals is the next best option if you can't feed people, even over composting! By closing the loop on food rescue, we make sure that no food is going to waste.



*Maria Houlne (center), director of the Farm to Family program, at a farm visit.*

## From Excess to Access

### WORKING WITH CALIFORNIA FARMERS TO RESCUE PRODUCE

Feeding San Diego simply could not distribute the amount of produce it does without vital partnerships with California farmers. Specifically, the relationships built by the California Association of Food Banks' Farm to Family program, which was created to secure excess produce from California's fields and deliver it to food banks throughout the state.

Feeding San Diego has been a part of the Farm to Family program since the fall of 2013, and relies heavily on this partnership to secure the fresh produce that's a hallmark of our hunger-relief programs.

"Not every bit of produce is retail ready, so we very much help the farmer offset operating expenses and at the same time make sure nothing goes to waste," said Lety Rodriguez, sourcing manager at Feeding San Diego.

**Help provide twice as much produce for people facing hunger**

**Price Philanthropies is matching gifts up to \$100,000**



**GIVE TODAY**

[feedingsandiego.org/give](https://feedingsandiego.org/give)



# Thank You

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO GAVE \$2,500 OR MORE  
BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2022 AND DECEMBER 31, 2022

## \$1,000,000 and above

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# Ways You Can Make a Difference



## COMMIT TO VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization! We need volunteers to help with food sorting, community and CalFresh outreach, running our on-site Marketplace, supporting food distributions, gratitude calling, skill-based opportunities, and more. Join us!



## MAKE TWICE THE IMPACT

This month, your gift can have twice the impact thanks to a generous match made possible by Price Philanthropies. Your donation will help provide twice as much fresh produce for San Diegans facing hunger, up to \$100,000.



## 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 provide consistent support that helps us plan ahead.



## INCLUDE FEEDING SAN DIEGO IN YOUR LEGACY

If you believe in Feeding San Diego's mission, you can ensure our organization exists for future San Diegans through a planned gift. Anyone can include Feeding San Diego in their will or trust and no gift is too small. Contact Ali Colbran: 858.500.7799 or email [acolbran@feedingsandiego.org](mailto:acolbran@feedingsandiego.org)



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