

NewsFeed



Feeding people, not landfills

DONATIONS DOUBLE APRIL 1-30

Special Spring Match

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A PUBLICATION BY



It provides a wide variety of food

Through our food rescue model, we prioritize fresh food including produce, dairy, meat, and prepared foods.

It's a community effort

We partner with more than 780 food donors both locally and across the country, from small businesses to stores that are household names. Working together helps build relationships and bring us all together around a shared goal.

It's actually the law

While Feeding San Diego has been rescuing food since we were founded in 2007, a California law that went into effect in 2022 requires certain food businesses to donate edible surplus food to food recovery organizations like ours!

It's good for the planet

Food waste that ends up in the landfill is, simply put, bad for the environment. Last year, our food rescue efforts helped avert 28,986 metric tons of CO₂. That's the equivalent of taking more than 6,700 cars off the road for a whole year.

It's available

This is food that's already in our community, and we have the logistics needed to rescue it: a dedicated staff, trucks, refrigerated vans, and partnerships with other nonprofits to transport and distribute it.

Why Food Rescue?

A SMARTER SOLUTION TO HUNGER & WASTE

It can be done safely

Feeding America has established a food safety protocol that we follow to ensure food safety standards are met at every point in the food rescue process. Our highly trained staff, volunteers, and partners ensure that food safety is a priority.

It's cost effective

With inflation, purchasing food is extremely costly for hunger relief organizations. There are various costs associated with food rescue, such as pack and pick fees for rescued produce from farms and transportation, but overall, food rescue costs less than purchasing food outright, helping your donation go further.

Did you know that more than 31% of the food produced in the United States goes to waste each year?

At Feeding San Diego, we're changing that through food rescue (also called food recovery). This is the process of collecting fresh, edible food that might otherwise be thrown away and redirecting it to people who are facing food insecurity.

The impact is significant. About 90% of the food we distribute comes from rescue efforts. This includes food that is sourced from farms, grocery stores, food manufacturers, and partners across the region.

Our team and dedicated community partners collect and share these nutritious items, bringing rescued food to our distribution center in Sorrento Valley and connecting local partners directly with food donors in their neighborhoods.

Food rescue is a practical, sustainable solution that tackles both hunger and food waste at the same time—and it starts right here.

If you are a business that has surplus food to donate, please reach out to our team at fooddonation@feedingsandiego.org.

How Food Rescue Works

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR DECENTRALIZED MODEL ACROSS SAN DIEGO COUNTY

While some rescued food does come to our distribution center in Sorrento Valley, the primary way we rescue food is by connecting over 120 agency partners (other 501c3 nonprofits) with stores in their community, empowering them to rescue food directly for those they serve. Our countywide network makes **over 980 weekly food rescue pickups** from local food donors! Here's one example:



“Coming from the background of going to local churches and receiving bread, cheese, and milk has pushed my desire to provide healthier options at our pantry. Our collaboration with Feeding San Diego has made this possible through the food rescue program. Those who find themselves in a tough spot find a sense of hope through food that makes them feel like they are part of the community. We take pride in providing our North County community with the freshest quality food possible.”



Aidee Shand
Director of The Center Super Pantry
San Diego Christian Center

“When the nutritional needs of people facing hunger are met, everyone in the community benefits. That’s why we value our partnership with Feeding San Diego, because together we can make a meaningful impact. By working hand in hand, we’re able to redirect wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste and ensure it reaches the individuals and families who need it the most. We’re proud to help provide essential support to our neighbors and strengthen the overall well-being of our communities.”



Bertha Luna
Executive Vice President,
Store Operations
Stater Bros. Markets

A Letter From Our COO

Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

If you’ve been connected to our work for a while, you know our mission has two equally important parts: ensuring every person facing hunger can access nutritious meals and rescuing as much good food as possible before it’s wasted. In this newsletter, I want to highlight that second piece, because it’s not only essential to how we feed people—it’s essential to how we take care of our planet.

Food rescue is one of the things that truly sets us apart. As you’ll learn in the feature on pages one and two, it’s a complex, daily effort that my team pours their hearts into. I’m incredibly proud that among more than 200 food banks in the Feeding America network, Feeding San Diego consistently ranks among the top in rescuing the most food. This work is a powerful solution to hunger and a vital part of our region’s sustainability.

But none of this happens without you.

I’m continually moved by the compassion of this community. Your support shows how deeply you care—not just about helping families access healthy groceries, but about building a more sustainable future for all of us.

Thank you for standing with us.



With gratitude,
Patty O’Connor
Patty O'Connor
Chief Operations Officer

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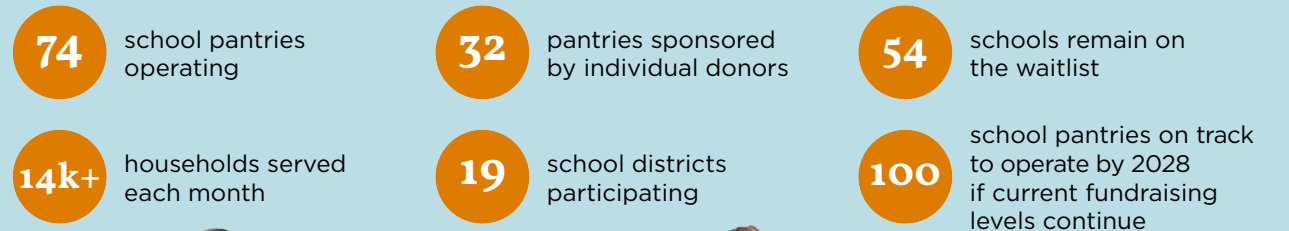
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Stronger Schools, Stronger Communities

100 BY 2030: AN UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM EXPANSION

Feeding San Diego’s School Pantry Program supports K-12 students and their families by providing nutritious food directly on campuses across the county. After challenges during the pandemic, it has been in the rebuilding stage since 2022 and is now our fastest growing program. Here are the latest numbers:



Learn more about supporting the School Pantry Program!

Contact Sandy Karr, director of individual giving, at 619.847.7929 or skarr@feedingsandiego.org, or visit feedingsandiego.org/100by2030.

This April, your gift provides **twice** as many nutritious meals thanks to a generous match!
Give today at feedingsandiego.org



FEEDING
SAN DIEGO



Keeping Up With Our Corporate & Foundation Philanthropy Partners

Feeding San Diego's Corporate and Foundation Philanthropy Program recognizes companies and community groups that help end hunger through volunteerism, food donations, and annual contributions.



Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan's \$250,000 investment strengthened Feeding San Diego's emergency response during last fall's prolonged government shutdown, helping provide hope, nourishment, and stability to local families. We are deeply grateful for their support.



We're grateful to **Amazon** for sponsoring Feeding San Diego's Month of a Million Meals campaign, helping us surpass 11 million meals raised. Their continued partnership strengthens our mission to fight hunger and create lasting impact for families countywide.

To become a partner, email **AnnMarie Gabaldon, Director of Corporate Partnerships**, at agabaldon@feedingsandiego.org.

A Decade of Impact Through Starbucks FoodShare

Ten years ago, Feeding San Diego joined Starbucks and Feeding America to help pilot an ambitious idea: rescue unsold, ready-to-eat food from Starbucks stores and deliver it to people facing hunger. A decade later, the Starbucks FoodShare Program has become one of our most reliable food rescue partnerships, transforming surplus food into nourishment for communities across San Diego County.

Since 2016, more than 4.2 million pounds of Starbucks food have been rescued locally—items that would have gone to waste but instead became meals for families, seniors, and individuals in need. Today, 248 Starbucks stores donate to Feeding San Diego, with food reaching 11 partner organizations countywide.

The program does more than rescue food. Starbucks has invested more than \$2.7 million in grants over the past decade to build capacity for our hunger-relief network. These funds support food rescue operations and help purchase vans, freezers, pallet trucks, food safety equipment, and other essential resources.

Feeding San Diego is proud to celebrate ten years of this inspiring partnership—proof of what's possible when a global company commits to community impact.

Pictured above: A volunteer at Third Avenue Charitable Organization prepares Starbucks FoodShare donations for the unhoused community.

Thank You

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO GAVE \$5,000 OR MORE BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 2025.



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Calling all youth changemakers!

Volunteer or fundraise to help feed San Diegans and earn awesome prizes!

feedingsandiego.org/kids-helping-kids

Open to all kids ages 6 to 17



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Thank you to our Inspire Level corporate, foundation, and food rescue partners who gave between July 1 and December 31, 2025!

Inspire Partners are recognized for their generous contributions of \$25,000 and above or 60,000 lbs. of food and above.



Join Feeding San Diego in providing critical food assistance

To learn more about becoming a corporate partner, contact AnnMarie Gabaldon, director of corporate partnerships, at agabaldon@feedingsandiego.org or 760.271.1660. If you are a business that has surplus food to donate, please reach out to our team at fooddonation@feedingsandiego.org.

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