



NewsFeed

ENDING HUNGER THROUGH FOOD RESCUE



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Your Generosity Provides Holiday Spirit to Families Like Erika's

A publication by





Pairings with a Purpose

It was a beautiful evening in Rancho Santa Fe on September 28 as hunger-relief supporters gathered for the latest installment of our Pairings with a Purpose Dinner Party series.

Featuring a four-course menu by Chef Brad Wise, owner and chef of TRUST Restaurant Group, the evening raised funds to provide 146,000 meals to kids and families who rely on our School Pantry Program.

You can get a seat at the table! No dinner party experience is completely alike and all funds raised help people experiencing hunger in San Diego County. Don't miss a chance to be a part of something transformative.



Join our list today and be one of the first to hear about the upcoming 2024 dinner parties.



Your Gifts Are Critical and Make a Big Impact!

HERE'S WHO POSITIVELY BENEFITS FROM YOUR DONATIONS:



KIDS

Through targeted programs like our School Pantry Program and Backpack Program, kids attending title one schools across the county get access to nutritious meals. Their families benefit, too, as the programs support families experiencing hunger on evenings and weekends.



ACTIVE DUTY, MILITARY FAMILIES, AND VETERANS

Military and veteran community members shouldn't have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, but the sad reality is that some do. Our Feeding Heroes program especially supports junior enlisted active-duty members of the military with families at home.



THE PLANET

Simply put, food in landfills produces methane gas, a leading contributor to climate change. 76% of the food Feeding San Diego distributes is rescued, meaning it's surplus edible food donated by food donors. Your gifts make this food rescue and hunger-relief work possible.



SENIORS

With inflation remaining high, seniors living on fixed incomes, especially those living on social security, are finding it challenging to afford their basic necessities. Your generosity helps seniors not have to choose between nutritious food and paying their bills.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to introduce myself and express my gratitude to each of you for being an invaluable part of the Feeding San Diego network. After nearly three years as Chief Strategy Officer at Feeding San Diego, I assumed the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer in September 2023 after the retirement of Dan Shea, who led this organization through the pandemic. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to connect with you through this work, and whether you contribute funds, dedicate your time, or donate food, your gifts make it possible to operate our hunger-relief and food rescue programs.

According to Feeding America, nearly 300,000 people in San Diego County are experiencing food insecurity, including almost 80,000 children. Earlier this year, a number of pandemic-era federal benefits were cut, including vital supplemental CalFresh benefits, California's version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Child Tax Credit. People who are experiencing food insecurity need these benefits. On top of this, there is the added stress of persistent high inflation and stagnant wages on working families.

Your generosity changes this. Having access to nutritious food when neighbors otherwise wouldn't—and seeing the friendly faces of our amazing volunteers at our Feeding San Diego Marketplace or at a food distribution—conveys that they matter and are cared for. Thank you for continuing to show up.



helps provide



People shouldn't have to make impossible choices between buying groceries and paying for healthcare, housing, or utilities. Because of your generosity, we are able to rescue and purchase food to distribute with the help of our nearly 350 partners, which include local charities, schools, colleges, faith communities, healthcare providers, and meal sites.

By showing up for your community all year long, you show us that the spirit of giving exists beyond the season. As we reflect on the year and give thanks, I thank you for your unwavering support of Feeding San Diego.



With appreciation,

Robert J. Kamensky

BOB KAMENSKY
Interim Chief Executive Officer

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.



A longtime partner that does exceptional work for the community, SDG&E awarded Feeding San Diego a Community Assistance Fund grant this fiscal year. In addition, members of the SDG&E team also regularly volunteer.



Target hit a bullseye when they provided a \$50,000 gift to support Feeding San Diego's School Pantry Program this year. We also love seeing their signature red in our volunteer center when employees stop by to donate time.



Coregiving is great at giving, and we are grateful to be on the receiving end. This year marked their 3rd annual Coregiving Day, a day of service where team members donate their time together on one day.

BECOME A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Email Brenda Mangru,
Corporate Partnerships Manager, at
bmangru@feedingsandiego.org.



GIVE FUNDS.



GIVE TIME.



GIVE VOICE.

Visit feedingsandiego.org or call 858.452.3663 to get involved.



Caring for Our Community

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN

“Don’t get me started...” warns Erika, when asked about how inflation has impacted her and her family recently. She lists items that have been too expensive for her to purchase like milk and eggs. She says something that a lot of people running households have been thinking over the past few years: “Every penny counts.”

Persistently high inflation over the past two years has made life increasingly difficult for families like Erika’s. Erika is a single mother of three children and is their sole provider. She works full time to maintain her household, but even working full time does not net her enough money to cover all her and her kids’ expenses. Her paycheck goes directly to the essentials like rent and bills. There’s not much left to grocery shop for the nutritious foods she’d like to feed her kids.

“If you have to make sure that you give up your plate for them, you do.”

“You have to provide for them and if you have to make sure that you give up your plate for [your children], you do. You are there for them. That’s your main goal. I just want to make sure they are well fed and have what they need to keep going.”



Erika with her daughters Bryanne and Maddax in their home

Finding the Resources

Thankfully, Erika found out about Feeding San Diego. Quickly, she felt some of the pressure lift off of her to provide everything by herself. She saw an ad on Facebook about Feeding San Diego’s food distribution in Carlsbad and made the decision to go.

“Feeding San Diego was the program that opened up the doors. It was welcoming. They said ‘Ok, you guys need food? How many families?’ We picked up for another family and it was fine, no questions asked. They got us what we needed. We’re very grateful for this program, because if it wasn’t for it we wouldn’t be having anything,” she shared.

The warm reception she received at the food distribution convinced her to keep coming back.

Now Erika happily lists the food she has been receiving from Feeding San Diego: apples, oranges, strawberries, milk, peanut butter, bread, and canned protein like tuna or chicken.

New Healthy Habits

Attending the food distribution has had another positive benefit in Erika’s household. Now, her kids are eating vegetables.

“Before, they would not even touch vegetables, I kid you not,” she shared. But now, they are getting more used to eating fresh produce. She says her kids are happier, too.

“When my kids have access to food, they are very energetic, very animated. They have energy to do what they need to do. You can totally tell that it lifts them up.”

“When my kids have access to food... you can totally tell that it lifts them up.”

The Challenge Continues

While receiving food from Feeding San Diego has helped Erika and her family, she is still apprehensive about what lies ahead for her and her children. Her health suffered during the pandemic with the stress. She was laid off for a month and a half and was extremely worried about her future.

“The main thing that scares me is not being able to pay rent,” she shares. “I don’t want to be on the streets with my kids. If we weren’t able to have programs like Feeding San Diego we’d probably be in a terrible situation, looking for other places to eat. Most people, I guess their pride gets in the way. I can assure you, put your pride aside. You have your kids to feed.”

If you want to help families like Erika’s, you can. By supporting Feeding San Diego through a donation of funds or time, you help food get to families who need it.



Above: Erika and Bryanne putting out the fresh produce they received from Feeding San Diego. Below: Bryanne snacks on celery and peanut butter.



Bryanne reads a favorite book with her mother



FEEDING
SAN DIEGO

This holiday season, give time or funds to help make a difference for your neighbors facing hunger.

FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

feedingsandiego.org



Give during GIVINGTUESDAY and your gift will be matched to help provide 4 meals for every dollar donated!

NOV 26-28





Elliot

Iris

Kids Giving Back!

MEET THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUNGER-RELIEF ADVOCATES

We love to see kids taking the initiative to help others. It's truly amazing to see how many kids of all ages actively choose to volunteer with Feeding San Diego. During a time in their lives when they could be doing so many other things, young people turn up at Feeding San Diego daily—often with their friends and family—to donate their time and give back.

Here are three kids we're inspired by:

Elliot Collins, 6 years old

Elliot turned six this year (the minimum age required to volunteer) and couldn't wait to start coming in with his nana, Marylu, who is also a dedicated volunteer. His favorite activity is sweeping.

From the Market to the Feeding San Diego Marketplace

FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM HELPS STOCK THE SHELVES

Surplus food shouldn't go to waste, and thanks to our food rescue drivers and food donors...it doesn't! One great example of how food rescue works is the Feeding San Diego Marketplace.

It all starts on Tuesday morning when our volunteer food rescue driver Jayne drives to Jimbo's in Del Mar



Connor

Iris Korn, 15 years old

Iris spends time volunteering with her family, brother Lucas, mom Usa, and dad Tommy. She chose Feeding San Diego as the place for her family to volunteer because she finds satisfaction packing food knowing it's going to families in need.

Connor Gupta, 17 years old

Connor started a Feeding America club at his high school, Torrey Pines High School, and signed up over 80 fellow students! The club comes in regularly to volunteer. Connor is also a teen ambassador for Feeding America, working with Feeding San Diego as his home food bank.

to pick up their donations. She brings them back for our volunteer team to glean, and the food is on the shelves in our marketplace in a matter of a few short hours.

Shoppers are delighted to find unique produce from Jimbo's, a high quality organic and natural foods grocer, in the marketplace. From figs to butter lettuce to trumpet mushrooms to dragonfruit, our relationship with Jimbo's ensures that none of this beautiful fresh and local produce goes to waste.

We also rescue food from our local Sprouts stores for the marketplace, which includes in-demand prepared meals. Items from larger food donations, including eggs, milk, and frozen protein from donors like Hollandia Dairy and Amazon, are often made available through the marketplace.

The Feeding San Diego Marketplace, located at Feeding San Diego in Sorrento Valley, is currently serving about 640 households every month. This includes seniors who live on social security, local college students, families with small children, people with mobility issues who can't work, and immigrants who are new to the U.S. It is available for anyone experiencing food insecurity.



Volunteers Crystal and Mitchell in the Feeding San Diego Marketplace with rescued food.

Thank You

TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO GAVE \$5,000 OR MORE BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND JUNE 30, 2023.

\$100,000 and above

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For a list of all individual donors who gave \$1,000 or more during this time period, please scan here:



With Gratitude

TO OUR CORPORATE DONORS WHO MADE GIFTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022 AND JUNE 30, 2023.



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Give Back This Holiday Season With



GIVING TUESDAY

MAKE TWICE THE IMPACT

This Giving Tuesday, from November 26 through 28, your gift can double—up to \$150,000—thanks to a generous match made possible by the David C. Copley Foundation and the San Diego Foundation. During a match, every \$1 donated helps provide 4 meals.



Luna Grill
mediterranean kitchen

FEEDING FAMILIES: BUY A FAMILY MEAL, FEED A FAMILY

Through the end of the year, Luna Grill is donating \$2 to Feeding San Diego from the sale of every family meal purchased online or at one of their restaurants.



FEEDING SAN DIEGO LEGACY SOCIETY

INCLUDE FEEDING SAN DIEGO IN YOUR LEGACY

If you believe in Feeding San Diego's mission to end hunger through food rescue, you can ensure our organization exists for future San Diegans through a planned gift. Contact Ali Colbran at 858.500.7799 or acolbran@feedingsandiego.org.



FEED 365
FEEDING SAN DIEGO

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 us plan, budget more effectively, and support hunger relief and food rescue programs throughout the year.

GET INVOLVED



Visit feedingsandiego.org/get-involved or scan the QR code to get started.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?



Join our email list to receive our digital monthly newsletter, News Bites, and add impact to your inbox. Sign up at feedingsandiego.org/stay-inspired.



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