A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of Feeding San Diego,

I wish to start by introducing myself. After nearly three years as chief strategy officer at Feeding San Diego, I assumed the role of interim chief executive officer in September 2023 following the retirement of Dan Shea. On the first of February 2024, the board of directors appointed me as the full-time chief executive officer. Dan led this organization through much of the pandemic, a very dynamic and tumultuous time, and we are grateful for his hands on the helm navigating unchartered waters. It was my honor to be in the role supporting him and to help lead our inspiring team through those years to be well-positioned for the future.

Adversity tests the mettle of an organization, and if handled well, builds strength and resilience. Coming out of the pandemic and immediately facing economic insecurity has been a challenge. This past year’s inflation and rising cost of living in San Diego have strained our resources and those of our donors. We have seen record numbers of food insecure families seeking assistance at a time when donations were diminishing. Obstacles had to be overcome to respond to the developing crisis.

The Feeding San Diego network rose to the occasion by focusing on its core mission: provide critical hunger-relief while expanding food rescue services throughout the county. With efforts by the staff, our network partners, our volunteers and donors, we sourced more than 41 million pounds of food, our highest volume ever, to provide more than 35 million meals to people facing the stark reality of hunger. What’s more is 76% of that volume was surplus food rescued from food donors that would have otherwise ended up in landfills. We had more demand than capacity as we worked to keep pace with delivery operations above peak-pandemic levels.

I realize there are more charitable causes than ever in need of support, and we are just one of many in the network. However, we bring a singular resource to the network: food, that binds us together at the table. Your generosity helps people experiencing hunger in San Diego County bring meals home to their families while preventing good food from going to waste. This is a very worthwhile mission to be part of!

With gratitude,
Robert Kamensky
Chief Executive Officer

WHY IT MATTERS

Nearly 300,000 people in San Diego County are experiencing hunger, including almost 80,000 children. Meanwhile, 38% of all food produced in the United States is wasted—145 billion meals worth of food.* This reality is coupled with the fact that this past fiscal year, pandemic-era programs that curbed poverty and hunger ended, inflation remained at record levels, and the cost of living in San Diego has continued to soar. The impacts of hunger are devastating, particularly for children. Together, we’ve helped lessen these harmful impacts, positively supporting:

Social & behavioral response
Academic achievement
Cognitive & physical development
Health & well-being
Workforce preparedness

Our impact was achieved through the success of our diverse food rescue and distribution network and by uniting and mobilizing more than 350 community distribution partners, 650 food donors, 120 farms and packing sheds throughout California. By diverting more than 31 million pounds of food from the landfill and connecting it to people experiencing hunger, we prevented more than 27,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Feeding San Diego provided more than 35.4 million meals in fiscal year 2023 to people facing hunger through a decentralized rescue and distribution network. We distributed meals in partnership with nearly 350 local charities, schools, colleges, faith communities, healthcare providers, and meal sites. Nearly 50% of the food we distributed was fresh produce.

35,476,078 MEALS
75% Agency Partners
16% Direct Service
3% CalFresh Attributable
6% After School & Summer Meals

76% of the food we distributed to the community was rescued. Feeding San Diego rescued high-quality food before it went to waste from more than 650 food donors in San Diego County and more than 120 farms and packing sheds throughout California. By diverting more than 31 million pounds of food from the landfill and connecting it to people experiencing hunger, we prevented more than 27,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent from being emitted into the atmosphere.

41,059,483 TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED
76% Rescued Food
21% Purchased Food
3% Donated Food

*According to Feeding America and ReFed.
Feeding San Diego’s largest hunger-relief program is its agency partner network which distributes food provided by Feeding San Diego throughout San Diego County. These partners include local charities, colleges, faith communities, community centers, healthcare providers, and meal sites. This is the primary way Feeding San Diego distributes food out into the community.

**Agency Partners**

Feeding San Diego’s CalFresh program provides healthy food by providing an EBT debit card to buy groceries. Feeding San Diego’s CalFresh team provides support to community members throughout the application process, in both English and Spanish. They also support the public with existing cases and pending applications. The team prioritizes community outreach to interface directly with the public.

**CalFresh**

CalFresh is the California version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Commonly referred to as Food Stamps, CalFresh is designed to help families and low-income individuals purchase healthy food by providing an EBT debit card to buy groceries. Feeding San Diego’s CalFresh team provides support to community members throughout the application process, in both English and Spanish. They also support the public with existing cases and pending applications. The team prioritizes community outreach to interface directly with the public.

**Feeding Heroes Initiative**

According to the 2023 Military Economic Impact Report, more than 115,000 active-duty service men and women currently call San Diego home. Over 1.2 million San Diegans, 37% of our population, have direct ties to the military. The families of military members stationed in San Diego face the reality of the high cost of living. Feeding Heroes supports lower enlisted military members (E1-E4) and their families, and veterans, by partnering with local nonprofits that specifically work with the military community to provide nutritious food.

**Mobile Pantry**

Serving predominantly rural areas of East San Diego County, from Pauma up north to Jacumba down south, the mobile pantry program provides food to underserved neighborhoods. Each distribution reaches communities with a significant number of low-income families who lack consistent access to full-service grocery stores or other sources of fresh, healthy food. This program supports food deserts and communities without existing agency partner networks.

**Hunger-Relief Programs & Initiatives at Work**

**Agency Partners**

“My wife has epilepsy. She got a lot of seizures and vertigo. I had to stay with her at home, and then she did surgery. We have a daughter. You don’t really know when you need help. This is very important, especially when you have family. I really appreciate it.”

Mohamed, who receives food from agency partner Fallbrook Food Pantry

**CalFresh**

“I work when I can on commercial fishing boats. It’s off season right now. It’s wonderful [to access this food] when I’m low. CalFresh is wonderful too. I’ve been without it for a month here now and that’s hard. Thank you with all my heart.”

Saffron, who received support from Feeding San Diego’s CalFresh team at a food distribution in Ocean Beach

**Feeding Heroes Initiative**

“There’s such a misconception about military members making so much money, but the harsh reality is that we don’t and sometimes we’re just living paycheck to paycheck, eating everything out of our pantry between them. It is so appreciated that there are people out there that do care enough about our military members and their families to reach out and help.”

Sabrina, whose spouse is active-duty military, with their daughter, Annalise

**Mobile Pantry**

“There’s three of us in my household, but there’s only one working. My wife and son are disabled so I’m the only one working. Believe me, there are a lot of people out there who need this, or they wouldn’t be eating, and it is nutritious food. It helps me and my family.”

Mark, who receives food monthly at the Alpine Mobile Pantry
HUNGER-RELIEF PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES AT WORK (CONT’D)

PRODUCE PANTRY
Located throughout the county in hunger hot spots, Feeding San Diego’s produce pantries provide fresh fruit and vegetables in a format similar to a farmers’ market and are entirely run by volunteers. Each distribution offers a wide variety of produce—up to eight different types—at no cost to anyone in need. There are no requirements to access fresh produce at Produce Pantries, and they are intended to help neighbors supplement what they may receive from other distributions.

Pounds of Fresh Produce Neighbors Receive When They Visit a Produce Pantry: 24-32 lbs.

I’ve been living here for 40 years. I babysit my five grandchildren. My daughter got divorced and they came to stay with us. It’s not easy, but I survive. Now, the gas and electric are too high,[and] the water [bill]. I don’t give up. This helps.”

CLARITA, who receives food at the Feeding San Diego Produce Pantry in Mira Mesa

SCHOOL PANTRY
In School Year 2022-23, California became the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. While this is an important step forward to ensure all students have access to nutritious meals and that children in need of free or reduced-price meals don’t experience stigma, food insecurity still affects students. The School Pantry Program offers a much-needed support system for low-income families to provide nutritious food for the home. Typically held twice a month and run by school staff or parents, school pantries use spaces on campus, such as auditoriums or parking lots, to distribute nutritious, healthy food.

NUMBER OF SCHOOL PANTRY SITES OPERATING IN FY23: 48

“I have been coming to pick up food since they started the program. The prices have risen. We keep track of how much we spend every week, but right now we are spending twice as much. We are very grateful that you all want to help and support us.”

ERIKA, a mom of four who receives food at her son’s school, Los Altos Elementary

TOGETHER TOUR
The Together Tour was Feeding San Diego’s emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ran through December 2022, with the exception of one site that continued with grant funding. In FY23, Feeding San Diego operated 13 large-scale, monthly drive-through food distribution sites across San Diego County and was able to serve 69,458 households through this program.

Total Pounds of Food Distributed Through the Together Tour in FY23: 3,057,476 lbs.

“There are seven of us in my household. I live with my mom, who’s 80 years old, and my husband and four kids. The prices right now are so, so expensive. The gas, too, and the electric bill. I’m not turning on the heat. My husband and I are very grateful for this food.”

LINNA, who visited a Together Tour in Chula Vista in February 2023

OUR ORGANIZATION’S HEARTBEAT: VOLUNTEERS
We simply could not fulfill our mission without our volunteers! Our incredible volunteers provide the support of an additional 49 full-time employees. They are beyond dedicated, showing up six days a week to perform a variety of jobs that enable us to address the needs of our community. Here are some standouts from this fiscal year:

Top 5 volunteers with the most volunteer hours:
- Marjorie Zinner - 1,371 hrs
- Mickey Sands - 1,119 hrs
- Audrey Gipson - 412 hrs
- Gregg Yonekura - 347 hrs
- Gil Bolfango - 550 hrs

Top 5 youth volunteers with the most hours:
- Aiden Gruby - 210 hrs
- Faith Chen - 117 hrs
- Arthur Wang* - 101 hrs
- Iris Korn - 90 hrs
- Lucas Korn - 80 hrs

Top 5 groups with the most volunteer hours:
- Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States - 697 hrs
- Teen Volunteers in Action SD5 - 403 hrs
- Teen Volunteers in Action SD1 - 255 hrs
- CoreGiving - 347 hrs
- National Charity League, Inc. Del Sol Chapter - 146 hrs

Zip code with most volunteer hours:
- 92121 - 5,778 hrs

*Pictured center below
HOW WE’RE FUNDED

Feeding San Diego relies on the generosity of private donors to fund our hunger-relief and food rescue programming year-round, with just 4% of our total support coming from government funding.

Recurring giving is vital to our organization as it allows us to plan ahead. This fiscal year, the average monthly donation from Feed 365 members was $50. The generous commitment of our monthly donors helps sustain our programs.

In addition to Feed 365, The Grove is a giving circle for passionate supporters of Feeding San Diego that make an annual gift of $1,000 or more. In FY23, this group alone helped provide 16.5 million meals to San Diegans in need.

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The Good Neighbors program recognizes companies and community groups that commit to helping end hunger through food rescue with annual contributions of $2,500 or more.

In additional to donating $50,000, SOLV Energy also continued to support the Climate Controller patch that they created in partnership with Feeding San Diego and Girl Scouts San Diego. In FY23, 319 patches were given out to local Girl Scouts for volunteering at Feeding San Diego.

This year, the Vertex Foundation donated $100,000 to support our School Pantry and Mobile Pantry programs. These programs fall under the foundation’s Healthy Families pillar of their impact strategy, which prioritizes access to wraparound services as one of the outcomes.

FOR A LIST OF ALL INDIVIDUAL DONORS WHO MADE GIFTS OF $1,000 OR MORE IN FY23, PLEASE SCAN HERE:

Scan the QR code to see a full list of ways to give.

Thank you to our donors

Feeding San Diego extends gratitude to our generous donors, including individuals, corporations, foundations, organizations, and government entities, who made contributions of $25,000 or more from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

$1,000,000 and above
Aqualia International Foundation LTD
California Department of Social Services
Gwendolyn M. Sontheim

$100,000-$999,999
The Benetny Community Impact Fund
The Conrad Prebys Foundation
County of San Diego
Feeding America
Issa Family Foundation
Price Philanthropies
Sapp Family Foundation
Sharron MacDonald
Vashalla Foundation
Vanessa Whiteley Fund
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Violet M. Johnson Family Foundation
Anonymous (2)

$50,000-$99,999
Chick-fil-A
CoreCivic
County of San Diego, District 2
David C. Copley Foundation
Harrah’s Resort Southern California
Jersey Mike’s Subs
Joseph & Debra Peacock Charitable Fund
The Kasperick Foundation
Las Patronas
Life Sciences Cares
Lily Lai Foundation
Michael and Regina Dowd
Qualcomm Foundation
Rhals, Food 4 Less and the Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation
RTX
SD&G&E
SOLV Energy
Target Corporation
Walmart Foundation
William Keitel and Jill McSweeney
The Wilson Family Foundation

$25,000-$49,999
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
A.M. Ortega Construction
Christine and Michael Crowley
County of San Diego, District 4
Crecs
DAVE, Inc
Dennis and Pam Lint
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation
Epstein Family Foundation
Gayle and John Reinhold
Hervey Family Non-Endowment Fund
Hunter Industries
James Brown Revocable Trust
Johanna Unger
The Lauer Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Paula and Bill Hodges
Rosemary Kraemer Raft Foundation
The Rylee & Cruz Foundation
Samuel H. French and Katherine Weaver French Fund
Sempra Employee Giving Network
Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation
Signature Aviation
Silvergate Bank
The Starbucks Foundation
The Whiteley Family Charitable Fund
USS Midway Foundation
Veterans United Home Loans
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
Anonymous (5)

Companies that are part of our Good Neighbors program:

For the seventh year in a row, Good Neighbor GoMacro®, a leading plant-based nutrition bar company with offices in San Diego, generously donated a portion of proceeds from the sale of their Everlasting Joy MacroBar® to Feeding San Diego.

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For additional details on how Feeding San Diego is helping to end hunger in San Diego, visit FeedingSanDiego.org.
The budget deficit from fiscal year 2023 was covered by a surplus of funds that carried over from fiscal year 2022.
For the first time since 2019, Feeding San Diego brought back its Pairings with a Purpose culinary event in March 2023. The event returned as the Pairings with a Purpose Dinner Party Series and the first iteration featured dishes created by powerhouse chefs Angelo Sosa and Ruffo Ibarra. The vibrant evening brought together 102 hunger-relief advocates at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in La Jolla and raised funds to provide 83,000 meals to San Diegans facing hunger! Each Pairings with a Purpose Dinner Party will feature a new, celebrated chef creating a unique menu at a different location.

Visit feedingsandiego.org/pairings-with-a-purpose or scan the QR code to learn more and join our dinner party interest list.