

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WINTER 2020

Seniors Receive Help from the Food Bank



On a chilly winter morning in December, hundreds of people attended the Food Bank’s food distribution in La Mesa ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Among those in the line for food assistance were two senior citizens, Jan Taylor and Marla Guidrey, both of whom arrived before 7 a.m. for a food distribution that started at 9 a.m.

Jan lives in a senior mobile home park nearby and visits the food distribution every month with her friend Dianne to get groceries and fresh produce from the Food Bank to help make ends meet.

“I was born at the Navy hospital in Balboa. I’ve lived here all my life. San Diego is my home, but it costs so much to live here,” explains Jan.

“Every time I go to the grocery store; the price of food goes up. The power bill goes up. The water goes up. We live in a senior mobile home park for seniors 55 and up. The rent there is low, but it isn’t subsidized. Our rent goes up every year – not by very much to most people, but it’s a lot to us,” continues Jan.

Jan worked two jobs all of her working life. “I was a single mom and raised my daughter alone. I worked two jobs. I literally worked all day and all night. I worked as a bartender at night at the Elks Lodge, and I cleaned houses all during the day. I worked constantly to provide for my daughter.”

Jan and her neighbor, Dianne, from the mobile home park attend the food distribution and pick up food for themselves as well as for several homebound seniors who live nearby. “We help our neighbors. There are a lot of homebound seniors where we live, so we pick up extra food from the Food Bank and take it back to them because they don’t have enough food to eat. The Food Bank is such a blessing to us all,” says Jan.

“Honestly, if it wasn’t for the Food Bank, I don’t think I’d be able to survive.”

- Marla Guidrey,
Lakeside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 3

Join the Food Bank’s Monthly Meals Club!

PAGE 4

Save the Date Chefs, Cork, & Craft Gala: Welcome to the Roaring 20’s

PAGE 5

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Donates \$40,000



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James A. Floros
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Happy New Year & Thank You for Your Support in 2019!

As we enter the new decade, I would like to wish all of our Food Bank supporters a wonderful and prosperous New Year. And on behalf of our Food Bank family, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support in 2019!

We didn't think it was possible, but this year's Holiday Food Drive raised more food than ever before in the Food Bank's 43-year history!

Our Holiday Food Drive partners Albertsons and Vons raised nearly 1 million pounds of food through their Turkey Bucks campaign in November and their Hunger Bag campaign in December. This year's Hunger Bag campaign raised 110,000 bags of food! That's over 10,000 more Hunger Bags donated than last year!

In addition to our campaign with Albertsons and Vons, more than 1,200 organizations hosted food drives during the holiday season including businesses, schools, civic groups, and faith-based organizations!

A HUGE thank you to this year's Holiday Food Drive partners: Bank of America, First 5 San Diego, Wawanesa Insurance, the San Diego County Toyota Dealers, Albertsons, Vons, FOX5, iHeartRadio, and the San Diego Union Tribune. We are so grateful to our supporters for making this year's Holiday Food Drive a big success!

In December, we celebrated the opening of our newly leased 30,000-square-foot North County Food Bank warehouse facility in Vista! This is a significant milestone for us as we expand our services to underserved families in communities throughout the North County region to meet previously unmet need.

Over the coming year we will significantly increase the distribution of food, emergency diapers and resources to families in need in North County. Check out the full story about our move and new North County Food Bank facility on page 5.

Please know that our vital mission in the community would not be possible without your support for the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter. It takes a community to feed a community, and thanks to you we are on the front lines every day ensuring that struggling families have the food and resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for supporting San Diego County's local food bank!

Warm regards,

James A. Floros
President & CEO



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another senior attending the food distribution was Marla Guidrey from Lakeside who was forced to take early retirement after an on-the-job injury and a subsequent stroke made her incapable of working.

“I live in Lakeside and I’m San Diego born and raised. I was a ‘Navy brat.’ My dad was stationed in San Diego and we ended up staying here, and I’ve lived here all of my life,” explains Marla.

“I was working for a supermarket, and I got injured on the job. After a lot of medical procedures, I had a stroke and couldn’t return to work, so I had to take early retirement,” continues Marla.

“After rent, utilities, medicine and household stuff like toilet paper, I have very little left over for food. At the end of the month, I have nothing left.”

“The Food Bank helps so much. I come here to get help once a month. Honestly, if it wasn’t for the Food Bank, I don’t think I’d be able to survive,” says Marla.

As Jan and Marla move through the food line they receive a large box of mixed lettuce, a large bag of pears, a bag of potatoes, a bag of onions, bananas, a bag of oranges, two heads of cabbage, canned foods and a variety of donated baked goods.



If you would like to support the Food Bank’s food assistance programs for seniors, contact Nancy Eisenberg at NEisenberg@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5198.

Join the Food Bank’s Monthly Meals Club!

Help the Food Bank feed those facing hunger every day, all year long.

As a member of the Monthly Meals Club, you will provide food to our neighbors in need every month of the year through automatic direct debit donations.

A monthly gift of \$10 will provide a hungry individual at least one healthy meal every day, every month, for the entire year. A monthly gift of \$30 will provide three meals a day, every day, for the entire year.

Individuals we serve include working-poor families, fixed-income seniors, children living in poverty, low-income military families, and the homeless.

Joining our Monthly Meals Club is one of the easiest ways to make a commitment to end hunger. Your gift is debited automatically and securely from your bank account or credit card.

To sign up, visit: SanDiegoFoodBank.Org/Donate/Monthly or contact Athena Williford at AWilliford@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5172.



8th Annual Chefs, Cork, & Craft Gala: Welcome to the Roaring 20's Saturday, April 25, 2020



Save the Date

Join the Food Bank as we celebrate the new decade at this year's 8th annual Chefs, Cork & Craft Gala! The Food Bank's annual gala has become a hallmark community event!

The dinner features 30 local, celebrated chefs who donate their time and talent to cook for our gala guests.

Each chef will be assigned to a table of 10 guests, acting as their table's personal chef for the evening, preparing an exquisite multi-course meal of their signature dishes.

The gala is held inside our 90,000-square-foot warehouse which showcases the Food Bank's facility and operations.

The gala's chef chair, Chef Sara Polczynski of Seasoned Plates, is leading the team of chefs to help raise vital funds for the Food Bank's hunger-relief programs.

What: The Food Bank's Annual Chefs, Cork, & Craft Gala

Where: The Food Bank's warehouse, 9850 Distribution Avenue, San Diego, 92121

When: 6 p.m., Saturday, April 25, 2020

Co-Chairs: Ellen Gruer & Cindy Hickman

This year's gala will feature live musical entertainment, fabulous silent and live auction items, delicious drinks and hors d'oeuvres during the opening reception, and our famous lounge and cocktail bar in the Food Bank's 70,000 cubic foot refrigeration unit.

For information contact, Vivian Quesada at VQuesada@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5198

Tickets: \$500; VIP tickets: \$750;
Table of 10: \$5,000; VIP Table of 10: \$7,500
To purchase tickets visit www.SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Gala

Participating Chefs

Chef Committee Chair Chef Sara Polczynski	Seasoned Plates
Chef Jonathan Bautista	Common Theory
Chef Drew Bent	Lola 55
Chef Nick Brune	ECO Caters
Chef Ryan Bullock	MIHO Catering Co.
Chef Joe Burns	Waters Fine Foods
Chef Mario Cassineri	Osteria Ciccia
Chef Evan Cruz	Arterra
Chef Amy Diabiase	Vistal
Chef Max Farina	Zafferano Catering
Chef Jack Ford	Stehly Farms
Chef Tommy Fraioli	10 Barrel Brewing Company
Chef Gina Freize	Venissimo
Chef Jonathan Hale	The Prado at Balboa Park
Chef Victor Jimenez	Cowboy Star
Chef Jason Knibb	Nine-Ten Restaurant and Bar
Chef Gill Anthony Lacaste	Vistal
Chef Dave McHugh	Grossmont College Culinary Arts
Chef James Montejano	The Huntress
Chef Daryl O'Donnell	San Diego Convention Center
Chef Ryan Orlando	International Smoke
Chef Filippo Piccini	Solare Ristorante
Chef Denise Roa	Rancho La Puerta
Chef Vincent Rodier	The Pendry
Chef Amy Russert	Amy's Cakery
Chef Danilo "DJ" Tangalin	Maya
Chef Marcus Twilegar	
Chef Vaughn Vargus	UC San Diego
Chef Giselle Wellman	San Diego Jewish Academy



Enterprise Rent-A-Car Donates \$40,000



For a third consecutive year, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation donated \$40,000 to the Food Bank as part of its Fill Your Tank program!

Enterprise launched the Fill Your Tank program to celebrate the company's 60th anniversary and pledged to donate funds to hunger-relief organizations across the U.S. and internationally.

Beyond donations, Enterprise Rent-A-Car is supporting the Fill Your Tank program with a hunger awareness and local engagement campaign.

The donation will provide 200,000 meals to families in need in our community! Thank you Enterprise Rent-A-Car!



Thanks for Supporting the 2019 Holiday Food Drive!

The Food Bank thanks everyone in the community who supported our 2019 Holiday Food Drive campaign, which was a huge success!



Special thanks to our supporters: Bank of America, First 5 San Diego, Wawanesa Insurance, Toyota, Albertsons, Vons, FOX5, iHeartRadio, and the San Diego Union Tribune!

A big thank you to the community for donating Turkey Bucks and \$5 Hunger Bags at Albertsons and Vons. And we thank everyone who volunteered, donated online, and hosted a virtual food drive on behalf of the Food Bank!

North County Food Bank Moves to Newly Leased 30,000-square-foot Warehouse in Vista!



In December, our North County Food Bank chapter celebrated the opening of our newly leased 30,000-square-foot warehouse in Vista!

The North County Food Bank's leased facility will enable us to

further expand our services in communities throughout the North County region. The move from our 5,000-square-foot leased warehouse in San Marcos to our Vista facility will enable the Food Bank to increase the amount of food and resources that we can distribute to the region.

Currently, the North County Food Bank distributes more than 6 million pounds of food, including fresh produce, annually to the North County region. The Food Bank anticipates that the amount of food distributed annually and the number of families served monthly will significantly increase with the opening of the new facility.

The new facility features multiple loading docks, walk-in refrigeration units, warehouse racking for food storage, a client-choice food pantry for families to receive emergency food packages, and a dedicated volunteer work area in the body of our warehouse.

In addition, the newly leased North County Food Bank facility will serve as the San Diego Food Bank's new Diaper Bank Program staging area which will facilitate the distribution of more than half a million emergency diapers for families in need countywide every month. For more information, visit NorthCountyFoodBank.org.

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations, and organizations for their generous support received between September 2019 and December 2019.

Businesses

Diamond (\$50,000 to \$2,000,000)

AimLoan.com
Baker Electric Home Energy
Sempra Energy
Tri-City Medical Center
USAA Federal Savings Bank

Platinum (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Aztec Shops
First 5 San Diego
Mission Federal Credit Union
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
Wawanesa Insurance

Gold (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Fish & Richardson
PenFed Credit Union
San Diego Gulls
Union Bank

Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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Sempra Energy Foundation
Stater Bros. Charities
Stensrud Foundation
The Gilbert J. Martin Foundation

Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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City of Hope International Church
Douglas & Marianne Dickerson Foundation
Geico Philanthropic Foundation
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Navias Family Foundation
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman Foundation
The Pappas Family Foundation
The Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation
Unite NCI The Church at Rancho Bernardo

Bronze (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

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