



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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SPRING 2011

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SANTA CLARA AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES

## David is not giving up...thanks to you.

My name is David. If it weren't for Second Harvest Food Bank and the meals I receive here in San Jose at Martha's Kitchen twice a week, life would be more difficult than it already is. I've been homeless for three years. During that time I've spent many hours at local library computers sending out resumes hoping to get work. I have several years of experience as a machinist and engineering tech. But so far I haven't been able to find a job. I'm even taking adult education courses to help me keep my computer skills sharp.

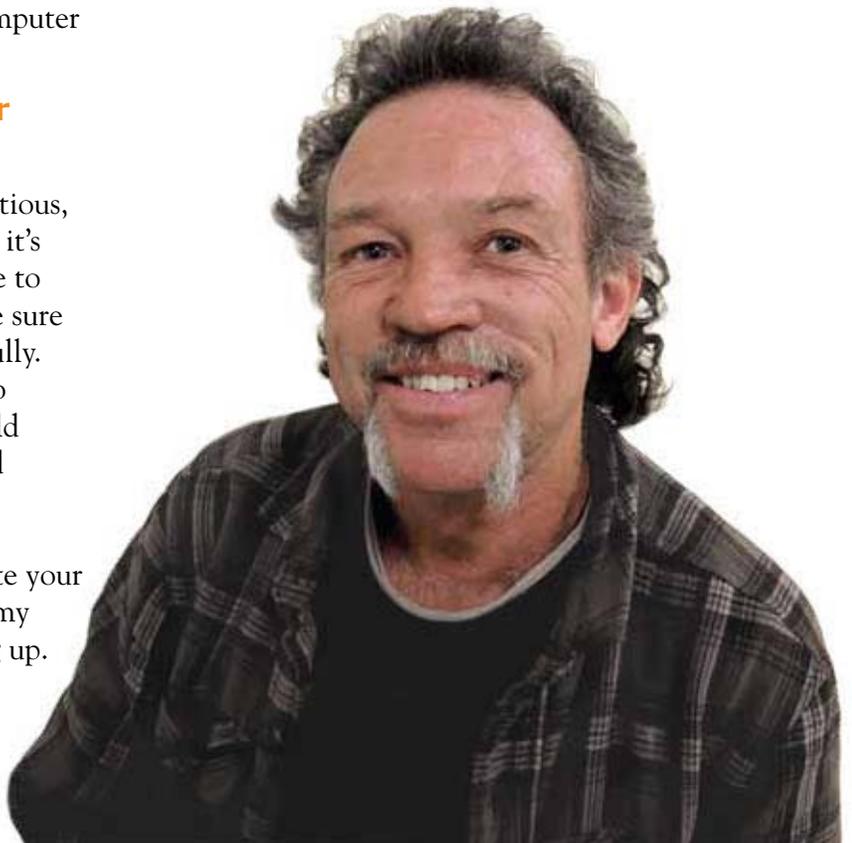
**I am grateful for you and your donations every day.**

Not only is the food at the soup kitchen nutritious, it's also prepared with loving hands. Sometimes it's hard to believe how many volunteers come here to serve us. They are friendly and kind. You can be sure I eat everything on my plate, and I eat it gratefully. What breaks my heart most is to see children go hungry. I wonder what so many of our kids would do without the generosity of the Food Bank and a donor such as you.

I just want you to know how much I appreciate your kindness. I don't know how long I'll remain in my present economic condition. But I'm not giving up. I'm looking forward to a better day.

~David

**"As I go through my day I'm often reminded of the generosity of so many caring people. I just want you to know how much I appreciate your kindness."**



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### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



I'm often struck by the extraordinary actions of "ordinary" people in our community: the clients who muster up the courage to reach out for help and renew their optimism each day; the donors who selflessly give food and funds to make our mission a reality; volunteers who donate hours of their time to ensure that every aspect of the distribution process is as efficient as possible; and the dedicated partner agencies throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties who transform their neighborhoods into communities that trust, support, and thrive.

Whether you have dropped off some food or donated money that we converted into dozens of meals, thank you for your extraordinary actions.

In partnership,  
*Kathy Jackson*  
Kathy Jackson  
CEO

## Edita's vision is a hungry-free community

My name is Edita Cruz and I'm proud to be the Executive Director of Martha's Kitchen in San Jose. David, whom you met on the cover page, regularly comes to our "little soup kitchen" nestled between downtown San Jose and Willow Glen. Our founder, Louise Benson, began this important work out of her garage when she prepared and gave away peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for those in need. Then in 1981, she and her friends started *Martha's Kitchen* at Sacred Heart Church serving hot meals.

**2,000,000 meals!**

Well, we're not so little anymore. We still give out hot meals on-site through our mission to "feed the hungry with dignity, no questions asked, no judgment made." Last year, *Martha's Kitchen* served its two millionth meal since we have grown to an annual production of 200,000 meals. We're now the largest and oldest soup kitchen in Santa Clara County.

Second Harvest Food Bank is one of our strongest partners that allow *Martha's Kitchen* to keep its doors open to the hungry in our community. 90% of what we serve comes from either the Food Bank or the supermarkets where our volunteers pick up donations. The Food Bank and *Martha's Kitchen* together form a safety net for our neighbors in need. We've become like family to many of the families we feed each week. Not too bad for what started out as sandwiches served from a garage!



"We feed the hungry with dignity, no questions asked, no judgment made."  
~EDITA CRUZ

## As a volunteer, Jiamin is making a difference for seniors in need!

My name is Jiamin. I came to the United States from Shanghai nine years ago. In China I was an architect. I had the privilege of working on such projects as schools, universities and hospitals.

I enjoyed my work as an architect in China, but I also had to endure quite a lot of hardship during China's Cultural Revolution. Now that I'm in America, I am especially grateful for all this country has to offer my family and me. One thing I appreciate

for my four-year-old granddaughter is the nutritious food we receive from Second Harvest Food Bank. It is so wonderful. We thank everyone who helps put this food on our table.

**I receive food from the Food Bank... and I'm also able to return the favor**

It's also my pleasure to volunteer in Palo Alto twice a week. The seniors that come here are all on fixed incomes. Some have almost no income at all. It gives me great pleasure to help sort the food and put it in brown bags for hungry people to take home. Today we provided cabbage, potatoes, carrots and much more to people in need. It makes me happy to be able to help others and to make a

"The nutritious food we receive from Second Harvest Food Bank is so wonderful. We thank everyone who helps put this food on our table."



contribution to their health.

When my friends receive their bags of food I see smiles all over their faces. It's their way of saying thank you. I appreciate both the food I receive and the privilege of being a regular volunteer. It makes my heart glad to help brighten someone's day.

~Jiamin

## Together we can Stamp Out Hunger!

On May 14th, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is happening in our community, and we invite everyone to take part. It's the nation's largest one-day food drive, and last year our friends and neighbors throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties came to together to donate over 390,000 pounds of food.

Let's do even more this year! It's easy to participate and help Stamp Out Hunger—simply leave a non-perishable food donation by your residential mailbox before 9:00am on Saturday, May 14th. Your letter carrier will pick-up all donations and make them available for the Food Bank.



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



As April is National Volunteer Month, it is a special opportunity to recognize our extraordinary volunteers! Second Harvest Food Bank depends on hundreds of volunteers each week to support all aspects of our mission. *Last year, volunteers donated 298,250 hours!* This was a 14% increase from the previous year, the value of which is equivalent to nearly \$5.6 million (or hiring 143 full-time employees).

We really cannot say “thank you” enough to all of the volunteers that make our daily operations run so smoothly. Without their help all year long, we cannot feed our neighbors in need. Learn more at [SHFB.org/Volunteer](http://SHFB.org/Volunteer)

## Through her monthly gifts, Nancy is changing more lives.

My name is Nancy and I’m in the Monthly Harvest Club at Second Harvest Food Bank. I am a Bay Area native, so it’s important to me to support the local community.

All of us understand what it’s like to live with limited resources, but with just a little time or money, you can make a HUGE change. And it doesn’t need to be a lot. It can be spare change, or dropping off a turkey, or just getting on Facebook. There are many ways to get involved without taking a lot of time out of your day or taking a lot of money out of your budget.

I like to do everything online and the Food Bank makes it so easy for me to feed as many people as possible through my monthly contributions.

When I think about organizations to share my resources with, I look for where I can make the most impact. Whenever I talk about the Food Bank with others,



*Nancy is a member of the Monthly Harvest Club at Second Harvest Food Bank*

I always tell them that there are so many people whose lives you can touch with just one dollar.

**By investing in Second Harvest, I am also supporting an organization I know will be around for years to come.** I can trust that my impact lives on through each plate of food and the bright futures that result from having one of life’s basic needs fully met.

**To join our Monthly Harvest Club like Nancy, simply check the monthly giving box and complete the form below.**

### MY SPRINGTIME DONATION

**YES**, it’s my privilege to continue to help provide nutritious food for people in need in our area.

Here’s my gift of:  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I commit to a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. My first gift is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my gift on my credit card:  VISA  MC  AMEX  DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MY E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make your check payable to:

**Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties**

750 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125-2113

**Give online at [www.SHFB.org](http://www.SHFB.org)**

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.