



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

www.SHFB.org

Summer 2011

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SANTA CLARA AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES

## Leslie lends a hand to feed families just like hers

My name is Leslie, and I have the privilege of volunteering at the Food Bank as part of the Partners In Need (PIN) program that provides weekly groceries to those who qualify. Not only do I help bag produce and box vegetables, but I'm also able to receive food for my family. The whole idea of a "Food Bank" is amazing. I hope even more people come to realize how vital the Food Bank is to our community.

I know it would be disastrous if my child and I did not receive this nourishing food. I'm grateful for the peanut butter, the tortillas, beans, cereal, jelly, produce and cans of vegetables. And the longer I volunteer here, the better I feel about myself. That's because I know every box I fill is helping to keep a child healthy. Every bag of fresh produce helps a family, a single mother or a senior make it through another day.



Too many of our neighbors are hungry...and your donations and volunteer efforts are putting food on their tables. Perhaps you're like me...you *also* feel good inside just knowing you're doing something to help someone in need. Thank you for caring so much for my child and for helping me. You are a special person.

-Leslie

"I know every box I fill is helping to keep a child healthy."

*You are some of the kindest people in the world. Thank you.*

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Message from the

CEO



The only hunger a child should know is for learning.

As a mother, I can see myself in each parent I meet at our distribution sites. They're doing the best with what they have to provide for their children. But the majority of these families are scraping to get by on two or three low wage jobs and that's still not enough to keep food on the table. For far too many families summer is the hungriest time of the year. During the school year, children eat breakfast or lunch at school. But when summer arrives and school is out, many low-income children can no longer count on school meals, increasing their risk for hunger and malnutrition during the summer months.

So won't you *Share Your Lunch* this summer? Food and fund drives are in full gear right now to make sure we keep healthy, kid-friendly food flowing into the little hands that need it most. These children—Silicon Valley's future—cannot afford to let hunger limit their potential for success. Let's change the odds for them today.

In partnership,

*Kathy Jackson*

Kathy Jackson  
CEO

Jimmy and his volunteers have been fighting hunger for almost 30 years

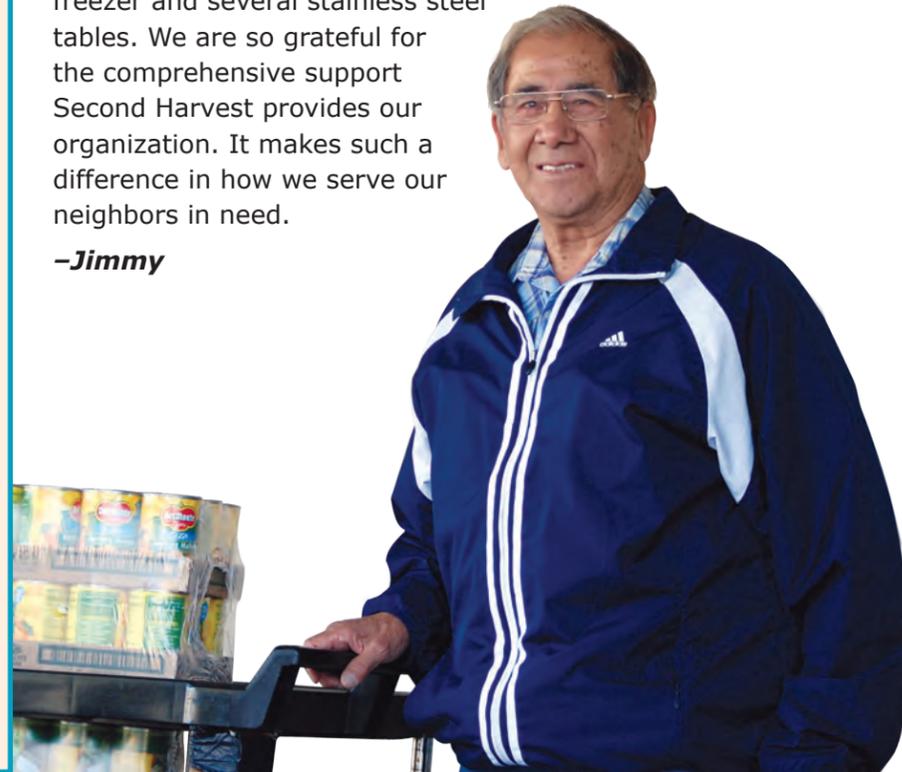
My name is Jimmy and I've been helping feed the hungry through Our Lady of Guadalupe in San Jose since 1982. Our church is not your typical food distribution site: blessings in the pantry, an entire site run by volunteers, and a hymn sung to all those waiting in line at the beginning of each distribution. In 2010, we provided food to an average of nearly 4,000 people each month, almost double the amount we were serving 10 years ago.

Our church serves one of the poorest and most ethnically-diverse zip codes in Santa Clara County. East San Jose benefits from a network of faith-based communities. This closely woven network is strengthened by its neighborhood based leadership. When the Food Bank asked me and my volunteers to increase our responsibility beyond the food pantry, we didn't hesitate to step up our operations and expand our reach. We are proud to partner with the Food Bank to operate a weekly Brown Bag program that provides food for seniors and leverage their monthly Produce Mobile distribution.

The Food Bank recently gave us a gently used commercial freezer and several stainless steel tables. We are so grateful for the comprehensive support Second Harvest provides our organization. It makes such a difference in how we serve our neighbors in need.

-Jimmy

"We are serving nearly double the amount of people we were feeding 10 years ago."



Al is grateful for all that he has

My name is Al. To be honest, I don't have enough words to express my appreciation to each of you who donated food or money this year. Your decision to reach out to those of us who are hungry means everything. I grew up poor, although I never felt poor. I can still see my mom washing clothes in the sink and making tortillas on our family's wood stove.

My income is severely limited and too often the cabinet in my kitchen is empty. But when I come to the Food Bank's distribution site to pick up my box of food, I know it's going to be a good day. What I receive – the carrots, beans, and all the other fresh produce – overwhelms me. There's so much love here. Everyone seems to have the soul of a servant. The volunteers I have come to know are friendly and have so much heart. Again, words fail me when I even try to express my gratitude for the Food Bank, the donors, the volunteers, and all others who make food a reality for people like me.

And when I'm not able to come here for food, I just tighten my belt a bit more. You'll never hear me complain about being without. I just don't live that way. My philosophy has always been to be grateful for what I have and *to help others in any way that I can*. The food you provide means the world to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You may never really know the good you are doing by giving so much to so many.

-Al

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



SHARE YOUR LUNCH THIS SUMMER!

School's Out, But Hunger Isn't.

Feed a child this summer by taking action today at: [\\$10 Feeds 20 Children!](http://www.SHFB.org/ShareYourLunch)



# Louie walks the talk of community leadership

My name is Louie and I'm a Systems Engineer at Rambus. When I first talk to people about poverty and local hunger, their initial reaction is usually, 'The problem is so big—what can my \$100 do?' The answer is, 'A lot!' I'm so impressed that at Second Harvest, 95¢ of every \$1 donated goes directly to feed hungry people in need.

I wanted to make a difference and decided to organize an all-virtual food drive at Rambus, allowing my colleagues to participate by making donations online. It didn't make sense for us to go out and buy food to donate when the purchasing power of Second Harvest is so much stronger. By educating my co-workers on how far the Food Bank could stretch their donations, we tripled the participation rates and the impact of our drive. It's really fun coordinating drives—I know that the effort I make puts food on the table for so many in our own backyard.

## Volunteering and team-building at the same time

**"Everyone can make a difference—it's about priorities."**

I also volunteer at the Food Bank, serving as a Team Leader. It's very satisfying to get our hands dirty and see how much food we're able to process in just 2 or 3 hours. It's a lot cheaper than paying for a commercial team-building activity, but just as

effective. It's a chance to improve communication and problem-solve, while learning how to work better together.

There's nothing extraordinary about me. Everyone can make a difference—it's about priorities. As a donor and a volunteer, when I see Second Harvest growing, that's my reward.

**-Louie**



*As a donor and a volunteer, when I see Second Harvest growing, that's my reward.*

**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
Four Star Charity

For the fifth year in a row, we have received Charity Navigator's 4-Star rating (its highest honor) for our efficiency and fiscal responsibility. That places us in the top 5% of all non-profit organizations in America.

## MY SUMMERTIME DONATION

**YES,** you can count on my support to help feed hungry people in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties this summer.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_



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.