

Darleen now gives what she once received

My name is Darleen. My upper-middle class life began to unravel the day my husband walked out on me and our two young children. I had devoted so many years to raising our family that people no longer found me employable. I did everything I could to make ends meet but it wasn't enough.

It was the most humiliating time in my life because I had to admit that I needed help. I worried about what people would think when I went to ask for food assistance, but I had to do it for my family.

Through it all, I worked hard and went back to school to keep my family nourished and safe. With some help along the way from both strangers and friends, we made it through. Today, I manage the fitness center at eBay and coordinated the recent Second Harvest holiday drive there.

"I care because I remember what it was like to need food."

—DARLEEN

You never know who will benefit from your donations. It might be the person living next door to you trying to hang on to their house; it might be your former colleague

who's been forced to make tough choices since they were laid off. I hope people don't forget that there are people who are hungry year-round. I am so passionate about Second Harvest because this is what it's all about—helping each other!

People may look at me now and think, "Why does a successful manager care so much about the Food Bank?" I care because I remember what it was like to need food. For kids, food may not feel like a gift, but as a parent, I can tell you: whether it's milk, turkey, eggs, or fresh produce, being able to feed your children is the greatest gift.




FOOD FOR THOUGHT

www.SHFB.org

Winter 2012

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF SANTA CLARA AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES

Charlene chooses to do the right thing



My name is Charlene. I've received food from Second Harvest Food Bank for the past several years, and it means the world to me. But I also come to the Food Bank once a week to volunteer. *And I come here for one specific reason.*

For more than 20 years, I was an alcoholic. During that time, I didn't give back or help those who needed it—my alcoholism made me a selfish person. So that's why I'm here today sorting vegetables, packing boxes and doing whatever I can as a volunteer. It's my way of trying to do the right thing. I'm proud to say I've now been sober for 20 years.

"It's a joy for me to share what I have with others who are hungry. I do this simply because it's the right thing to do."

—CHARLENE

Now, when I stand over large boxes of vegetables and sort food for people who are hungry, my heart goes out to them: the seniors who are hungry and

the children who wonder if they'll eat dinner tonight. Sometimes I don't take food home for myself because I know someone needs it more than I do.

It's a joy for me to share what I have with others who are hungry. I do this simply because it's the right thing to do. I'm overwhelmed when they write me notes, thanking me for what I have given them. With tears in their eyes, they thank me for even the smallest bag of food.

So now let me *thank you* for all you have done and *continue to do for me*. I appreciate you and your generosity. And you can be sure I'll be joining you in this act of kindness.



MY WINTER DONATION

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

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 EMAIL 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

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

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Food for thought from the
CEO



We're in the final moments of our annual Holiday Food and Fund Drive, and your generosity to our neighbors in need never ceases to amaze me. Thank you to every person who reached into their hearts and made more meals possible.

Many of you know about our extraordinary gift of space from Cypress Semiconductor last year. The Food Bank has been struggling to address physical capacity limitations for some time, and this gift will allow us to provide increased amounts of fresh, nutritious produce to those who need it most. It will also become our new Santa Clara County volunteer services hub.

When I think of the phrase "ordinary people doing extraordinary things," I think of the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers like Charlene, who has overcome significant challenges and chosen to put the needs of others before her own. She is special. And so are you.

Thank you for your belief in us, and most of all, thank you for stepping up when it matters. Best wishes for a happy new year.

In partnership,

Kathy Jackson

Kathy Jackson, CEO

**The Gift of Food,
"No Strings Attached"**

Four volunteers in 1987 started serving a weekly breakfast for the low-income Half Moon Bay community. They thought it would last 6 months, not 25 years! If not for Senior Coastsiders' gift of space to prepare and serve the meal and for Second Harvest's gift of ingredients, we would never be able to continue the breakfast and feed nearly 250 people each week.

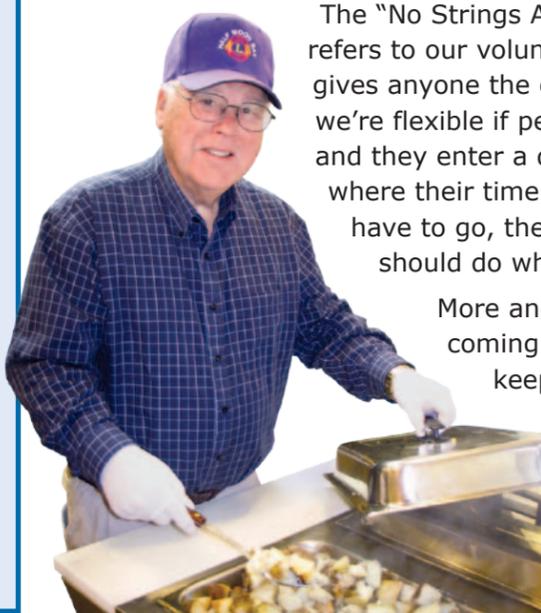
We utilize the food from Second Harvest—usually potatoes, eggs, canned corn, and fresh produce—as well as day-old pastries from bakeries to prepare the feast. One local restaurant helps us with the potatoes by peeling, slicing, and baking them for us free of charge.

The families who come for the breakfast each Saturday are from all walks of life. Nearly half of the people getting this simple but hearty breakfast are children under 12. What makes this meal special is that we believe in sharing the food regardless of your circumstances or place in life. There's always a place at the table for you, "no strings attached."

The "No Strings Attached" concept also refers to our volunteers. Our informal nature gives anyone the opportunity to serve. And we're flexible if people's schedules change and they enter a different stage of their life where their time is more limited. If they have to go, they have to go. We all should do what we can, when we can.

More and more families keep coming each week so we'll keep making the breakfast, always with dignity, a warm plate, and a listening ear.

Sincerely,
"No Strings Attached"
Breakfast Volunteers



There's always a place at the table for you, "no strings attached."

Wei appreciates your kindness and caring

My name is Wei. I deeply appreciate the kindness of the people who give to Second Harvest Food Bank and to places like *CALL Primrose* in San Mateo County, where I'm able to receive healthy food. It's difficult to stay employed these days, especially as I get older. I've been in situations where if you don't—or *can't*—work, you just go hungry and no one thinks twice about it.

I could hardly believe what was in my box of food today

Just today, my daughter brought me to the food pantry to pick up our box of food. My eyes got wide as I looked at what so many kind people are giving me: milk, eggs, cheese, yams, potatoes, fruit and so much more. All I can say is *thank you* to everyone who makes it possible for my wife and me to eat.

I admire you for your donations of money and food. I respect you for your passion to feed people in need. I honor you for your big, open heart to help people like me. I know I'll be able to work soon. And when I have money, you can be sure I'll find a way to give back to Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you for being here for me...and for so many others who are in need of food.

"I admire you for your donations of money and food. I respect you for your passion for people in need." —WEI



Please accept my deepest thanks for the nutritious food I received today.

Growing to meet our needs



Kathy Jackson receives the key to the new building.

Have you heard? Second Harvest Food Bank is expanding with new warehouse and office space. Our new 75,000-square-foot facility on North First Street in San Jose was an extraordinary gift from Cypress Semiconductor, and will nearly double our overall space. It will increase our food distribution capacity by at least 50% over the next five years.

The Food Bank has been struggling to address physical capacity limitations for some time, and this truly transformative gift will allow us to provide increased amounts of nutritious produce to our community. Please look to our website and other communications as we get closer to making the facility fully operational.