



**Contact:**

Caitlin Kerk  
408-266-8866 ext. 368  
408-858-9208 cell

## **LONGTIME ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE TAKES ON NEW ROLE AT SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK**

**Staff Changes Aimed at Strengthening the Hunger Safety-Net**

**SAN JOSE, Calif., July 30, 2015** – Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties announced that longtime anti-hunger advocate Cindy McCown is taking on a new role at the Food Bank aimed at further strengthening the local hunger safety-net. She is now vice president of Community Engagement and Policy at Second Harvest Food Bank, a newly created position. Bruno Pillet is the new vice president of Programs and Services.

McCown has worked at Second Harvest for more than 30 years and has served in a number of capacities, most recently as vice president of Programs and Services. In her new role, she will focus on creating new partnerships and collaborations in the community as well as championing policies that will increase access to food and reduce local hunger.

“Cindy McCown has devoted her life to fighting hunger and has developed deep relationships in the communities we serve,” said Kathy Jackson CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. “She understands local hunger and knows the kind of systemic changes that are needed to ensure that everyone in our community has access to nutritious food.”

During her tenure at the Food Bank, McCown has witnessed tremendous growth in the need for food as well as Second Harvest’s capacity to keep pace. When she was hired in 1984 as a community nutritionist, the Food Bank served 40,000 people a month and operated out of a tiny building on Commercial Street. Today Second Harvest provides food to nearly 250,000 people every month and has three large facilities, including a dedicated produce distribution center on North First Street in San Jose.

Over the years, McCown has been responsible for instituting a number of critical programs and services at the Food Bank, including the multilingual Food Connection hotline, which connects callers to food resources. She has been instrumental in developing trusted relationships with community partners, elected officials, and social service providers, and in leveraging federal dollars for local services, most recently securing millions of dollars in stimulus funds to help feed children and families during the recession. She has served on many committees that have

helped to guide the delivery of social service programs and disaster response efforts in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. McCown has also been a strong advocate for legislation that has improved access to food, including reducing barriers to CalFresh (food stamps).

When McCown took on her new role and the vice president of Programs and Services position opened up, Pillet was an obvious candidate for the job. He had joined Second Harvest Food Bank last year through the Encore Fellows program, which places professionals from the for-profit sector into high-impact roles in the nonprofit sector. As an Encore Fellow, he led a successful pilot project for the Food Bank that tested new approaches to serving client families and helped to implement key business process improvement strategies and management tools.

“Since he arrived at Second Harvest as an Encore Fellow, Bruno has helped the Food Bank explore and analyze aspects of our business model,” Jackson said. “Cindy left some big shoes to fill when she took on her new role, so we are very pleased to have someone of Bruno’s caliber to take over as vice president of Programs and Services.”

Pillet brings his many years of experience in customer service and business process improvement to his role at Second Harvest, where he will oversee the programs and services that ensure anyone in our community who needs a meal can get one. Providing food to nearly 250,000 people every month requires a large distribution network. Second Harvest partners with more than 330 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 770 sites in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including schools, community centers, pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

Pillet spent more than 25 years at Hewlett-Packard, where he led a number of key initiatives. In 2002, he became responsible for HP’s Customer Support Delivery Operations and managed the integration, globalization, and transformation of customer support delivery. Following HP’s acquisition of Compaq, he led the effort to seamlessly integrate HP’s processes. In 2007, he took on the role of vice president of Engineering for HP Services, Global Delivery, where he led the globalization and standardization of delivery processes and tools for HP’s customer support. Most recently, Pillet served as vice president of Global Services for Grass Valley, which manufactures equipment for broadcast television.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is the trusted leader dedicated to ending local hunger. Since its inception in 1974, Second Harvest has become one of the largest food banks in the nation, providing food to nearly one quarter of a million people each month. The Food Bank mobilizes individuals, companies and community partners to connect people to the nutritious food they need. More than half the food distributed is fresh produce. In fact, Second Harvest provides more fresh fruits and vegetables than any other food bank in the United States. Second Harvest also plays a leading role in promoting federal nutrition programs and educating families on how to make healthier food choices. Visit [www.SHFB.org](http://www.SHFB.org) to get involved.

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