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‘NOBODY SHOULD EVER GO HUNGRY’

Second Harvest Outreach Workers Connect Local Residents to Food

SAN JOSE, Calif., February 24, 2016 – It’s hard to imagine that one in 10 people in wealthy Silicon Valley receives food from Second Harvest Food Bank every month. What’s even more astounding is that the need may be as high as nearly one in three. That’s why Second Harvest Food Connection staff are out in the community making sure people have access to the nutritious food they need to thrive. They are at libraries, community centers, health care facilities, and other locations throughout the community connecting people to food-assistance programs, including Second Harvest distributions as well as government programs like CalFresh (food stamps).

According to the recently released 2016 Silicon Valley Index, 30 percent of households in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties live below the level of self-sufficiency. That means they don’t earn enough money to pay their bills and put food on the table. The economy may be booming, but skyrocketing housing costs are leaving more and more families unable to make ends meet.

“Nobody should ever go hungry,” said Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. “Even though Second Harvest is already providing food to a quarter of a million people every month, we know there are probably many more who aren’t getting the nutritious food they need to stay healthy and perform at school and at work. Second Harvest connects families to healthy, nutritious food right in their own neighborhood. We understand that people face barriers to getting the help they need. Many simply don’t know what services are available or how to apply for them, and we can help with that.”

In addition to Food Connection specialists out in the community, Second Harvest also has a multilingual Food Connection hotline. Anyone who needs food can call 800-984-FOOD

(3663) to find out about local food-assistance programs. The Food Connection hotline is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Caring staff is available on the other end of the line to connect callers to food.

Supplemental food from Second Harvest Food Bank and programs like the [CalFresh](#) food stamp program can help families and individuals meet their nutritional needs while freeing up dollars for other basic needs like housing and medicine. Food Connection specialists can help those who are eligible navigate the sometimes complex CalFresh application process.

“CalFresh is a critical source of supplemental food,” Jackson added. “Unfortunately, it is an underused resource, which means thousands of families and individuals are needlessly going hungry. Only about half of those who are eligible receive CalFresh. That’s why Second Harvest works out in the community making sure those who qualify can access this program.”

The Food Bank offers a number of [services](#) to help people get the nutritious food they need to thrive, including [Family Harvest](#), which provides supplemental food each month to families with children under age 26, the [Brown Bag](#) program, which offers weekly groceries to seniors, and the [Produce Mobile](#), which delivers fresh produce to low-income families and individuals each month.

To ensure that everyone has access to food, Second Harvest partners with nearly 330 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 700 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, community centers, and after-school programs.

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 to get involved.

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