



Contact:

Diane Baker Hayward
408.921.4611 - Mobile
dbakerhayward@shfb.org

CAT CVENGROS JOINS SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Dynamic leader committed to ending cycle of poverty

SAN JOSE, Calif., February 27, 2017 – Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties announced today that it has named Cat Cvengros as the new vice president of development and marketing. Cvengros will lead Second Harvest’s effort to raise \$37 million this fiscal year to provide nutritious food to those in need and to find new ways to connect more people to food.

“We are thrilled to have Cat join our team,” said Kathy Jackson, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. “She is a dynamic leader who brings a tenacity and focus on excellence that will make her a great asset to the Food Bank.”

Her most recent position was chief development officer at Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) in Santa Rosa, which helps at-risk youth with housing, counseling and career training. While there, she led a \$9.8-million capital campaign to open SAY’s Finley Dream Center that provides temporary and permanent housing for more than 60 homeless and former foster children. Under her leadership, the agency increased its annual operating revenue by 133 percent over five years.

“I’m committed to ending the cycle of poverty, so Second Harvest was a natural fit,” Cvengros said. “Nutritious food provides the foundation for a healthy, productive life. It gives kids and adults the fuel they need to fully engage in their lives.”

Cvengros joins the Food Bank at a time when it is experiencing an escalating demand for its services. Second Harvest is providing food to more kids, families and seniors than it did at the height of the recession, and the number is continuing to rise.

“Second Harvest is not only committed to serving more people, but also to serving them better by providing healthier food and by reducing the barriers to getting it,” she said. “One of the reasons I was drawn to Second Harvest is because the organization is incredibly strategic and laser-focused on continuous improvement.”

Prior to working at Social Advocates for Youth, Cvengros worked at the Committee on the Shelterless in Petaluma from 2006 to 2010, where she was operations manager and development officer. Before that, she served in the United States Peace Corps for two years.

She was born in Michigan and holds an MBA from Dominican University in San Rafael, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Baldwin College in Berea, Ohio, where she graduated Cum Laude. Cvengros was recognized in the *North Bay Business Journal’s* 40 Under 40 in 2014 and is a Leadership Santa Rosa Alumna.

“What I do is not a solo activity,” she said. “The success of Second Harvest and the success of everyone we touch – our clients, our volunteers, our donors and others in the community – is dependent on all of us working together. I firmly believe that the success of our clients is dependent on my success, and the success of working with all of these groups. It’s so integrated and we’ll rise together to put an end to hunger if we are all committed to it.”

Based in Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is one of the largest food banks in the nation. Currently providing food to more than one quarter of a million people every month, Second Harvest is a trusted community-based organization that was founded in 1974. Despite the immense wealth in Silicon Valley, and partly due to the high cost of living, hunger and malnutrition are pervasive. The Food Bank distributes nutritious food, including more fresh produce than any other food bank in the country, through a network of more than 320 nonprofit partners at more than 850 sites. Second Harvest is pursuing innovative efforts to increase access to food resources as it seeks to feed an additional 100,000 hungry people each month. To reach more people, it connects those in need to federal nutrition programs and other food resources. To learn more about how Second Harvest is building a hunger-free community, visit SHFB.org.

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