

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

*the
harvester*

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

WWW.FOODSHARE.COM

FOOD SHARE

ventura county



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A note from your CEO

I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season. As we embark on a brand new year with renewed energy and focus on our mission, it's an ideal time to share a value statement we embrace here at Food Share. It perfectly encapsulates the core truths that are foundational to how we lead the fight against hunger in Ventura County.

We are hunger-relief responders.

- ♥ On the front line of hunger relief, we have learned the reason people require help is as varied as the people we serve.
- ♥ We accept their willingness to stand in line for food as sufficient proof they have a genuine need.
- ♥ Experience has taught us some in line have greater needs than others, but the difference between the "haves and have-nots" is nearly indiscernible.
- ♥ We do not ask why and we do not judge. In fact, the line of hungry neighbors inspires us to work even harder to provide for those in need.
- ♥ We understand the complexity of life — be it decisions or circumstances — that leads someone to a food line.

- ♥ We care for them in the same way that we would want to be helped, should we ever be in need as well.
- ♥ Every day we come to work passionate about leading the fight against hunger, and every day we leave knowing we've made a difference in someone's life.
- ♥ There is one truth we hold above all others — together, we can ensure nobody goes hungry in Ventura County.

I hope and trust that we can rely on your ongoing support. As always, please reach out to me at mwhite@foodshare.com. I also encourage you to sign up below for a Food for Thought lunch and tour.

With gratitude,

Monica White
President & CEO



Join us at a Food for Thought Event!

Enjoy a breakfast, lunch, or evening get together (on us!) and a tour of our facility led by Monica White. Learn what it takes to feed 220,000+ food insecure people each year.

Duration: 1.5 hours.

Visit [foodshare.com/food-for-thought](https://www.foodshare.com/food-for-thought) or scan the QR code to book your spot!



The Magic of CAN-tree

It may have rained during our CAN-tree event in December, but it didn't dampen the spirits of everyone who turned out to build a forest of 181 trees, totalling just under 92,000 pounds of food! Spirits were high and creativity was in full bloom to support Food Share's most important food drive of the year.



Stand outs included the 22 Sesame Street themed trees built by the team at **Ventura County Credit Union** and the helicopter, complete with teddy bear pilots, constructed by the **Ventura County Fire Department**.

There was also a touching tribute to City of Ventura firefighter-paramedic, **Matthew Clapsaddle**, known as Clappy, who passed away suddenly while off-duty.



Special thanks go to one of our most valued volunteers, **Mary Reid**, who in addition to working tirelessly throughout the event, also stepped forward to purchase new tree toppers for all the trees. Thank you, Mary! And thank you to everyone who contributed to making this another magical CAN-tree event!



PLANNED GIVING *Your Legacy Your Way*

“I’ve been donating to Food Share, in a small way, since its early days because it served people’s most basic need. In those days it never occurred to me that I would ever be able to contribute at a meaningful level. As it turns out, because I have been frugal, not only will I have “enough,” there will be enough to make a difference. I have chosen Food Share to receive the bulk of my estate because I trust it to make the most effective use of the money.”
Legacy donor,
Ventura, CA.



WHAT EXACTLY IS PLANNED GIVING?

Planned Giving is the transfer of a designated portion of your assets to a charity of your choice during your lifetime or as part of an estate plan. You make it your personal plan by determining what you care about most and then deciding what you want your future charitable gifts to impact.

Planned charitable giving is something we all can do ... it’s not just for the wealthy.

Like so many people, you’d like to know that the causes and organizations you care about today will continue to thrive in the future. And with just a little planning, you can help make that a reality.

A planned charitable gift can be simple, easy to do, and can benefit both you and the charitable organization you would like to support. It can also help ensure that your philanthropic wishes are honored and allow you to leave a lasting legacy of hope.

Planned giving doesn’t have to be difficult, you don’t have to be wealthy to do it, and there are a variety of ways to leave a meaningful legacy. Always consult your financial/legal advisor when planning.

IT DOESN’T HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT

BENEFITS

- 1 You can leave a lasting legacy to causes that are important to you.
- 2 Depending on the type and amount of your gift, it may lessen the tax burden for you and your family.
- 3 And because planned gifts are so flexible, they can work to benefit both you and all chosen beneficiaries, existing side by side with other personal priorities.

FIVE COMMON APPROACHES TO GIVING

- 1 **Beneficiary Designations:** Most retirement plans, annuities, and life insurance policies let you decide in advance how your assets will be distributed after your death. They do this by asking you to designate beneficiaries, such as your favorite charity, on a beneficiary designation form.
- 2 **Donor-Advised Funds:** Donor-advised funds are one of the fastest growing, easiest, and most tax-advantageous ways to give to charity. They allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then direct grants from the fund to their favorite charity whenever they choose. And donors can contribute to the fund as frequently as they like.
- 3 **Gifts from an IRA:** A simple, cost-effective way to benefit a charity of your choice and receive tax benefits is to use an IRA Charitable Rollover (Qualified Charitable Distribution.) If you are 72 years old* or older, every year you can ask your IRA administrator to transfer up to \$100,000 directly to a non-profit of your choice. Because your gift goes directly to a qualified charity, the IRA distribution is excluded from your adjusted gross income for income tax purposes.
- 4 **Gifts of Appreciated Stock:** You may be able to maximize your gift and your income tax deduction by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to a charity. By donating appreciated stock directly to the charity, the donor avoids recognition of capital gain and eliminates any income tax resulting from the sale of the stock.

- 5 **Living Trust or Will:** Making a gift through your will or living trust is one of the easiest ways to give into the future. With your legal advisor’s assistance, you can include language designating family, friends, or your favorite charity as part of your estate plan. Even a small percentage can have a big impact.

Where to begin if you would like to leave a lasting gift to Food Share of Ventura County.

- Determine what you want to accomplish with your charitable gift.
- Contact Food Share for additional information and to discuss how your wishes can make a lasting impact. Please contact: Jennifer Caldwell **Email:** jcaldwell@foodshare.com **Tel:** 805 983 7100 x129
- Meet with your Financial Planner/Legal Advisor to decide the best approach to achieve your goals.

* check with your IRA administrator as changes in the 2022 tax law may effect the age at which you must take your RMD

**FOOD
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ventura county

Homebound Seniors Benefit from Partnership with DoorDash

Food Share has created a new program to help feed and serve more local seniors throughout Ventura County.

In a partnership with DoorDash, an app-based food delivery service, Food Share's senior delivery program provides free food packages each month to home-bound, income-eligible seniors aged 60 and over. The program, which started in April 2022, found early success in meeting the needs of more than 100 home-bound seniors in its first eight months of operation.

Food Share's home delivery service is part of its Senior Food Box program, which aims to improve the health and well-being of low-income seniors struggling to afford nutritious food.

The free food packages include cereal, juice, canned meat, poultry or fish, shelf-stable milk, a 2 pound block of cheese, peanut butter, canned vegetables, and canned fruit. Additionally, a selection of fresh fruits and veggies, changed up seasonally for variety, are typically added to the mix.

“This partnership with DoorDash is a great example of how digital technology can be used to truly benefit our clients.”
Kevin Herold,
Food Share Operations Supervisor

The Senior Food Box program serves around 3,100 seniors a month at 40 distribution sites throughout Ventura County.

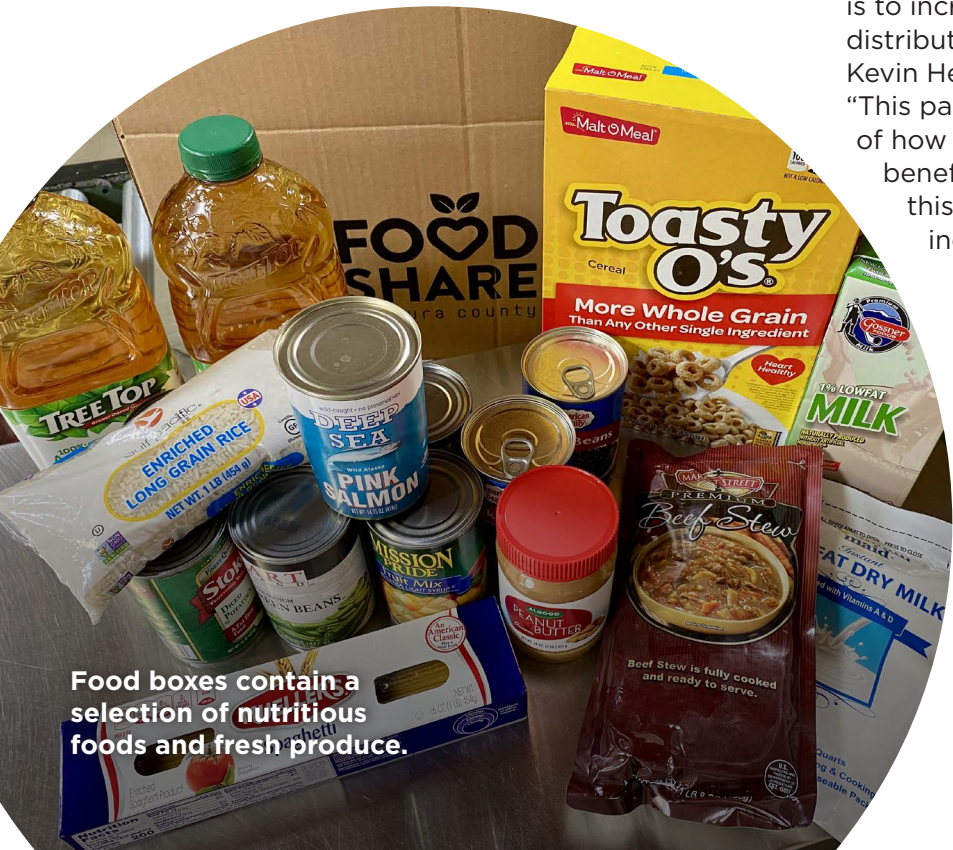
“One of our strategic goals as an organization is to increase the capacity and efficiency of our distributions and to utilize technology to do it,” said Kevin Herold, Operations Supervisor at Food Share. “This partnership with DoorDash is a great example of how digital technology can be used to truly benefit our clients. We aim to take advantage of this new service to assist more home-bound, income-eligible seniors in our community.”

That benefit also extends beyond seniors. Drivers for DoorDash have also been helped since the start of the program. Many drivers first learned of Food Share by picking up a box for free delivery to a senior in need and were grateful to receive support themselves. Two dozen drivers have received free food and accessed Food Share's pantry network since the start of the program.

For more information visit [foodshare.com/senior](https://www.foodshare.com/senior).



Food Share's Senior Food Box team load food into a car for delivery.



Food boxes contain a selection of nutritious foods and fresh produce.



staff spotlight
**MICHELLE HATCH,
EXECUTIVE
ADMINISTRATOR**

Michelle has worked at Food Share for just under three years. In addition to managing the schedules of the executive management team, she leads the organization's Employee Engagement Committee. The work of this committee has been integral to Food Share being recognized by Feeding America for the excellent care and appreciation shown to staff for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and being named by the Pacific Coast Business Times as one of the 2022 Best Places to Work on the Central Coast.

Why do you work at Food Share?

I have always been involved with working in office administration and hunger relief programs, and my position at Food Share allows me to do both. I absolutely love being a part of such a worthwhile organization.

What is the best part of your job?

The people! My co-workers are fantastic, and I love interacting with those we serve.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I'm a licensed, instrument rated, commercial pilot. I don't have the time to fly as much as I'd like to, but I keep my credentials up to date so that I can still take to the air whenever I have a chance!

Volunteer Spotlight

PEG WALKER

Peg is a recent transplant to Ventura, having moved here from Bakersfield just last year. It hasn't taken her long to get involved in the community, and we're delighted that she's chosen Food Share as her new volunteer home!



Peg, cuddling one of the chickens in the VCAA Senior Nutrition Garden.

Serving the needs of others is second nature to Peg, whose professional life involved working in the field of mental health as a clinical social worker for 30 years.

Peg now enjoys spending time working at Food Share in the VCAA Senior Nutrition Garden and packing emergency food boxes, which Food Share continues to distribute in their thousands each week. Having previously volunteered at Blessing Box, a food bank in Bakersfield where she also served on the board of directors, she understands, perhaps better than most, the impact of food insecurity on people's physical and mental well-being. "I saw the difference that a box of food made when given to someone who felt overwhelmed & hopeless," she notes. "It was often one of the foundational pieces to helping a person get back on their feet."

When she's not volunteering with Food Share, Peg enjoys kayaking, hiking, quilting, traveling, and spending time with Bill, her husband of 37 years, and their three adult children. She's also a doting mom to a bearded dragon lizard named Zoodle and a "grandmom" to a 4-foot-long tegu lizard!

"My goal in life is to give back and just do the right thing," comments Peg about why volunteering is important to her. **With so much going on, we're grateful that Peg has chosen to join the Food Share family of volunteers. Thank you!**

To learn more visit [foodshare.com/volunteer](https://www.foodshare.com/volunteer).

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!



BECOME A G.E.M.

Become a recurring donor with a monthly or quarterly donation. Give Every Monthers (G.E.M.s) are critical to our mission because they help us establish a reliable revenue stream throughout the year. G.E.M.s get early access to event tickets PLUS an invitation to an exclusive monthly lunch and behind-the-scenes tour with our President & CEO, Monica White. Visit foodshare.com/give-monthly



VOLUNTEER

Join our family of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of our work. We can't operate without the thousands of people who give their time to us each year.



HOST OR DONATE TO A FOOD DRIVE

Donate canned food at a food drive. Donated cans are critical to our operation. They help reduce the amount of food we need to purchase and enable us to provide variety to those we serve.

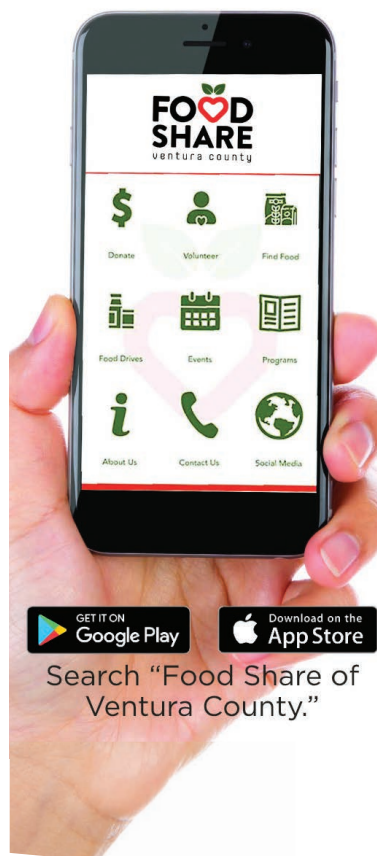
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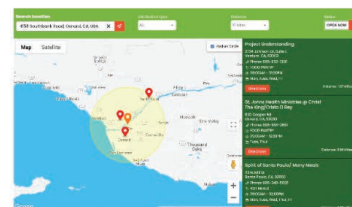
Download OUR NEW SMARTPHONE APP!

NEW FEATURE!

Find the nearest pantry, meal, or drive-thru distribution open NOW! with the Find Food Now map.



Search "Food Share of Ventura County."



- Find food NOW!
- Sign up to volunteer
- Host a food drive
- Make a donation



to download the app.



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CONTACT US

Food Share of Ventura County

4156 Southbank Road
Oxnard, CA 93036

TEL: 805-983-7100
FAX: 805-983-2326
www.foodshare.com
info@foodshare.com

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