

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

FOOD SHARE

ventura county

*the
harvester*

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

WWW.FOODSHARE.COM

From L-R Caitlin Barringer, Michelle Hatch, Denys Pereira, Brian Fisher, Drew West - Chairman, Monica White, Jennifer Caldwell, Jessica Hug, Valerie Gaudio, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot - Chief Executive Officer of Feeding America, Arturo Natividad, and Julie Aboud.



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A note from your CEO

In April, we marked the fourth year of our weekly drive-thru food distribution at College Park in Oxnard. This initiative, which began as a 90-day disaster relief effort at the height of the pandemic, has since become a monumental ongoing project, serving three times the number of clients compared to when we first began.

Food insecurity affects all communities throughout the U.S. With the high cost of living, people often have to choose between paying for rent, medical care, utilities, or food for their families. Many of the people we serve work multiple jobs in order to make ends meet, yet still struggle. This is what fuels our passion and commitment to ensuring that no one goes hungry in Ventura County.

As we move into September, I challenge each of you to help us further our mission. I ask that each of you share with a friend, a colleague, or a family member, the reason why you volunteer and/or donate to support our community in need. **Your story has the power to inspire action in others.** If each person who reads this newsletter tells just **one other person** why they support our mission, we could potentially reach **15,000 new friends of Food Share.**



Together, we can ensure that our neighbors have the food they need to thrive.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Warm regards,

Monica White

Monica White
President & CEO

Food Rescued

Food Share's rescue food partnerships include corporate and retail partners, growers, manufacturers, small markets, and individuals.

In the calendar year 2023, more than eight million pounds of food was rescued/donated that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill.



Camarillo	676,044
Fillmore	124,486
Moorpark	791,341
Ojai	53,602
Oxnard	1,730,365
Port Hueneme	90,315
Santa Paula	52,251
Simi Valley	1,261,927
Thousand Oaks	2,315,878
Ventura	1,220,070
Total VC	8,316,279



Visit [FoodShare.com/FedUp](https://www.foodshare.com/FedUp) for all the latest updates.

It's time to get ...
FED UP
Annual Shindig

Join us on Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 5pm - 9pm, for our Annual Shindig featuring a gourmet array of appetizers, drinks, dinner, and dessert. You'll also get an exclusive tour of our food bank facilities and see how we distribute 20 million pounds of food each year. The fun includes a silent and live auction, as well as special presentations to ensure it is an event you wouldn't want to miss. **Register now to get FED UP while feeling good about it!**

Food Rescue Partners*

Aadirishi Farms	Costco	Leavens Ranch	Target
Albertsons	Deardorff Family Farms	Mission Produce	The Berry Man
Aldi Stores	Del Monte Fresh Produce	Mucci Farms	Trader Joe's
Amazon Fresh	Del Norte Distributing	Move For Hunger	Vallarta
Amazon OXR1	Dole Package Foods	Native Cosmetics	Valley Market Place
Baby2Baby	Driscoll's	Ojai Pixie Growers	VCSO Office of
Bennetts Honey Farm	Duda Farm Fresh Foods	Ojai Valley Inn and Spa	Emergency Services
Beylik Farms	Farrmlink Project	Panera Bread	Vons
Big Lots	Feeding America	Pepperdine University	Walmart
Boskovich Farms	Flowers Bakery	Procter & Gamble	Western Onion
Bread Basket	Food 4 Less	Company	Whole Foods Market
British Wholesale	Food Forward	Ralph's	WinCo Foods
Imports, Inc	Golden West Food Group	Riceland Foods, Inc.	Windset Farms
Calavo	Grocery Outlet	Rollin R	Wonderful Citrus
California Assn. of	La Rosa Market	Sam's Club	Growers
Food Banks	Lassens Natural Foods &	San Miguel Produce	Wood Claeysens
Challenge Dairy	Vitamins	Smart & Final	Foundation
Chick-Fil-A	Latter Day Saints Church	Sprouts Farmers Market	
Chiquita Brands	Laubacher Farms	Super A Foods	

*For the purpose of this newsletter we are only listing those who made rescue food donations in excess of 5,000 pounds. However, a full list of FY23-24 food donators is available by request.

Feeding America Visit

In April, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, visited Food Share of Ventura County to personally commend the dedicated staff who tirelessly worked through the challenges of 2020 to ensure the community's well-being. During her visit, Claire took the time to meet with each member of the warehouse staff and drivers, who couldn't work from home, recognizing them as the unsung heroes of the community. Their steadfast commitment to service, even amidst the uncertainties of the pandemic, ensured that Ventura County residents had access to essential food supplies during a time of unprecedented need.

Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, boasts a network of over 200 food banks across the country, of which Food Share of Ventura County is a proud member. Claire's visit underscored the vital role these local organizations play in addressing food insecurity, particularly during times of crisis.

Claire noted that the dedication and resilience demonstrated by Food Share's staff and drivers exemplifies the spirit of community and compassion, and their efforts made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals and families throughout the region.



Feeling Honored

For the Food Share team, Claire's visit served as a moment of validation and recognition for their tireless efforts. *"It was an honor to be acknowledged by Claire and Feeding America for the work we do,"* said Monica White. *"Their support underscores the importance of our mission and the impact of our work in Ventura County."*

With 200 food banks nationwide, acknowledgement from Feeding America's CEO speaks volumes about the dedication and effectiveness of the Food Share team. As Ventura County continues to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic and beyond, Food Share remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring no one goes hungry.

Collaborative Efforts for Farmworker Food Security

Food Share of Ventura County and Foodbank of Santa Barbara County are collaborating on the Healthy Farmworkers Boundless Collaboration. This initiative focuses on sharing specialized knowledge and increasing coordination to ensure food security across county lines. Indigenous migrant farmworkers, who face language barriers and limited access to resources, are a key focus.

Their efforts include reviewing sociological research, collecting surveys, and gathering feedback to inform culturally appropriate food buying and food box construction. By connecting relevant partners and building networks in neighboring counties, they aim to enhance cultural inclusion. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting program later in the year!



What We Do

Check out our new video showcasing what we do to feed 267,000 people every year. Scan the QR code.





We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our Food Share family and everyone who donated to our Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in partnership with the National Association of Letter Carriers on May 11. We are thrilled to announce that 130,000 pounds of shelf-stable food was collected, providing 108,000 meals for our hungry neighbors!

A HUGE thank you to our Ventura County mail carriers for their dedication and hard work. This food drive wouldn't have been possible without them.



17 New Refrigerators

Food Share was thrilled to purchase 17 new refrigerators for various pantries across Ventura County in June. The refrigerators were ordered as part of the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "We were in desperate need of a new fridge," said Christy Dawson of Christy's Foundation. "The demand for food at our pantry has tripled in the last three years, so this extra capacity is vital."



"Thank you so much Food Share!!! This new refrigerator is going to be such a huge help for us here at Lighthouse Church with our weekly food pantry. As we continue to see an increase in the number of people we serve weekly, this refrigerator means we can now accept more refrigerated items. Thank you again Food Share for all you guys do for so many people."



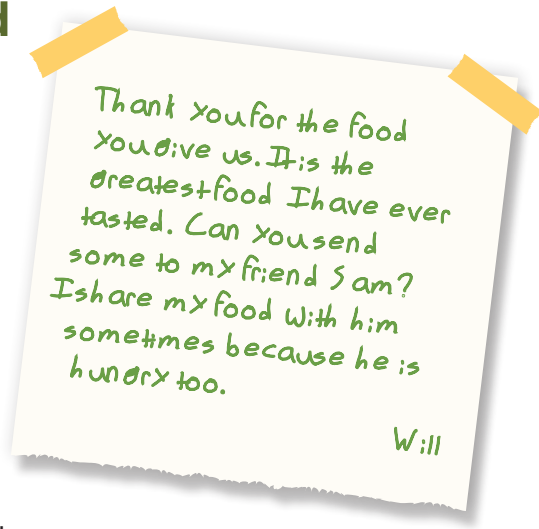
Feed SoCal

Each June, ABC7 plays a crucial role in helping regional food banks, including Food Share of Ventura County, address the food insecurity crisis in our local communities by hosting the Feed SoCal Food Drive.

ABC7 partnered with Stater Bros and Subaru for the 13th annual Feed SoCal Food Drive this June, and invited customers to donate in-store, or drop off food donations at various collection sites. Thank you ABC7, Stater Bros Markets, and Subaru! Also a big thanks to Amazon, Subaru, Honda, and Bank of America for their generous donations.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Break on The Weekend

Thousands of children in Ventura County receive free or reduced-price meals every day at school. This food provides essential support to fuel our kids to learn and play. But what happens over the weekend for families facing food insecurity?



Hunger in children can lead to physical problems, like stunted growth and weakened immunity; cognitive issues, such as poor concentration and academic performance; emotional challenges like stress and behavioral issues; hindered social development; and long-term health consequences like chronic diseases.

That is why Food Share is asking our community for support — a \$25 donation provides 75 meals to Ventura County's hungry children. If you would like to donate, visit www.foodshare.com/donate or send checks to 4156 Southbank Road, Oxnard, CA 93036-1002.

Thank you in advance; hunger doesn't take a break on the weekend.



Father's Day Car Show

Father's Day Car Show was held at Channel Islands Harbor on **Sunday, June 16, 2024**. There were more than 5,000 attendees enjoying the beautiful location, and the eclectic mix of custom cars, hot rods, Volkswagens, low-riders, motorcycles, and classics.

The event raised \$25,000 and all the proceeds were donated to Food Share.

Food Share of Ventura County Voted Best Place to Work for 2024

For the fourth consecutive year, Food Share of Ventura County has been voted as one of Central Coast's Best Places



to Work in 2024. This accolade is especially meaningful as it is determined by staff votes, reflecting their commitment to and passion for helping neighbors in need. "I'm deeply thankful for our exceptional and dedicated team at Food Share. Their choice to share their talents here fills me with gratitude, and I'm thrilled they feel acknowledged and valued for their contributions," said Monica White, President & CEO.

The award highlights the significant efforts made by Executive Management and the Employment Engagement Committee, led by Michelle Hatch. Their ongoing dedication to enhancing the working environment ensures that the Food Share team remains motivated and supported in their mission to combat hunger in the community.





Monica White Honored as Woman of the Year 2024

On March 21, elected officials, community leaders, and representatives from the Mexican Consulate gathered at the Ventura County Credit Union to celebrate five remarkable women for their contributions to the community.

California Senator Monique Limón hosted the event, emphasizing the importance of community efforts in achieving progress. "State government cannot solve everything. These women signify hope and advancement," she said.

Among the honorees was Monica White, who was recognized for her dedication to combating hunger through Food Share. While expressing her surprise at receiving the award, Monica credited her board, volunteers, and nonprofit partners for their collective success. She highlighted their efforts to provide food boxes for farmworkers, stating, "The people we serve deserve the same quality food we have on our tables."

Monica's recognition as Woman of the Year underscores the significant impact of Food Share's initiatives in Ventura County.



Events You Don't Want to Miss

AUG 15

Join us for cocktails (on us!) and a tour of our facility led by Food Share's President & CEO, Monica White.

SEPT 21

Our 3rd Annual Fed Up Shindig right here at our Oxnard headquarters.

DEC 5-8

Our 13th Annual CAN-tree Drive. Be a part of this festive event at Figueroa Plaza in downtown Ventura.

Please join us in welcoming our two new board members: Brian Heath - Vice President & GM, US Oncology Business Unit, Amgen, and Gagan Pawar, MD, MBA CEO, Clinicas Del Camino Real. We are excited for your fresh perspective and energy, and we look forward to achieving new milestones together.



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