

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SPRING 2020



Jennifer Gonzalez (not pictured) and her three children (pictured) receive food assistance at the Food Bank in Miramar after she lost her job due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Families & Seniors Receive Help During the COVID-19 Crisis

Since the County of San Diego declared a state of emergency in early March, the Food Bank has been helping vulnerable, low-income families and seniors who have been affected by the Coronavirus crisis.

As the pandemic gripped our community, tens of thousands of people lost paychecks and their jobs. This caused many low-income families living paycheck to paycheck to seek help from the Food Bank to put food on the table for their children.

Jennifer Gonzalez visited the Food Bank in March to get groceries for her family. *"I was working fulltime at a care facility for senior citizens. After the Coronavirus hit our community, I lost my job, and now we're trying to survive on my husband's paycheck. Fortunately, my husband still has his job at a medical device company, but with bills piling up we needed help from the Food Bank to put food on the table for our children,"* she said.



Helen Logan, 62, receives food in her car at a Food Bank 'touchless drive-thru' food distribution to reduce the risk of Coronavirus infection.

Following Governor Newsom's executive shelter-in-place order and the closing of all nonessential businesses, the Food Bank's food lines doubled in locations across the county with those who stopped receiving paychecks and many who lost their jobs. In March alone, the Food Bank increased the amount of food we distributed countywide by over 1 million pounds.

Many seniors were equally affected by the Coronavirus crisis. Helen Logan visited the Food Bank's "drive-thru" food distribution at St. Agnes Church in Point Loma to get food assistance after she and her husband lost their RV home and their jobs.

"My husband lost his job working on the docks, and we lost our RV home last month. We've been staying with friends, moving from house to house. Right now, we've been out of food for three days. All we have in the refrigerator is condiments," explains Helen.

"We've been out of food for three days now. All we have in the refrigerator is condiments. The Food Bank's 'drive-thru' food distribution made it safe for us to get food to survive."

- Helen Logan, 62,
San Diego

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Supporting Our Community During the Coronavirus Crisis

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

I think it is safe to say that our community is facing the challenge of a lifetime. Who could have even imagined this? Yet here we are.

I wanted to reach out to you with the message –
the San Diego Food Bank and our North County Food Bank chapter are on the job.

Before the crisis started, we were already feeding 350,000 people every month – now our lines are growing longer by the day – and we are already feeding tens of thousands of more people.

School children living in poverty are no longer receiving free school meals, and thousands of our neighbors are no longer receiving a paycheck – there are so many more people that are facing a hardship that they could have never imagined.

The good news is that feeding people is what we do for a living. Our distribution model of 200 monthly distribution sites and our network of 500 nonprofit partners with feeding programs is up and running and feeding those in need.

All we really need to do is build our capacity (more drivers, trucks, add some distributions, etc.) and increase the amount of food to meet the ever-growing need. We've got this.

In just the first two weeks alone after the State of Emergency was announced, we conducted 175 food distributions and distributed nearly 600,000 more pounds of nutritious food to seniors, children, families and many people who have never faced food insecurity in their life.

Here are a few of our achievements:

- We implemented a range of safety and social distancing measures to continue our volunteer program
- Provided an additional 1 million pounds of food to those in need during the first month of the pandemic
- Hosted mass food distributions at SDCCU Stadium, the Del Mar Fairgrounds and Southwestern College for thousands of families in need

You should feel proud that your San Diego Food Bank – the agency that you have supported through generous gifts and volunteer hours in the past – is rising to the occasion and is prepared to help lead our community through the pandemic.

All I am asking for is your continued support. We need financial contributions so that we can purchase millions of more pounds of food, and we need volunteers to keep our supply chain working.

Please do what you can – every bit will make a difference. And together – we will weather the storm.

Thank you San Diego! Stay healthy!



James A. Floros
President/CEO



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Helen attended the Food Bank's new "drive-thru" food distribution model which eliminates contact between clients and volunteers. Clients simply drive up, and a volunteer places groceries in the trunk. This was implemented in March to minimize the risk of the highly infectious Coronavirus being spread among clients and volunteers.

More than 200 households attended the "drive-thru" food distribution on the day that Helen received food assistance. At the food distribution, Helen received a frozen chicken, frozen chicken patties, a quart of frozen liquid eggs, canned tomato sauce, canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned fish, powdered milk, a bag of lentils, canned chili, a bottle of fruit juice, a bag of pecans, pasta, a bag of apples, a bag of oranges, and a bag of rice.

As the groceries were loaded into Helen's car, she said, *"This is a godsend. We needed the food so much. Thank you to the Food Bank and everyone who supports the Food Bank. We are so grateful for this help right now."*

If you would like to support our response to the COVID-19 crisis, please contact Nancy Eisenberg, Director of Individual Giving, at 858-863-5129 or NEisenberg@SanDiegoFoodBank.org.



A volunteer places groceries in the back of Helen Logan's car to reduce contact with clients and the spread of the Coronavirus.

Host a "Virtual Food Drive" to Help During the COVID-19 Crisis



The Food Bank is appealing to the community to donate to our COVID-19 Virtual Food Drive.

The Food Bank's Virtual Food Drive is an easy way for our supporters to donate food to families and seniors who have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Simply visit the Food Bank's website, select the food items that you would like to donate, and pay securely online with your debit or credit card.

The Food Bank is encouraging businesses, civic groups, and faith-based groups to host Virtual Food Drives for the Food Bank.

The Food Bank can customize a Virtual Food Drive with your organization's logo that can be emailed with a customized link to friends, family, supporters, and customers.

To set up a Virtual Food Drive, contact Athena Williford: AWilliford@SanDiegoFoodBank.org or 858-863-5172

Food Bank and Labor Council Host Large-scale Food Distribution at SDCCU Stadium for Families Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic

The San Diego Food Bank partnered with the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council to host a “drive-thru” food distribution for low-income families and seniors affected by the Coronavirus crisis. The Food Bank provided over 12 tons of food to 1,000 vehicles at SDCCU Stadium on Saturday, March 28.

Over a hundred volunteers from the Labor Council and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) placed bagged groceries in the trunks of vehicles attending the food distribution. The “contactless” distribution ensured social distancing to minimize contact between volunteers and clients to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

Volunteers attending the event included Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher and Assemblymember Todd Gloria.

Attendees received wholegrain spaghetti, peanut butter, brown rice, raisins, canned pears, canned peaches, canned green beans, canned green peas, canned tomato sauce, canned vegetable soup, canned chili, canned salmon, a box of cereal, and a 3-pound bag of fresh oranges. Each food package totaled 30 pounds per family.

Tizoc Jiminez, a father of six from Spring Valley, was the last driver to enter the “drive-thru” food distribution. *“This will help my family out. It will help feed my family. I really appreciate this,”* he said.

To donate to our COVID-19 emergency response programs, visit: [SanDiegoFoodBank.org/Donate](https://www.sandiegofoodbank.org/donate).



Cars lining up to get food assistance at SDCCU stadium



Mayor Kevin Faulconer



Labor Council volunteer



Assemblymember Todd Gloria

Qualcomm & SDG&E Donate through San Diego Foundation's COVID-19 Community Response Fund

In March, the Qualcomm Foundation donated \$500,000 and SDG&E donated \$200,000 to the Food Bank through the San Diego Foundation's COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

With an exponential increase in the number of families and seniors seeking food assistance due to the Coronavirus crisis, the grant enabled the Food Bank to procure more food and expand our hunger-relief programs to serve the tens of thousands of families impacted by the pandemic.

The Food Bank extends our gratitude to the Qualcomm Foundation, SDG&E, the San Diego Foundation, and everyone who has supported the COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

Qualcomm



Luna Grill Donates Meals to Children Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis

In order to help feed children in need during the Coronavirus crisis, Luna Grill launched The Good Card. For every \$5 gift card increment purchased, Luna Grill donated meals to children in need in our community in partnership with the Food Bank.

The children's meals were prepared and packaged in Luna Grill kitchens and delivered in sealed packaging for distribution through the Food Bank's distribution network.

A HUGE thank you to Luna Grill for helping feed children in need in partnership with the Food Bank!



Food Bank CEO, Jim Floros and Morgan Rogers of Luna Grill.



Islands Fine Burgers & Drinks Donates Meals to Seniors Affected by the COVID-19 Crisis

In March, all *Islands Fine Burgers & Drinks* restaurant locations across San Diego County partnered with the Food Bank to donate meals to senior citizens affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

For every adult meal purchased for curbside pick up or delivery, Islands donated a meal to the Food Bank to provide to local seniors in need.

The meals were distributed through the Food Bank to senior centers and senior living facilities serving fixed-income seniors.

The Food Bank extends our gratitude to Islands for their amazing support for seniors in need during the crisis.

Cutwater Spirits Donates 50,000 Meals and Hand Sanitizer to Food Bank

San Diego's largest distillery, Cutwater Spirits, donated funds to provide 50,000 meals to those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.



Cutwater Spirits is a longtime donor of the Food Bank. The company has hosted fundraising events, organized volunteer days with its employees, and donated to the Food Bank's annual gala.

In addition to the monetary donation, Cutwater converted its distillery facility to produce an 80% alcohol hand sanitizer in accordance with FDA guidelines to provide to the Food Bank and other area nonprofits. With a shortage of hand sanitizer across the region, the donation was a huge help to the Food Bank's health and safety measures.

Thank you Cutwater for the amazing support!

Special Thanks

Our gratitude goes to the following corporations, foundations, and organizations for their generous support received between January and March 2020.

Businesses

Diamond (\$50,000 to \$2,000,000)

Baker Electric Home Energy
Bank of America
Mission Federal Credit Union
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Local 135

Copper (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

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Clare Institute
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Journey Community Church - Surf Girlz
Motorola Solutions Foundation
North Park Lions Club
The Petunia Foundation
TVIA (Teen Volunteers In Action)

Planning Your Estate?

Include the Food Bank in your will. Your legacy will make a difference in the lives of San Diegans we serve for generations to come.

Please call us at 858-863-5129

or send an e-mail to

legacy@sandiegofoodbank.org