

KNOW HUNGER

Our Mission is to Alleviate Hunger in the Inland Empire

Winter 2024 Vol 11 Issue 1



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CEO CORNER



Hello Neighbors,

Can you believe it's almost spring already? Time flies! I'm thrilled to bring you some exciting updates since our last newsletter.

In 2024, we have some significant plans unfolding. I'm excited to announce the upcoming opening of our community resource center in Riverside, CA. Yes, you read that right! While we'll continue operating from our trusted warehouse on Jefferson St., we've also acquired our very own building to help us move the needle toward real change. This investment is a game-changer, and we believe it will significantly boost our support to the community.

Our new center will be the hub for our administrative team, offering essential in-person support. Just imagine: a SNAP assistance office, a learning center to enhance support for our partners and programs, and a choice pantry. This means we'll provide more than just a food box in a dignifying space – it's about empowering families to pick the items they need, reducing food waste, and ensuring families get the nourishment they truly want.

Plus, a major bonus we'll have is the ability to host partners, industry leaders, policymakers, and neighbors like you within our new walls as we work to bring change to the Inland Empire. Embarking on this journey is a big deal for us, and we couldn't be more excited about the possibilities.

Thank you for being incredible advocates for our mission. Follow us on social media for more updates on this new development.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Fajardo

Carolyn (Solar) Fajardo, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

CAN TREE WONDERLAND RECAP ANNUAL EVENT BREAKS FARSB RECORDS!



Our Can Tree Wonderland event on December 2nd, 2023, was a tree-mendous success! Presented by Albertsons Companies Foundation, this one-day tree-building extravaganza reached a significant milestone by raising over \$45,000, equivalent to providing up to 225,000 meals for Inland Empire families.

In addition to the generous donations from the community and sponsors, our food bank received a \$10,000 donation from Mondelez International during the event as Albertsons Companies' benefiting organization.

Albertsons and Vons took center stage during the community walkthrough with prime placement for their tree builds. Albertsons' Trautwein location claimed the title for "Best Decor" with their creatively themed Barbie tree, winning the vote among the 28 trees from other participating groups.

The event showcased remarkable contributions from the community, collecting over 5,400 pounds of food donations through various food drives hosted by Collect & Build teams. CTDI earned the "People's Choice" Award for their Elf movie themed tree, and Wabash received the "FARSB's Choice" Award with their unique duo tree depicting a mountain road scene.

A heartfelt thank you extends to our sponsors, community members, and volunteers whose unwavering support made this achievement possible. Together, we raised over 229,500 meals for Inland Empire families. Congratulations to all the participants for making this a record-breaking event!

If you would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and upcoming events, please contact our Development Director, Angela, at ajugon@feedingamericaie.org.

We challenge you this new year to make a difference





TGIF THE GOODNESS IN FOOD



TGIF RETURNS THIS MARCH TO NURTURE YOUNG MINDS SIGN YOUR LITTLE ONE UP FOR OUR FREE 4-WEEK NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

FARSB is committed to promoting nutrition education for a hunger-free community. We are thrilled to announce the return of The Goodness in Food (TGIF) this March! Our FREE 4-week program is tailored for third through fifth grades. Enrolled children will interact with members of our FARSB staff over four consecutive Saturdays, engaging in 45 to 60 minute interactive lessons that provide insights into the food cycle and encourage healthy eating habits.

Throughout the four weeks, participants will explore a variety of fruits and vegetables through engaging lesson plans. Upon program completion, participants will have the opportunity to spend an afternoon at Tequesquite Community Garden. There, they will engage in a fun scavenger hunt and immerse themselves in a nature walk before delving into a composting tutorial from a master gardener!

<p>Week 1</p>  <p>Gardening & Sustainability</p>	<p>Week 2</p>  <p>Plant Biology & Nutrition</p>	<p>Week 3</p>  <p>Farming & Irrigation</p>	<p>Week 4</p>  <p>Trip to the Garden</p>
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Our program aims to establish the foundation for a healthy and conscious lifestyle, creating lasting memories with your child. Like seeds, your child will grow with our program, hopefully applying their newfound skills throughout their life. For more information or to register your child, please visit our website at FeedingE.org/TGIF.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR MILLION MEALS GALA!



Saturday, May 11th, 2024 at 6:00 PM

This year's theme is "A Roaring 20s Affair!" Get ready for a night of auctions, gourmet food, and fighting hunger! Stay tuned for more information on the event, including ticket sales. If you would like to donate a silent auction item or become a sponsor for the gala, please visit our website at FeedingE.org/Gala. We look forward to seeing you there!

EMBRACING GENERATIONS WITH SMPP OUR SENIOR MOBILE PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS



Food insecurity is when “people can’t access the food they need to live their fullest lives.” Here at FARSB, we strive to support initiatives like our Senior Mobile Pantry Program (SMPP) to assist seniors, families, and individuals facing hunger within the Inland Empire - regardless of age.

In 2023, we served just over 25,000 households through SMPP, including neighbors like Robert, who expressed that “money is so tight - the dollar doesn’t go as far anymore.”

With the cost of living continuously increasing, it is getting more difficult to put food on the table after paying

rent, mortgages, utilities, and other necessities. Programs like SMPP supplement part of those meals that many cannot afford for themselves and their households. At every distribution, recipients often echo the same phrase, “We would not have made it through the week without this.”

Robert is one of many individuals facing hunger in the IE that rely on our food bank. Help our neighbors in need by making a contribution of any size at FeedingIE.org/Donate. Donations like yours can help us source the nourishment everyone needs to live their fullest lives.

WE LOVE OUR PASSIONATE MONTHLY DONORS!

February offers a chance to extend love and compassion to those in need. Just as love binds individuals, families, and communities, your generous donation this month can profoundly impact the lives of those facing hunger. A monthly contribution can create a meaningful connection by providing meals that enrich lives with love, warmth, and sustenance. It’s the perfect time to share the love by contributing to our food bank. Spread kindness to Inland Empire families, like our club members below:

When you join the Meals for Many (M4M) monthly giving club, you become a monthly donor and get a shout-out in our next newsletter. Become a M4M member at FeedingIE.org/Meals-For-Many or scan the QR code below.

Antonio C. Rodriguez
Cheryl Tubbs
Christine Choi
Connie French
Daniel Flores
David Rice
Emily Anderson
Hermie Davis

Jeff Spalsbury
Josue Rodriguez
Kristen Ela
Lisa Gordon
Marisela Hernandez
Teresa Cofield
Todd Royer
Wendy Nevatt-Dakan

