

Your Local Food Bank



KNOW HUNGER

Our Mission is to Alleviate Hunger in the Inland Empire

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CEO Corner



**Carolyn (Solar)
Fajardo, MBA**
Chief Executive
Officer

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Nearly a year ago, we reached an incredible milestone in our 45 years of service—we moved into our very first owned administrative office. This new space not only allowed us to grow our team but also created an opportunity to bring a special vision to life: the Fresh Start Pantry by Goodman, a supermarket-style choice pantry designed to meet the unique needs of our community.

The Fresh Start Pantry offers guests a dignified shopping experience. Families can walk through the market, using carts to select the foods they love—fresh produce, frozen items, canned goods, and more. And the best part? It's completely free.

Through partnerships with healthcare providers like Riverside Free Clinic and Riverside University Health System, we've expanded our impact even further. Patients experiencing food insecurity, especially those whose health is impacted by poor nutrition, can now be referred to the pantry. Once referred, they can shop for groceries, schedule follow-up appointments, and return every four weeks, ensuring they receive consistent support for their food needs.

But the pantry is more than just food. It connects guests to vital resources such as resume writing, counseling, clothing assistance, and more, creating a well-rounded support system for families in need.

We are thrilled to see this vision come to life and deeply grateful for donors like you who make it all possible. Together, we're not just providing food, we're creating opportunities for stability, health, and hope.

Thank you for helping us make a lasting difference in our community!

The Fresh Start Pantry by Goodman

FARSB was proud to open the doors to the Fresh Start Pantry in January. This innovative, client-choice pantry has expanded our ability to serve vulnerable populations by integrating food assistance with healthcare support.

This resource is available by appointment through referrals from our community health partners. It is specifically designed to serve CalFresh applicants referred by select healthcare organizations in the region. Set up like a grocery store, the pantry emphasizes nutrition and choice, allowing individuals and families to select the items that best fit their needs and preferences. This dignified shopping experience empowers those facing food insecurity by providing fresh, nutritious options tailored to their unique circumstances.

As of June, the pantry had already served 349 households and 1,019 individuals, underscoring the urgent need for accessible, integrated food support in our region. The pantry space also features a stunning new mural, designed and installed by Minuteman Press. This addition brings a welcoming atmosphere and reflects the care and community spirit behind the pantry's mission.

To further promote wellness, we have partnered with the Riverside Free Clinic to host monthly cooking demonstrations at the pantry. These sessions focus on simple, healthy recipes that are easy to prepare using pantry ingredients, giving clients the tools to make nutritious meals at home. In recent weeks, nearly 30 tour groups have visited the pantry, each one an opportunity to share our vision and deepen community engagement around the intersection of food and health. Interested in seeing what we are cooking up? Scan the QR code for recipes and more!

By bridging the gap between food assistance and healthcare services, this pantry ensures that those in need receive not just food but also the resources and support necessary for a healthier, more stable future. With the strength and support of our community, the Fresh Start Pantry by Goodman provides hope, dignity, and essential care to those who need it most.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



**LORI
WARE**



**SHANNON
RICHARDSON**

FARSB Welcomes Two New Board Members!

In April, FARSB welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors: Lori Ware and Shannon Richardson. Each bring a unique background and expertise that will strengthen our leadership team and mission.

“We are excited to welcome corporate and community leaders, Lori Ware and Shannon Richardson, to the FARSB Board of Directors,” said Carolyn Fajardo, CEO of FARSB. “Both bring a wealth of professional experience and personal insight that align seamlessly with our vision for a hunger-free future,” said Fajardo.

Lori Ware, a CPA and CGMA with a BS in Accounting and an MBA, brings deep experience in finance and consulting. “I am deeply committed to FARSB’s mission of ensuring everyone has access to adequate and nutritious food, and would welcome the chance to strengthen the organization’s financial health and support its continued growth,” said Lori.

Shannon Richardson, Strategic Initiatives Director at California University of Science and Medicine (CUSM), holds degrees in Psychology and Higher Education Leadership. “With extensive experience leading innovative and resourceful change initiatives, I believe I can significantly contribute to your organization’s continued success and positive impact on the community,” said Shannon.

Our Board of Directors plays a vital role in FARSB’s strategic growth and financial oversight. We’re thrilled to add the leadership and insight of Lori and Shannon as we work to expand our impact and build a hunger-free Inland Empire.

With the strength and support of our community, the Fresh Start Pantry by Goodman provides hope, dignity, and essential support to those who need it most.



Your participation in a food drive helps those in need directly. Check out our updated flyer with essential items like canned corn, stuffing, and various shelf-stable holiday foods. Register now at FeedingIE.org/Food-Drives.



Making a difference can be as simple as a small donation. Your generosity can help ensure that more people enjoy a warm and hearty meal. To contribute, go to FeedingIE.org/Donate.



Join us at the food bank and make a difference in the lives of those facing hunger. Spots for volunteers are filling up quickly—book your volunteering slot now at FeedingIE.org/Volunteer.

Hunger Action Month®

September marks Hunger Action Month, a nationwide effort led by Feeding America and its food-bank network to raise awareness and unite communities in the fight against hunger across the U.S.

In the Inland Empire, where hundreds of thousands face food insecurity, monetary and volunteer support during September helps Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino bridge critical gaps, amplify local impact, and ensure everyone has access to nutritious meals.

Every action, donating, volunteering, advocating, or simply wearing orange on Hunger Action Day (Tuesday, September 9, 2025), can make a meaningful difference in our community. Together, we're working toward an Inland Empire where no one goes hungry.

Thank you, DCH Subaru!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **DCH Subaru of Riverside**, our Souper-Star Sponsor for this year's Curbing Hunger: Bridging Gaps luncheon.

Your generous support helped make the event a success and played a vital role in providing meals to families facing hunger across the Inland Empire. Thank you for driving change in our community!



Summer Support that Shines!

Summer is coming quickly, but for many families, the need doesn't take a vacation. Thanks to the steady support of our Monthly Donors, we're able to keep meals on the table and hope alive all season long.

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. Thank you for your support!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

Patricia Rifkin
Karen Rohlin
Mikaela Pulse

Anthony Arreola
Anna Cortez
Rita Carter

Vijayadeepthi Rangisetty
Victoria Burden
Amy Murillo

Paul Leksen
Matt Evans
Patricia Melvin

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