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CEO CORNER

Dear Friends,

I hope this Holiday Season finds you and yours happy, healthy, and safe.

While the COVID-19 pandemic might have changed our holiday gatherings this year, your Inland Empire food bank is still hard at work filling the plates for so many in need this holiday season. With thousands of community members reaching out to us like never before, your help is needed more than ever.

Please consider filling the plate for a neighbor in need.

Every dollar donated helps us provide hope and nourishment for our most vulnerable Inland Empire neighbors. The pandemic may be changing how we gather, but as our food bank has witnessed, it hasn’t changed our spirit of giving.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and yours a joyful, blessed and safe holiday season.

In Gratitude,

Stephanie Otero
CEO & Hunger Advocate

MILLION MEALS GALA: REIMAGINED RECAP

While this year’s Million Meals Gala looked a little different, our community came together virtually to make a big impact for families in need. Through the generosity of our donors and community members, we have raised enough funds to provide over 300,000 meals for families in the Inland Empire. While Million Meals Gala festivities have come to an end, we are thankful for everyone who was able to tune in for a week of fun and fundraising. You can view the event video and make contributions towards this effort by visiting www.FeedingIE.org/gala.

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In May of 2019, after years of working in medical and sanitation, Jose retired. Fast forward a year, Jose decided it was time to get back to work, this time as a volunteer! With the recommendation from his daughter, Jose began to volunteer at the FARSB foodbank. Since then, he’s made it his duty to help in the warehouse 2-3 days per week where he provides quality control support in the food bank’s sorting department. If you’re as passionate as Jose about staying active and making a difference, sign up to volunteer at feedingIE.org/volunteer.

Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you for helping to provide millions of meals

To donate text HUNGERFREEIE to 41444 or place your smart phone camera over this bar code:
MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER: JASON BROOKS

We would like to welcome our newest Board Member, Jason Brooks to the FARSB team! "I’m excited to join the Board of FARSB,” said Brooks. “This is a great organization, and I want to thank the staff, volunteers, and donors for everything each of you do. I’m ready to work with you to alleviate hunger in the Inland Empire.” Jason is a Director in KPMG LLP’s Strategy Practice. He and his wife Erin reside in the Inland Empire and remain active in their community. Welcome to the team, Jason! We’re eager to see the great work that we can accomplish with you on our side!

COMBATING SENIOR HUNGER

The Inland Empire is home to a high population of vulnerable seniors who often have difficulties obtaining healthy and affordable food. Fixed incomes, limited access to transportation, and physical disabilities are just a few of the many reasons why so many are finding themselves in need of support. Through our HERO (Homebound Emergency Relief Outreach) program, seniors are able to get shelf-stable, as well as, fresh items delivered right to their door at no cost. Our HERO volunteers deliver food to homebound neighbors in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, including cities such as Temecula, Murrieta, Corona, Victorville, and Rialto. As this program thrives, we are seeking volunteers to help with the consistently growing demand. Help deliver food to our most vulnerable neighbors in need today! Visit www.FeedingIE.org/volunteer to sign up as a volunteer!

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW M4M MEMBERS

Join the Meals for Many (M4M) monthly giving club for a shout out in our next newsletter!

Lisa Aikens
Diana Albay
Martin Avila
John Baccarella
Glenda Barnett
Linda Bermudez
Peter Blickensderfer
Jason Brooks
Marcia Butcher
Mike Calhoun
Cecilia Camacho
Michael Cazares
Ramakanth Chavaly
Araceli Covarrubias
Brenda DeFazio
Daniel Derwey
Ha Do
Georgia Elliott
Sue Ann Espinosa
Jeffrey Figueroa
Randall Fries
Anna Gamboa
Patricia Gardenias
Virginia Gouin
Debra Hadfield
Randolph Head
Susan Hong
Anna Huynh
Krista Ivy
Omar Javed
Sue Kinsinger
Rick Knox
Cynthia Le
Rembert & Sheryl Lightner
Constance Lynch
William Macias
Kerry Mauck
Pauline McGuigan
Gail Murray
Vic Ortiz
Yolanda Penton
Rhona Pimentel
Donita Remington
Mairnnett Robinson
Audrey Rodarte
Karen Rohlin
Rene Ross
Steven Schmidt
Randall Shields
Catherine Smolka
Wilma Solberg
Marco Soto
Tammie Stump
Shalita Tillman
Dulce Valdivia
Mario Vasquez
Felise Visnic
Don Walters
William Yattaw
Yared Yonas

The Inland Empire Community Foundation remains committed to helping children most impacted by hunger. During the 2019-2020 school year, The Inland Empire Community Foundation helped FARSB distribute over 450,000 pounds of nutritious food to schools through the Kids Market program and the Grab-and-Go Kids Markets, which helped feed children through the school year and summer months. Thank you to The Inland Empire Community Foundation for donating through the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund. Together, we feed the I.E.
ABOUT US

Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino (FARSB) is leading the fight against hunger in the Inland Empire by providing food access, emergency relief, education, and advocacy for families in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. FARSB opened in 1980 as Survive Food Bank before later becoming Second Harvest of Riverside and San Bernardino, then Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino. Today, FARSB is the primary source of food to over 250 local nonprofit organizations, distributing over two million pounds of food monthly to emergency food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, high-need elementary schools, senior centers, residential treatment centers, and more.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE YEAR-END GIFT

As of March 2020, those who do not itemize tax deductions can now deduct an additional $300 per taxpayer in annual charitable contributions. It is an “above the line” adjustment to income that will reduce adjusted gross income (AGI) and taxable income. This applies to cash, check, and credit card gifts made to nonprofits like FARSB. For those who itemize deductions, you can now deduct your donations up to 100% of your 2020 annual gross income, up from 60% previously. Donate now!

AMAZON SMILE

Make a difference this season by including FARSB in your Amazon holiday shopping! Visit smile.amazon.com and select Feeding America Riverside and San Bernardino Counties as your charitable donation recipient. Now when you shop, a percentage of every qualifying purchase will go to feeding vulnerable neighbors in the Inland Empire.

HOLIDAYS FOR OUR HEROES

We are thankful for the Veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country. This holiday season, we once again provided turkeys and holiday food boxes to local Veterans through our annual Holidays for our Heroes program! Over 300 Veterans at Liberty Village, Loma Linda Veterans Village, The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 12, and March Veterans Village received turkeys and holiday food boxes just in time for Thanksgiving! We are honored to serve those who have served us.