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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Needed At Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino
Food Bank Faces Alarming Volunteer Shortage During Omicron Surge

(Riverside, CA – February 22, 2022) – Standing as the largest food bank for Riverside and San Bernardino counties, Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino (FARSB) faces a demand by food-insecure recipients as inflation prices soar and volunteer support declines.

While the food bank continues to receive millions of food donations per month from distribution center partners, the surge in Omicron variant cases has frightened away scheduled volunteers leaving a notable impact on the regional food bank’s operations.

“We’ve already scaled down our volunteer shifts to ten people per shift, less than half of what our volunteer shifts were before the pandemic,” said Carolyn Solar, Philanthropy Director at FARSB. “In recent weeks, we’ve had numerous days where only 2 people have showed up to their shift,” said Solar.

Lack of volunteers is one of many challenges faced by the food bank, as inflation prices have resulted in a \$15,000 per month increase in the cost of leasing their warehouse in Riverside, Calif.

“We, ourselves, are experiencing rising costs, and unfortunately, that impacts our ability to feed families most in need,” said Solar. “Every act of kindness, whether that’s volunteer or monetary support truly makes a difference during these unusual times.”

With CDC guidelines in place, FARSB has ensured volunteers are practicing social distance along with mask mandates. Interested organizations of any size and community members are encouraged to sign up for flexible volunteer slots at www.FeedingIE.org/volunteer. For more information on the regional food bank of the Inland Empire, visit www.FeedingIE.org.

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About Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino

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 to families in

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Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. FARSB opened in 1980 as Survive Food Bank in response to the increasing concern about the dual problems of hunger and food waste in the Inland Empire. Today, FARSB is the primary source of food to over 200 local nonprofit organizations, distributing over two million pounds of food monthly to emergency food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, high-need elementary schools, halfway houses, senior centers, residential treatment centers, shelters for the abused, after school programs and group homes. With the help of these charity partners, they make up the largest hunger relief organization in the Inland Empire, making food security a reality for over 1.2 million people every year. Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino proudly holds the 2022 Guide Star Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of transparency achievable through Guide Star. For more information, visit www.FeedingIE.org.