

Food Line

A publication for friends of The Foodbank of Southern California | SUMMER 2013



On Saturday, May 11, 2013, the National Association of Letter Carriers held its annual food drive to help *Stamp Out Hunger* for millions of Americans struggling to put food on the table.

The Foodbank of Southern California was honored to be the recipient of tens of thousands of pounds of non-perishable food items such as canned soup, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, rice or cereal. These items were donated by community residents and collected by their letter carriers when they delivered the mail.

Thank you!

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER: WHO WILL FEED THE CHILDREN?

For many children summer means vacation, sports, camping or just time off to relax, but not for thousands of children living in poverty in Los Angeles County. There are few camping or beach trips for them, and sometimes not even three meals a day.

During the school year, many of these children are provided breakfast and lunch at their public schools. Unfortunately when summer arrives, unemployed, under-employed and low-income parents no longer have the schools to rely on to provide those meals. They find it to be hardship just to feed their own children.

Compounding this problem is that in Los Angeles County the availability of healthy food varies by neighborhood, with economically disadvantaged and racial/ethnic minority neighborhoods having little to no access to grocery stores with fresh fruits and vegetables. Instead discount and convenience food stores seem to be on every corner.

Despite enrollments in state and Federal food programs such as CalFresh (former Food Stamp Program) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), there are still an estimated 300,000 food insecure children in Los Angeles County; meaning that they do not get enough food to ensure a balanced diet. Their predicament is associated with poor physical and mental health, including an increased risk of depression, diabetes and hypertension.

To fill this gap, each summer hundreds of community-based agencies in The Foodbank's network, increase their requests for food so they can feed children who are out of school. The Foodbank delivers millions of pounds of nutritious food – and hope – making it possible for those agencies to provide the meals necessary to care for the summer influx of youth. Community contributions of time, energy and resources (food and financial contributions) are needed to help fulfill The Foodbank's mission to feed hungry children.

NOTHING LAZY ABOUT LAZY DOG RESTAURANT & BAR

Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar, a leader in the upscale casual dining sector, has made a major gift to The Foodbank of Southern California. The proceeds of their 2012 holiday gift card fundraiser and corporate matching gift resulted in a Lazy Dog donation of \$15,182.36. The Foodbank will be able to serve the equivalent of more than one million meals to hungry people in the area to further its mission of providing basic sustenance and proper nutrition to those in need. The fundraiser allowed customers to not only share the gift of a Lazy Dog meal with friends and family, but also extend that giving spirit to provide a warm meal to those who need it the most.



Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar presents The Foodbank's staff with a \$15,182.36 check. (l to r) Jeanne Cooper, Foodbank Vice President, Rebecca Simms, Director of Marketing for Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar, and John Knapp, Foodbank President.

RECURRING GIFTS MAKE AN IMPACT

Every month you can transform the life of someone in need of healthy food by signing up to make a recurring donation. Setting up a recurring gift takes less than a minute. Even a small monthly gift can make a BIG difference.

12 months x \$25 = \$8,400 worth of food

You can establish a recurring donation on The Foodbank's secure web site. Just click the [DONATE NOW!](#) tab at the top of any page and follow the simple instructions. Your credit card automatically gets billed monthly so you don't have to do any extra work. If you prefer you can contact The Foodbank at 562.435.3577 to set up your recurring donation.

WORK PLACE GIVING & MATCHING GIFTS

As an individual you can often stretch your contributions to The Foodbank even further by asking your employer about their workplace giving and matching gift policies. Many companies allow employees to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions. Other companies augment the impact of employee charitable dollars by matching payroll deductions and other individual gifts. Please provide The Foodbank with your employer's matching gift form so that you can maximize your gift. Send matching gift information to The Foodbank via email info@foodbankofsocal.org, fax to 562.437.6168, or regular mail.

FAMILY DAYS AT THE FOODBANK

JOIN US

Two Saturdays
each month
8 am to 1 pm

Parents and their children are invited to team up to pack tens of thousands of pounds of wholesome nutritious food for the needy.

For more information and to sign up, call us at 562.435.3577.

S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE



S. Mark Taper

The Foodbank of Southern California is proud to be the recipient of a S. Mark Taper Foundation grant award. The Foodbank is using the \$75,000 grant for the purchase and transportation of over 2,500,000 pounds of fresh produce from the Salinas Valley. Purchased items will include vegetables and fresh fruit (i.e. zucchini, cucumbers, romaine and red leaf lettuce, tomatoes, mushrooms, oranges, lemons, and strawberries). All food items will be distributed completely free of charge to our 700+ Nonprofit Partner Agencies.

"We value The Foodbank of Southern California's long-standing commitment to providing fresh, nutrient-rich produce to hungry individuals and families," stated Adrienne Wittenberg, Grants Director of the S. Mark Taper Foundation, "and we are pleased to be able to support this commitment." The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

JEANNE COOPER PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT

Jeanne Cooper has been with The Foodbank since 2008; first as our administrative assistant and receptionist, and in 2010 she was promoted to Director of Administration. Over the last five years Jeanne has developed key relationships with our network of Nonprofit Partner Agencies. She has directed key aspects of the operation that are essential to service delivery, including the agency membership process, food procurement, delivery systems, and reporting. She is the key liaison with all agencies in The Foodbank's network and heads the Brown Bag Network Program for Seniors. In January, Jeanne was promoted to Vice President.

Jeanne is an extremely dedicated community steward. She thoroughly enjoys her responsibilities in coordinating all the programs that The Foodbank has to offer. When asked what is most rewarding about her work, Jeanne responded, "My biggest reward is making a difference in the lives of hungry children and seniors. Knowing that providing healthy food, a basic necessity, can make a child's life more fulfilling and promising, is a reward in itself."



*Jeanne Cooper, Vice President
The Foodbank of Southern California.*

Check out the **Healthy Eating Video Series** on The Foodbank's web site:
www.foodbankofsocal.org/index.php/news-and-events/media