



Food Finders

Rescuing Food, Reducing Hunger

Food FOR Thought

Fresh News on Food Rescue And Hunger Relief

FALL 2025

Hello Friends,

As the holiday season approaches, Food Finders remains steadfast in our mission to recover edible food and ensure no one in our community goes hungry. With your support, we've made incredible strides this year, but the challenges ahead demand even more from all of us.

On September 19th we hosted our "Rockin' Blues BBQ" fundraiser. It was a powerful evening of soulful music, community, and impact. Together we raised \$170,000 in support our Food Rescue Program. These funds help us recover surplus food and deliver it directly to nonprofits serving families, seniors, and students in need. We're deeply grateful to our sponsors, attendees, Board and staff who made this event such a success!

Now that the season of giving is here, our Holiday Food Drive is in full swing! From now through December 31, we're collecting non-perishable items to support our holiday meal distributions. Whether you host a food drive, donate to our holiday campaign, or volunteer to sort and distribute food, your involvement helps bring warmth and nourishment to thousands of households this holiday season. Collection bins and signage are available for food drives. Please contact Mark Eden at 562-283-1400x117 to schedule a delivery.

We are also facing a troubling shift in federal policy. Changes to SNAP totaling \$186 billion and cuts to Medicaid over the next decade will significantly impact access to food and healthcare for individuals, children, seniors and adults with disabilities. Combine this with the 23.6% increase in the cost of food since 2020 and you have a perfect storm that will affect vulnerable households for years to come.



SAVE THE DATE

**OCT 1 - DEC 31
HOLIDAY FOOD
DRIVE**

**NOV 22-
COMMUNITY
MARKETPLACE**

**DEC 20-
COMMUNITY
MARKETPLACE**

**12/2 - GIVING
TUESDAY**



Food Finders is preparing to meet the increased demand, but we can't do it alone. As we close out 2025, we invite you to make a meaningful gift to support our mission. Your donation helps us rescue and distribute 1.3 million pounds of edible food each month, meet the growing demands of programs like Food4Kids and our monthly Community Marketplace, support the eight college pantry programs so that students can focus on their education, and strengthen our Advocacy efforts to close food access gaps and promote equitable nutrition.

Every \$1 donated helps provide up to 11 meals. Make your year-end gift today. Thank you for being part of the Food Finders family. Together, we're building a more resilient, compassionate, and nourished community. Wishing you and your family a joyful and blessed holiday season.

Diana Lara, Executive Director

**2025 FOOD
RESCUE
IMPACT**

9,458,594 MEALS DELIVERED THROUGH SEPTEMBER IN 2025

11,350,313 LBS OF FRESH FOOD RESCUED

6,163,219 LBS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS DIVERTED

5,175,742,728 GALLONS OF WATER SAVED

4 Counties Served: LA, OC, RIVERSIDE, & SAN BERNARDINO

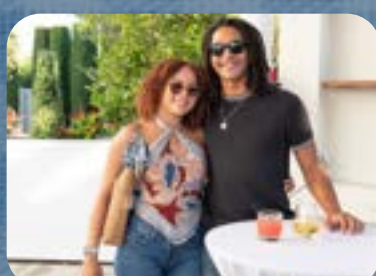


10539 Humbolt St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720

(562) 283-1400 www.FoodFinders.org

<https://bit.ly/give-a-meal-web>

2025 Rockin' Blues BBQ



OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTING

Smart & Final Charitable Foundation

SAUCE BOSS

AXS Law Group Los Angeles

SMOKING STRINGS

Servicon Cares

HALF RACK

AES

Alain Hirsch Construction Group

City National Bank

Grocery Outlet

Kaiser Permanente

Laserfiche

Port of Long Beach

BOURBON STREET

Los Angeles Lakers, Inc.

ON A BLUE NOTE

Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

TCIS Catering

Trademark Brewing

RESERVED TABLES

Brief Family

Chrisland Medical

Commercial Bank of California

Hall Family

Harmony Bites/Michael Hopkins

Knight Family

McBride Family

New Star Family Justice Center

Ram Family

Weinstein Family

PERFORMERS

The 44s featuring Kid Ramos

The Hall Method Dance

Ensemble

The Hall Method Dance

Ensemble Band featuring

Eddie Campbell, Stephen Coss,

Terran Artis

Emcee

Darick Simpson

Exec. Dir. - Earl & Loraine

Miller Foundation



Planned Giving to Support Food Finders

Food Finders is proud to announce the launch of our Feeding Futures Legacy Society, a new way for supporters to create a lasting impact through planned giving. By including Food Finders in your will or estate plans, you help ensure that our mission to rescue food, reduce waste, and feed people in need will continue for generations to come.



Sue Leverton Holshuh and Jake Holshuh

You don't have to be wealthy to leave an impact. Your planned gift, large or small, is one of the most meaningful ways to express your commitment to a hunger-free future. With just a few words in your will or trust, you can make a meaningful impact that continues beyond your lifetime.

Thank you to Feeding Futures inaugural members, Jake Holshuh and Sue Leverton, for sharing their story and why it's important to them to include Food Finders in their estate planning.

Jake Holshuh and Sue Leverton have been part of the Food Finders family for decades. Jake first connected with founder, Arlene Mercer, after spotting a volunteer ad in a local paper. He quickly became one of our most dedicated volunteers, delivering food multiple times a week. Over the years, Jake and Sue have generously supported key projects—from new software to upgraded equipment—and now, they've chosen to leave a legacy gift that will help sustain our mission for years to come. We're deeply grateful for their enduring commitment to ending hunger and food waste.

If you've already included Food Finders in your estate planning, thank you! Please let us know by emailing lisah@foodfinders.org. We would love to formally acknowledge and celebrate your lasting impact as part of our **Feeding Futures Legacy Society**.

We encourage you to speak with your financial advisor to discuss your plans and options that may include:

- A gift in a will or trust.
- Naming Food Finders, Inc. as a percentage beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.
- Donor-advised fund (DAF) or a gift from your IRA to qualify for a tax deduction.

Advocacy Department Update

Food Finders' Advocacy Department remains deeply engaged with our coalition partners across every level: local, county, and state, to strengthen food access and fight hunger.



In Long Beach, we continue to work alongside community organizers to develop innovative strategies that reduce hunger and expand access to nutritious food for our neighbors. Across Los Angeles County, we're collaborating with new partners to explore localized solutions that address the growing gap created by recent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cuts.

At the state level, we're joining forces with Nourish California and other advocacy partners to identify and advance policies that close food access gaps and promote equitable nutrition for all Californians.

We encourage everyone to stay connected with your local organizers, community partners, and advocacy networks. Now more than ever, informed and collective action is essential. The Advocacy Department will continue to share updates, resources, and opportunities to get involved in this critical work.

To learn about becoming an Advocacy Council Member, email Luis Mendiola at LMendiola@FoodFinders.org.

Holiday
FOOD DRIVE

October 1 - December 31

Items Needed:

Gravy/Broth
Yams
Cranberries
Stuffing
Potatoes
Veggies
Money for turkeys

**Food donations can be dropped off at
Food Finders:**

10539 Humbolt St. Los Alamitos, CA 90720



**Monetary Donations to
Purchase Turkeys**

