

FOOD FORWARD'S Annual Impact 2024

15 years of
Building
Generational
Health™



CEO AND BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

Just a few days shy of Food Forward's 16th anniversary, the LA wildfires became an unbelievable reality that all Los Angeles residents were suddenly forced to face. In the days and weeks that followed, our city was burning while friends, family, staff, and our community were sustaining heartbreaking loss on levels none of us had experienced in our lifetimes.

With an eerie déjà vu to the sudden descent into COVID-19 in early 2020, lives have been changed forever, and we are all now navigating life in our city with a whole new set of challenges—obviously, some shouldering much greater ones than others.

All that serves as the foundation for where Food Forward stands today in early 2025, continuing as a daily nutritional safety net for hundreds of thousands of people. From this place, it is comforting to reflect on the year that was 2024—a year where we celebrated our 15th anniversary and the organization rose to historic heights.



Where this report is a summary of last year's work and accomplishments, **a year we grew to the annual recovery milestone of just over 94 million pounds**, it is soberingly prefaced by tragedy, and a call for community responsiveness that is unquestionably part of Food Forward's DNA.

We hope this report will give you a pride-filled look back at those milestones we reached in 2024, including:

- Our largest month of produce recovery ever (10.5 million pounds in July—which translates into produce valued at just over \$20 million!)
- Recognition of our work at a national level and a visit to the White House
- An innovative Artist In Residence Program
- Two features in the Los Angeles Times

From this side of 2024, what we see is a robust regional organization now firmly rooted in the Southern California community—its work essential to its partners and stakeholders, but most importantly to those its produce feeds. Simply put, **Food Forward is supplying the equivalent nutritional needs of fruits and vegetables to upwards of 300,000 people daily.**

In our first decade and a half, we set the bar for other organizations all across the country coming up in the food recovery movement—one which we proudly helped pioneer.

Knowing the challenges 2025 brought us in just its first 30 days, we now look forward, wondering what additional challenges it will have in store for us. Whatever the future brings, we remain ready, thinking forward, feeling, and seeing an unpredictable world, not through a lens of being half full, but one that is indeed overflowing.

Rick Nahmias
Founder & CEO

Jeff Harris
Board Chair



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SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

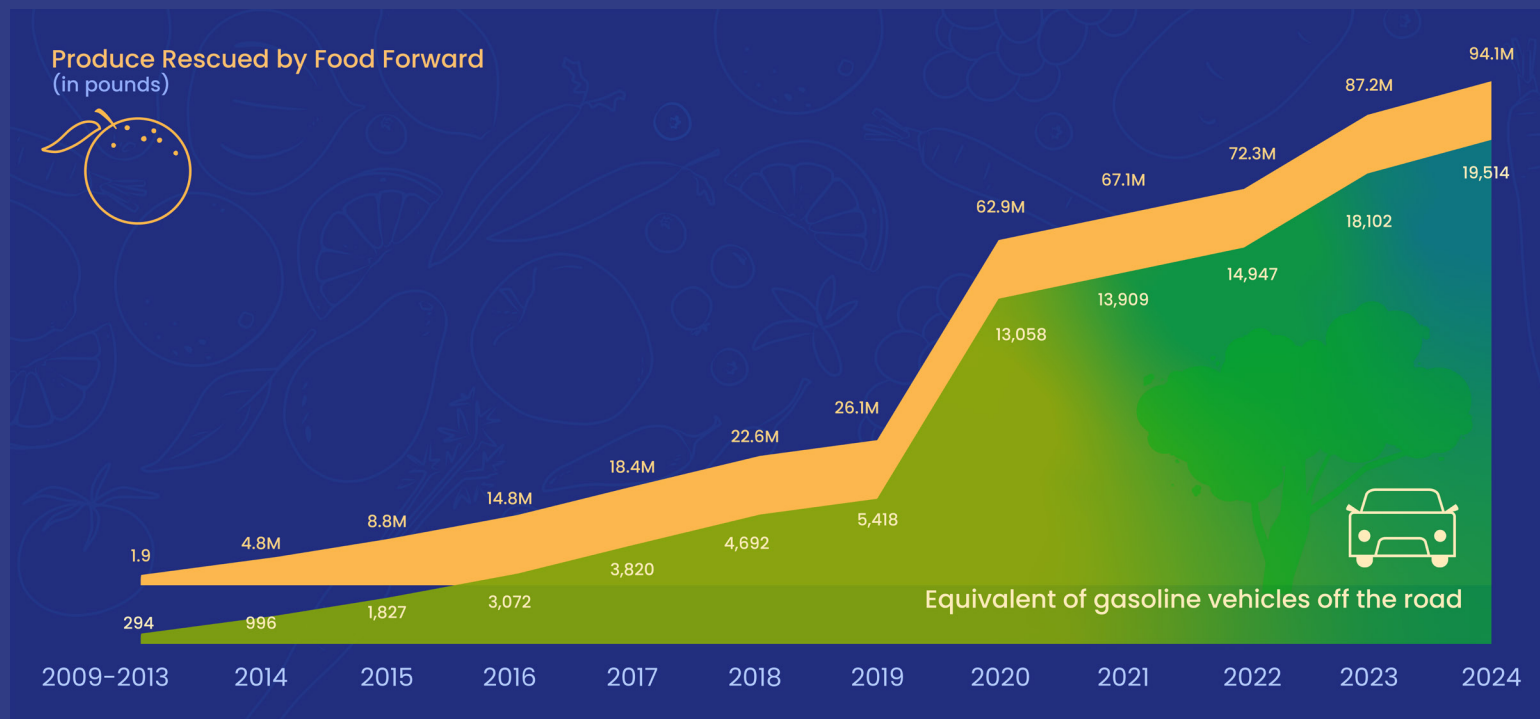
to Food Waste for a Better Future

Food waste is an environmental and economic issue. Addressing food waste is a practical solution that benefits both the environment and an important solution to the economy, demonstrating shared values of resource stewardship and responsibility.

The impacts of environmental change are increasingly visible, from the recent devastating LA wildfires to last year's hurricanes in the Southeastern United States. These events serve as stark reminders of the urgency of action, making it clear that reducing the emissions caused by food waste is not just important, but essential to environmental solutions.

In 2024 alone, Food Forward's produce recovery prevented the emissions of over 83,000 tons of CO2 equivalent from entering the atmosphere.

That's equivalent to removing nearly 20,000 gasoline-powered cars off the road for a year.



We carefully consider the sustainability of our operations to ensure that we're treading as lightly as possible. This includes focusing on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, prioritizing responsible resource use, operational transparency, and long-term community benefits. We added our first Electric semi-truck to our fleet in 2024, and for the second year in a row, we're a certified California Green Business. This certification is a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainability, meeting rigorous environmental standards while maintaining operational excellence.



MOVING FOOD FORWARD

How one tangerine from a single tree became 480 million pounds of fresh produce for hunger relief.



Then - 2009

In January **2009**, a group of volunteers harvested 800 pounds of oranges and tangerines from a single backyard to donate to a local food pantry, donating its one millionth serving of produce for hunger relief in 2010.

Now

In **2024**, Food Forward's most prolific year yet, with 94 million pounds distributed to communities experiencing food and nutrition insecurity.



Then - 2012

Food Forward launched the Farmers Market Recovery Program—a market-endorsed program—where volunteers began gleaning at only two farmers markets.

Now

By **2024**, the program had grown to include 17 markets across Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Then - 2013

The largest volunteer event to date was when 400 volunteers harvested 20,000 pounds of oranges at the historic California State University Northridge Orange Grove.

Now

In **2024**, Food Forward reconvened under the same trees with hundreds more community members celebrating volunteerism and community at our first annual Zest Fest.



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MOVING FOOD FORWARD



Then - 2013

Food Forward launched the Wholesale Recovery Program with the purchase of its first 24-foot truck funded by a crowdsourcing campaign.



Now

Ten years later (**2024**), we purchased our very first 56-foot refrigerated semi-truck—this time, electric!

Then - 2017

Food Forward joined the 1% for the Planet community.

Now

In **2024**, Food Forward extended collaboration with our partners who support our impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through food recovery.

Then - 2019

Our 10th anniversary ushered in the era. Food Forward opened the Produce Pit Stop, a warehouse to receive produce donations from the Wholesale Produce Market in Los Angeles, its surrounding district, and from growers and shippers across the region and the country.



Then - 2020

Just over six months after the Produce Pit Stop launched, we introduced The Sprout to directly serve smaller agencies—expanding our distribution service to uniquely meet the urgent need during Covid-19.

Now

In **2024**, Food Forward entered the national stage at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and pledged to recover 100 million pounds of fruits and vegetables in a year by 2026 to address food insecurity.



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In 2024

94M

*Pounds Recovered
and Donated*

250+

*Annual Hunger Relief
Partners*

250

*Varieties of Produce
Recovered and Donated*

\$185M

*Total Value of Produce
Rescued and Distributed*

WHOLESALE PRODUCE RECOVERY

400+ Years of Produce Industry Expertise

Our team, with over 400 years of combined produce industry experience, is equipped for the special logistics of handling produce, with experience unique from other food aid organizations. This expertise enables us to work effectively with growers, packer-shippers, wholesalers, and farmers of all sizes, ensuring that we recover fresh, nutritious, and high-quality produce that feeds families.

Scaling Up to Fight Hunger and Food Waste

Food Forward's Wholesale Recovery Program operates from a 10,000-square-foot warehouse, equipped with a fleet of six trucks, including our first electric semi-truck. This increased capacity is making our logistics more efficient. By the end of 2024, Food Forward reached a 15-year total of 480 million pounds of produce that we have distributed to communities across the region.



Real Impact, Real Numbers

In 2024, Food Forward recovered over 94,000,000 pounds of produce. That's more than 532,275,000 servings of food while preventing over 83,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from entering the atmosphere per year.

RECORD MONTH

10.5+ million *pounds of produce in July 2024*

July 2024 was the most prolific month in Food Forward's history—in that month alone we recovered over 10.5 million pounds of fruits and vegetables! This is \$20 million worth of produce delivered to people in our community facing food and nutrition insecurity. The emissions prevented from this month alone are the equivalent of taking over 2,000 cars off the road for one year.



Emergency Relief

Ventura County Emergency Response

During the Mountain Fire in Ventura County in 2024, Food Forward swiftly mobilized to support an emergency food distribution in partnership with Ruben Castro Charities. By providing fresh, nutritious produce to families impacted by the disaster, we not only helped address immediate hunger but also reinforced the community's resilience and dignity during a time of crisis. This effort ensured that those affected by the fire had access to healthy food—providing immediate support to families affected by crises.



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VOLUNTEER FORCE

Community Programs



Volunteer-powered 15 years strong

Community has always been at the heart of Food Forward. In 2009, it all started when just a couple of volunteers gathered together, harvesting oranges and tangerines from a neighbor's backyard in their San Fernando Valley neighborhood. Their labor of love ensured that the harvested fruit went to a nearby food pantry and was the start to our 15-year legacy.

"It's very rewarding, very fulfilling that you're doing something and that none of the produce is going to waste. I'm from India. From childhood, my mom said you don't even waste a spoon of food on your plate. I grew up with that mindset from the very beginning, so for me, I could relate to that—that food should not go to waste. There are so many people who need it. I just feel good doing this. It's very satisfying for me."

-Ekta Garg, Glean Team Leader



2

2009 volunteers

2,096

2024 unique volunteers

Our **Backyard Harvest** and **Farmers Market Recovery** programs, Food Forward's volunteer-powered community programs, are going strong.

"When I rejoined Food Forward in 2022, I had only intended this to be a one and done deal. By my second event, what had started out as an outing for me to get some fresh air turned into something that I cared deeply about. The people I met there have become close friends of mine [and have] opened my eyes to the ability of helping people while having boatloads of fun doing so. And here I am now, still helping people through your organization."

- Josh Debuque, 2024 Volunteer of the Year

Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping us move Food Forward!



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COMMUNITY IMPACT

— "The availability of fresh fruit and vegetables has impacted our community in such a great way. We've had people say that it's helped their health, and we've had people say that it's helped them when they've gone through financial struggles. Having that accessibility to fresh produce has been life-changing for our community."

- Emily, Children's Pastor, Fearless Church

Media Spotlight

Where does L.A.'s leftover produce go? This group helps get tons to the hungry every day

LA Times

How "Food Forward" makes sure no fruits or veggies go to waste

KCAL/CBS

Food Forward brings fresh surplus produce to people experiencing food insecurity

ABC 7

Moving Food Forward: Nonprofit Provides a "Glean" Bill of Health for People Who are Food Insecure

Edible SFV

The Californians Rescuing Surplus Produce to Fight Hunger: By swiftly redistributing perishable fruits and vegetables, Food Forward addresses two issues at once: food insecurity and food waste

Reasons to be cheerful

The true value of the pounds of produce recovered by Food Forward is fully realized when it reaches the plates of people experiencing food and nutrition insecurity. Through close and intentional relationships with a network of over 250 hunger relief organizations, **Food Forward provides enough produce to supply over 300,000 people with their daily USDA-recommended servings of fruits and vegetables every single day.** That includes:

Children and families receiving fruits and vegetables from after-school programs and local food pantries.

Seniors who rely on local senior centers to access nutritious food.

Veterans and unhoused individuals accessing regional food banks and wellness hubs where our produce may be their only link to consistent and easily accessible nutrition.

Displaced communities receiving fresh produce as they rebuild.

From large nonprofits to grassroots mutual aid groups, Food Forward is dedicated to making sure that partners of any size can have better access to fresh fruits and vegetables and feed more people in need.

Through partnerships like the Pure Land Foundation, the largest emergency food distributor in San Bernardino County, we've seen how working together can directly impact those in need. By providing the Pure Land Foundation with 16 to 18 pallets of fresh produce each month, we've supported their growth from serving 300 families six years ago to now feeding 1,500 families. This collaboration has allowed us to reach more people, ensuring that more families in San Bernardino County get their daily doses of fresh fruits and veggies.

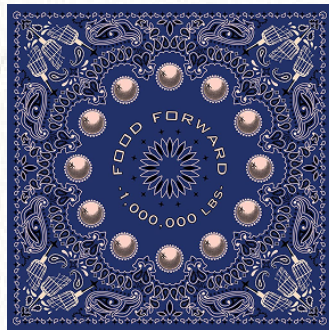
For more on our community impact, visit foodforward.org/press.

— "It's hard out here for regular families. Healthy foods, healthy habits are the first thing that you lose. We're seeing in our cities that people are suffering from the effects of not having enough nutrition and not having the right type of nutrition."

- Nicole Steele, Social Justice Learning Institute



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2010



2014



2016



2020



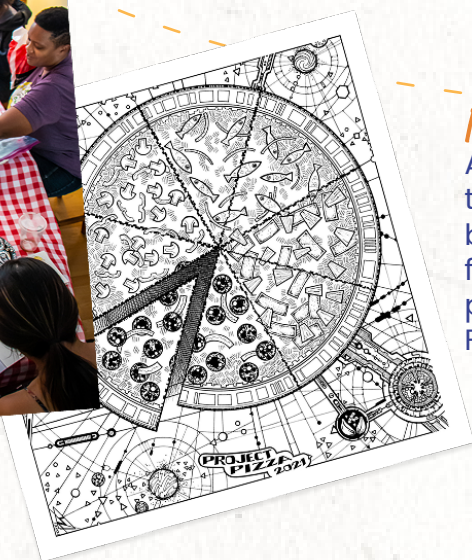
2022

Raising awareness through

ART

Throughout its history, Food Forward has seen art as a powerful way to engage people in seeking solutions to fighting hunger and food waste.

Iconic Poster Art: In celebration of Food Forward's 5th anniversary, Josh Clark created the iconic "LA Gets Juiced" poster inspired by an innovative blend of vintage rock and movie posters.



PROJECT PIZZA:

Artists Shing Yin Khor and Eron Rauch, along with their talented friends, have hosted art creation events to benefit food justice in Los Angeles. These vibrant, fun-filled events have produced unique artworks, with proceeds from the sale of pizza-inspired art benefiting Food Forward and local hunger relief organizations.

SHARE THE ABUNDANCE™ MURAL:

In 2022, muralist Brian Peterson transformed a warehouse wall at the Produce Pit Stop into a joyful, 1,200-square-foot mural, celebrating the hands and hearts that move Food Forward's mission forward.



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Raising awareness through **ART**



2024 THE COMMUNICATOR AWARDS:

Food Forward was honored with the 2024 Communicator Award for Overall Design, Distinction by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA), for our work on the Annual Impact 2022: Share the Abundance™! This prestigious recognition underscores our commitment to impactful storytelling and innovative community engagement.

LACMA:

As part of our ongoing effort to build connections and strengthen relationships with artists throughout the region, we partnered with the renowned Los Angeles County Art Museum (LACMA). Food Forward led the panel: **Food for Thought: Combating Food Insecurity in Los Angeles** to integrate artistry in the fight for food access.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:

Food Forward launched its inaugural **Artist in Residence** program, inviting multidisciplinary artist and Michelin Star Chef Minh H. Phan to explore themes of abundance, scarcity, immigration, and connection. Minh's work culminated in a multifaceted event, where guests experienced a powerful journey exploring transformation and resilience.



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PARTNERING

for Change

Food Forward, Inc. is dedicated to collaborating with organizations that share our commitment to **sustainability, food access, health, and building stronger communities**. We focus on fostering deep, and meaningful partnerships with local, regional, and national groups, working together to create lasting impact. By connecting our partners to Food Forward's engaged base of hunger relief supporters, environmental advocates, and food lovers, we amplify collective efforts and strengthen the communities we serve. Some highlights in 2024 included:



Food Forward partners with organizations that understand the positive health impact of increasing access to healthier food. With support from Novo Nordisk Inc., Food Forward is undertaking an initiative to better quantify the impact of communities' increased access to healthier foods and increase the amount of fresh produce available for our hunger relief partners.



Food Forward works with companies who share our values in sustainability, such as Smog City Brewing Co. Longtime partner Smog City Brewing Co. supports Food Forward through the annual release of their award-winning Kumquat Saison. Part of Smog City's 1% for the Planet Community Impact series of beers, each batch is made with hand-harvested kumquats that would otherwise go to waste, gathered from backyards across LA County by Food Forward's dedicated volunteers.



Food Forward continues to build stronger communities, including through our long history with Big Sunday. In 2024, Food Forward continued our longstanding partnership with Big Sunday for their annual Thanksgiving Community Food Drive. By providing healthy produce, Food Forward is able to supply hundreds of families with food for the holiday.

FINANCIALS

Throughout its history, Food Forward has managed its explosive impact with efficiency. In 2024, it cost us just \$.09 cents to recover and distribute each pound of fresh produce. **Every dollar donated to Food Forward in 2024 ensured 63 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed to people experiencing food insecurity.**



INCOME

Total: \$195,496,293

In-Kind Produce:	94.80%
Foundation:	3.16%
Individual:	0.61%
Investment Income:	0.54%
Government:	0.42%
All Other:	0.21%
Corporate:	0.18%

EXPENSES

Total: \$193,942,726

Programs:	98.32%
Administration:	1.01%
Fundraising:	0.67%



Food Forward is proud to be recognized with a “Platinum Seal of Transparency” by Guide Star and a “4-star” rating by Charity Navigator.

To make a financial contribution and support Food Forward, please visit foodforward.org/give.



For more information, contact Chief Development Officer Jen Cox at jen@foodforward.org.

View our [Annual audited financial statements](#).



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2024 DONORS *Thank you!*

"You check all my boxes: feeding hungry people with healthy food, reducing food waste, organizing mobs of volunteers. Food Forward elevates L.A., making this a better place to live."

- Food Forward donor since 2018

We are deeply grateful to the thousands of people who helped us rescue and distribute more than 94 million pounds of fruits and vegetables in 2024. This incredible impact was made possible through our dynamic ecosystem of partners—including volunteers, hunger relief organizations, produce donors, and generous financial supporters.

The following donors gave \$500 or more between January 1 – December 31, 2024, playing a vital role in helping us move Food Forward:

\$1,000,000+

Novo Nordisk Inc.

\$500,000+

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\$100,000+

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Please contact our Development team at 818-764-1022 #110 or development@foodforward.org if there are any inaccuracies or omissions.

We regret any errors.

2024 In Kind Donors

In addition to the hundreds who generously donate fruits and vegetables to Food Forward each year, we're grateful to the individuals and businesses who supported our mission with in-kind contributions in 2024:

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Thank you to everyone who moves Food Forward.

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Jen Cox with questions related to giving:
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Become a Sustainability Partner

(Our Produce Industry Partners)

Are you a grower, shipper, or packer looking to advance your sustainability goals? Partner with Food Forward by donating your surplus produce and turn excess into impact.

Every piece of fresh produce has the potential to nourish a family, fight hunger, and protect the planet. Food Forward is working to rescue even more surplus produce, ensuring it reaches those in need instead of being wasted. But we can't do it alone. Your involvement is crucial in creating a world where healthy produce is accessible to all and that we leave a thriving planet for future generations.

Building Generational Health™

Food Forward is not just addressing today's challenges—we're planting the seeds for a healthier, more equitable future. Building Generational Health™ means tackling food insecurity while promoting environmental sustainability, ensuring future generations inherit a thriving planet and stronger communities. With your support, we can make this vision a reality.

"Without Food Forward, we wouldn't have a service to provide. Food Forward is the reason we can get healthy meals to the unhoused population on Skid Row."
-Cari Golden, founder of Lov Kitchen in Los Angeles

Volunteer and Be Part of the Solution

Volunteering with Food Forward will make you part of a diverse and passionate community making a tangible impact.

foodforward.org/volunteer

Do You Have Fruit Trees?

If you have overflowing fruit trees, connect with us by registering your fruit trees and feed local communities.

foodforward.org/donate-food

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— ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER —



FOODFORWARD.ORG