

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a white school uniform, is holding a whole orange in her hands. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, there is a blurred bookshelf with colorful books. The overall image has a warm, natural light feel.

FOOD FORWARD

Annual
Report | 2019



Inside the Produce Pit Stop, Food Forward's first cross-docking warehouse, dozens of pallets of donated fresh produce fly by—asparagus, tomatoes, and mangoes. They are stopping here for two hours or two days on their way to new homes: maybe in Watts, the High Desert, Simi Valley, or points beyond in the eight counties we served in 2019.

Anyone who was around Food Forward in 2019 knows it was the year of the Produce Pit Stop. For the first time since the program's inception over five years ago, our Wholesale Recovery staff has a roof over their heads. This crew's collective efficiency, reach, and commitment is on display in every one of the Pit Stop's 7,000 square feet. In its first six months of operations, 15 million pounds of produce touched down at the Pit Stop. To put what this facility affords us into perspective: the Pit Stop is now the temporary landing pad of **approximately 100,000 pounds of fresh produce a day. That is how much Food Forward recovered in its entire first year!**

Speaking of how it all began, the Backyard Harvest and Farmers Market Recovery programs served more hunger relief agencies than ever before in 2019. With the power



of 4,100 unique volunteers, these programs collected surplus produce from nearly 800 properties with fruit trees and 25 weekly farmers markets across Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

On the environmental front, **we received our fourth consecutive Food Recovery Challenge Award from the U.S. EPA—the only nonprofit in the U.S. to do so!** We also saw local and national media coverage from outlets like PBS and NPR for our solutions-based approach to addressing food waste and food insecurity. This has inspired us to present our impact on the 3 Es of Sustainability: how we support a **healthy environment**, contribute to a **strong economy**, and build a more **equitable community**.

As we completed our first decade, where **we shared more than 85 million pounds of nutritious produce** and helped many millions of people lead healthier lives, so many incredible memories float by. They linger momentarily, like the scent of sweet California orange blossoms...or like these pallets of beautiful fresh produce, before moving on and making room for what's to come.

Rick Nahmias
Founder/Executive Director

Board of Directors

Scott Jarus
Chair

Christy Remey Chin
Treasurer

SuzAnn Brantner
Secretary

Jason Crayne

Crystal L. Frierson

Jedd Gold

Carol Goldstein

Neil Haltrecht

Carla Heer

Pam Kaizer

Rick Nahmias

Robert Valencia

Betty Zamorano-Pedregon

Mark Rhein

RLI Board Fellow

Council of Advisors

Laura Avery
Lisa Brenneis
Carl Buratti
Jim Churchill
Erica Dent
Anthony E. Ghosn
Nike Irvin
Robin Kramer
Carrie La Londe
Cindy Lee
Neil Newman
Jill Overdorf
Maxine Pollack
Iesha Siler
Lee Smith
Al Vangelos
Nancy Volpert

Council of Advisors: Ventura County

Rod Cordova
Tobie Mitchell
Chris Sayer
Suki Sir
Sarene Wallace

Culinary Advisory Board

Matthew Biancaniello
Anthony Caspary
Clémence Gossett
Evan Kleiman
Roxana Jullapat
Michelle Lainez
Josh Lurie
Daniel Mattern
Annie Miler
Minh Phan
Laurie Porter
Jocelyn Ramirez
Henry Tarmy
David Thorne

Kitchen Cabinet

Edna R.S. Alvarez
Margaret Bach
Jesse Gilbert
Joan Hanawi
Gay Yee Hill
Erica Kopmar
Mary MacVean
Paul Robbins
Karen Sillas
Sarah A. Spitz

2019 impact

8
Southern
California
counties served



26,000

pounds of oranges and
grapefruit harvested from
one property in Moorpark, CA



The Farmers Market
Recovery program had
its biggest year ever:

702,030

pounds recovered
and donated



PBS NewsHour,
EatingWell,
LAist, KCRW,
Civil Eats, and
LA Daily News
featured Food
Forward's work



2 million
people fed



1,800
hunger
relief
agencies
received
free
produce

Each volunteer picked an

**average
of 300**

pounds of fruit at
every harvest in
Los Angeles County



**26
million
pounds**

of fruits and vegetables
recovered and donated,
an average of **500,000**
pounds each week!

260+

wholesale
distributors
donated produce
to the Wholesale
Recovery program



4,100

volunteers
engaged at produce
recovery events

10¢:

Organizational
cost to recover
and donate
one pound of
produce

CELEBRATING **10 YEARS** OF SHARING ABUNDANCE

On January 17, 2019, Food Forward celebrated its 10th year of harvesting food, fighting hunger, and building community. From the first fruit pick to serving 1,800 hunger relief agencies across Southern California, there have been some major landmarks along the way.

2009

With only a couple of volunteers and a single backyard, Rick Nahmias leads the first “pick” and harvests 800 pounds of oranges and tangerines for local food pantry, SOVA.



2011



Food Forward is officially granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

2013

400 volunteers harvest 20,000 pounds of oranges from Cal State University Northridge’s historic grove.



2014



Regular recovery from the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market begins. Over three million pounds of fruits and vegetables are recovered in eight months.

2017



Food Forward partners with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee to serve the South Los Angeles community with a free, market-style produce distribution, an initiative that grows into the Produce Pick-Up program.

2015

The U.S. EPA names Food Forward as a regional winner of its Food Recovery Challenge Award.



2010



Food Forward hits its first cumulative milestone: 250,000 pounds of fresh produce picked by volunteers—the equivalent of one million servings for people experiencing food insecurity.

2012

The Farmers Market Recovery program is launched on August 15. The first glean takes place at the Wednesday Santa Monica Farmers Market, and volunteers collect 1,313 pounds of produce!



2016



Food Forward’s recovered produce reaches agencies across all eight counties in Southern California: Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Riverside, and Imperial counties.



2018



1,800 hunger relief agencies receive free fruits and vegetables from Food Forward’s three recovery programs to feed two million people annually.

I AM FOOD FORWARD

To celebrate Food Forward's 10th anniversary, Jen and Ric Serena of Serena Creative captured ten stories of individuals who have contributed to our mission over the past decade. You will see these photos throughout this report and can see more photos and videos by visiting foodforward.org/faces

**"I am an
AMBASSADOR.
I am a donor."**



Joan Hanawi

Kitchen Cabinet Committee, Food Forward

**"I am a volunteer.
I am a PHILANTHROPIST
in training."**

Heidi Johnson

*Founder, Free Food Pop Up
and Food Forward Super Volunteer*



**"I am a food
rights ACTIVIST."**

Luis Yepiz

*Manager, Food Forward
Wholesale Recovery Program*



**"I am an
ADVOCATE for
those who
need."**

Fred Summers,

*Senior Director, Nutrition,
Transportation and SOVA Programs,
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles*





“I’m someone who loves to GIVE.”

Shirley Wainess

Backyard Fruit Donor



“I am an AGGREGATOR of food and ideas.”

Laura Avery

Former Farmers Market Supervisor, Santa Monica Farmers Market and Council of Advisors, Food Forward

“I am a VISIONARY.”

Sheila Thomas

Director of Family Services WLCAC-Family Source Center & Reentry Programs



“I am a FARMER.”

Phil McGrath

Farmer, McGrath Family Farm



“I’m a GARDENER. And, I’m a servant.”

Jonathan Zeichner

Executive Director, A Place Called Home



“I’m a farmer, a brewer, and a PARTNER.”

Laurie Porter

Owner/Founder, Smog City Brewing Co.

THE *PRODUCE* PIT STOP



Since Food Forward began collecting produce from the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market in 2014, the Wholesale Recovery program has rescued tens of millions of pounds of fruits and vegetables annually, with only a few box trucks and a small staff. This massive amount of food was recovered without storage or refrigeration, via a “just-in-time” model, making it necessary to find a home for each pallet of produce before accepting the donation and limiting how much food the program could rescue.

In 2018, Food Forward was awarded a grant from CalRecycle’s Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program to open a much-needed warehouse space to support and grow its recovery efforts. This produce distribution warehouse, the Produce Pit Stop, opened in June 2019 and houses large-scale refrigeration, dry storage,

workspaces, and loading docks. The Produce Pit Stop can hold 225,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. It allows us to easily create mixed loads of many kinds of produce to increase the diversity of fruits and vegetables our partner agencies receive. In its first six months of operations between June and December of 2019, over 15 million pounds of produce touched down at the Produce Pit Stop!

In 2020, the facility will make it possible for Food Forward to recover 29 million pounds of surplus produce. Looking forward, this food rescue hub will advance the produce recovery ecosystem of Southern California by helping us feed two million people each year and greatly reducing the environmental impact of food waste.



THE 3 Es OF *Sustainability*

Our produce recovery work is vital to promoting three pillars of sustainability: a resilient environment, an equitable food system, and a viable economy.



ENVIRONMENT



EQUITY



ECONOMY



Environment

Through food recovery, we can fight climate change

Among the 100 highest-impact climate change solutions, the global environmental nonprofit, Project Drawdown, places reducing food waste in the top three. Wasted food produces 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, because uneaten food uses so many resources, and because food that ends up in landfills releases potent methane gas. In the U.S., food waste eats up 18% of cropland, consumes 21% of freshwater, and costs the economy \$218 billion annually.

In 2019, Food Forward stopped 26 million pounds of surplus fruits and vegetables from ending up in landfills, ensuring that precious resources like land, water, energy, and labor were not wasted. Our three produce recovery programs prevented 9,877 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent from polluting the environment last year. It would take nearly 8,146 acres of forest to sequester that quantity of greenhouse gases in a year—a forest the size of over 16 Disneylands!



Equity

We are committed to making a high-quality, healthy diet accessible to Southern Californians seeking food assistance

Across the country, most households have consistent access to healthy, nutritious food. But, for many Americans, food security is not a guarantee. A 2018 study by the USDA's Economic Research Service found that 11% of U.S. households are food insecure. Though California and Los Angeles County are slightly below this nationwide average, Los Angeles County is home to roughly 1.1 million food insecure individuals, and food security varies greatly at the local level. For example, the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County faces one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the state, with more than 50% of all households experiencing low or very low food security.

Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) is one organization that has stepped up to address food insecurity in their community. In 2019, they formed the Antelope Valley Food Hub Collaborative, sponsored by Antelope Valley College and supported with donations of fresh produce from Food

Forward. Every second and fourth Thursday of the month, Food Forward supplies the Hub with ten pallets of mixed, fresh fruits and vegetables. This produce is provided to 17 member agencies, including Antelope Valley College itself, which operates a food pantry and a free produce giveaway open to all students, faculty, staff, and community members. In total, this network of agencies redistributes about 30,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables to nearly 3,500 households each month.

Through initiatives like the Antelope Valley Food Hub Collaborative, Food Forward is able to work with partner agencies to increase resiliency in some of the regions most affected by food insecurity, while eliminating barriers and promoting more equitable access to healthy food.



Economy

1,800 hunger relief agencies get free fruits and vegetables from us, allowing them to allocate resources towards other critical services

Donations of fresh, free produce from Food Forward enable our partners to better serve their clients, providing them with nutritious resources that they might not otherwise be able to access. For families and individuals receiving food, this can help relieve the burden of choosing between paying for food and paying for rent, utilities, healthcare, or other necessary costs.

Food Forward's partnership with Embrace Church, an agency delivering food to low-income mobile home parks, has helped families in Oxnard "fill in the gaps." A mobile home site manager approached the pastor at Embrace Church and told him that since Embrace has started conducting mobile food distributions, mobile home residents have been paying rent on time. And, North Valley Caring Services in the Northeast San Fernando Valley reported the ability to provide additional support to their clients:

"Because of the generosity of Food Forward, North Valley Caring Services is able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to over 400 families a week. We are then able to rally support for these feeding programs through foundational grants and private funding. This enables us to offer other services such as breakfast, showers, and outreach, [a] safe parking program for the homeless, [an] afterschool program, childcare, and workforce development."

Manuel Flores,
North Valley Caring Services



GET INVOLVED

Donate

Your contribution will help Food Forward provide 29 million pounds of surplus fruits and vegetables to two million people in need this year. Each dollar you give = ten pounds of nutritious, free produce to our community.
foodforward.org/donate

Volunteer

Food Forward depends on passionate volunteers to power our produce recovery events across Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Giving just a few hours makes a big difference—or train as an Event Leader to make an even bigger impact!
foodforward.org/volunteer

Share

If you have more fruits or vegetables in your backyard than you can use, make sure they don't go to waste! Register your property on our website to coordinate a DIY harvest or a volunteer-led pick, dependent on location and volunteer availability.
foodforward.org/fruittrees

Follow

Get the latest news from Food Forward by following us on social media or signing up for our bimonthly newsletter, Fresh Juice.

 [foodforwardla](https://www.facebook.com/foodforwardla)

 [foodforward](https://www.instagram.com/foodforward)

 [foodforwardla](https://twitter.com/foodforwardla)

To receive Fresh Juice, email
hello@foodforward.org

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$45,000 and above

Anonymous

\$25,000 and above

Joan Egrie
Esther & Steve Feder

\$10,000 and above

Roger Brossy & Rona Elliot
Judy Fiskin
Neil Newman & George Leon/
Cakewalk Entertainment

\$5,000 and above

Michaela (Mikki) Catlin
Sterling C. Franklin, Trustee, Morris S.
Smith Foundation
Haltrecht Family
Carla & Thomas Heer
The Scott & Rebecca Jarus Family
Scott Litt Charitable Fund
The Nathanson Family
Eron Rauch, Shing Yin Khor, & Project
Pizza
Rob & Kim Valencia
Anonymous (3)

\$1,000 and above

Tara Cornwell & John Aitchison
Edna R.S. Alvarez
Margaret & Danilo Bach
Laurie Benson Blasko
SuzAnn Brantner
Bruce Brodie & Janet Farrell Brodie
David & Jennifer Broering
Paul & Suzanne Bruguera
Mark Buchignani
Carl & Kathy Buratti
Anne & Paul Burmeister
Chae Pyken Family
Wendy Chen & Nathan Epstein
Melissa Collier
Jason & Denise Crayne

Sharon Spira-Cushnir & Andrew
Cushnir
Alexis deBoschnek
Daphne Dennis & John Given
Lauren & Devon Dowling
Quinn & Dana Emmett
Amy Forbes & Andy Murr
Christopher & Margaret Forman
Mindy Freedman
Amy Friend
Crystal L. Frierson
Erin Frizzell
James Gibson & Diana Lowe
Carol Goldstein & Bernie Nadel
Sue & Ken Greathouse
Eric & Samantha Heer
Ewald & Hannelore Heer
Diane Helfrey
Paul Gordon Hoffman & Sue Caren
Hoffman
Mark Hower
Cynthia Hubach
Stanley Jeong
Pam & Evan Kaizer
Cheryle Kay
Judith & George Kieffer
Robin & Neil Kramer
Tracy & Harlan Levine
Anne, Robert, & Cooper Mack
Mary MacVean & Mitchell Landsberg
Beth Sieroty Meltzer
Susan & Gabriel Menkes
James Morrill
Rick Nahmias & Steve Kadel
Traci & Alan Nahmias
Jeffrey & Terry Paule
Leonie de Picciotto
Bill Resnick & Michael J. Stubbs
Susan & Jack Reynolds
Mark Rhein & Warren Brodine
Roger & Deborah Riske
Monica & Phil Rosenthal
Nicole W. & John A. Ruskey
The Sanz-Agero Family
Schoenberg Family

Ben & Ella Stewart
Philip & Tamar Warburg
Andrea Weiss & Jerry Whitman
Jennifer Thornton Wieland
Terence Winter
On Behalf of Foster Children in LA
Anonymous (9)

\$500 and above

Leslie Abbott
Laurence Andersen
Ilene & Dennis Berman "Bandwagon
Brokerage"
Meghan Birch
Brett Blyler
Allison & Christophe Bragard
Michael & Karen Bruckner
Wendy Chang & David Lee
Carolyn & Michael Chuang
Sassy Clarke
The Conways, Studio City
Sean & Beatrice Dayani
Suzanne Elliott
Dan Goldfarb & Jenny Landers
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel & Kristiina Goyette
Sue Green
Randy & Marnie Greenwald
David J. F. Gregory
The Hafner Family
J. Hanawi
Carolyn & Don Haselkorn
Eileen Heinrich
Gay & Jim Hill
Debra Hockemeyer
Pat & Susannah Howard
Lisa Feury Ibrahim
John & Wease Kadel
Brianna Kaufman
Jim Korb MD & Regina Pally MD
Dr. Jack Kriegsman &
Diana Kriegsman
Shari Leinwald
Ilana & Wayne Lewis
John & Carol Lyons
David & Tzviah Mayman
Martha Penhall
Minh Phan + Aaron Sonnenschein
Beth & Jim Preminger
Astrid Preston

Tina & John Quinn
Elaine & John Reveley
Adrienne & Enno Roellgen
Dr. Peter Roth & Lisa-Ann Galati
Alana & Jonathan Rotter
Daniela Roveda
The Shmoose Group
Sarah A. Spitz
Julie & John Verive
Shirley A. Wainess
Robert Wong
Los Zambranos
Anonymous (10)

**"I'm proud to
support Food
Forward's
mission to
increase access
to healthy
produce for all,
and to reduce
waste in our food
distribution
systems."**

**- Lara F.
Donor**

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

\$250,000 and above

The Ahmanson Foundation
California Department of Resources
Recycling and Recovery

\$100,000 and above

John Laing Charitable Trust
New Argosy Foundation
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
S. Mark Taper Foundation

\$75,000 and above

General Mills Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation
Flora L. Thornton Foundation

\$50,000 and above

Angell Foundation
The Philip & Muriel Berman Foundation
Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation (DRK)
Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
The Smidt Foundation

\$25,000 and above

Abacus Wealth Partners
Charitable Fund
Athens Services
David Bohnett Foundation
Albert & Elaine Borchard Foundation
Butterfly Equity Foundation
Flora Family Foundation
The Kroger Company
T. June and Simon K.C. Li
Charitable Fund
The Plum Foundation
St. Joseph Health
Ware Disposal, Inc.
Anonymous

\$10,000 and above

Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation
Antelope Valley College
Anthem, Inc.
California Wellness Foundation
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, District 3
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
The Ernest G. Herman Foundation
Kohl's Cares
Leonard Merrill Kurz Foundation
Laemmle Charitable Foundation
LIATIS Foundation
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Los Angeles Times
John J. Moller Family Foundation
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA)
The TJX Foundation
Universal Waste Systems
Wells Fargo

\$5,000 and above

Ameriprise Financial
The Boeing Company
Clif Bar Family Foundation
The GRYD Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
The Audrey & Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
Patagonia
Leo & Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
Garland and Brenda Reiter Foundation
Sidecar Doughnuts & Coffee
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Smog City Brewing Co.
Superba Food + Bread
Umpqua Bank
World of Fruit

\$1,000 and above

Angel City Brewery
Anthony Elliot Insurance Agency, Inc.
Bad Robot
Bank of America
The Bartman Foundation
Richard and Taylor Beale Family Fund
Milton and Ruth Berman Family Foundation
Betty Belts & Ocean Ohana Inc.
Bonduelle Fresh Americas
British Garden Company
Charles Schwab Corporation
The Charitable Foundation - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties
Clementine Foods LLC
Community Memorial Health System
Congregational Church of the Chimes
CrowdRise
Edelman Holdings, Inc.
Ernst & Young LLP
Farm Credit West
Food and Nutrition Resources Foundation
Foundation of Ventura County Credit Union
Google
Greathouse Family Foundation
Grosslight Insurance, Inc.
Bob and Nita Hirsch Family Foundation
Kadane Foundation
Kim G. Yoga
LA Food Fest
LA Live Properties, LLC
Macro Plastics
Mar Vista Farmers Market
NASA Services, Inc.
New York Life Insurance Company
Office of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, District 46
The Original Farmers Market at Third and Fairfax
Paradigm Talent Agency
The Albert Parvin Foundation
Phoenix Civil Engineering, Inc.
Republic Services, Inc.
The Riordan Foundation
Shapiro-Gilman-Shandler Co. (SGS Produce)

Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC
Sony Pictures Entertainment
Sotheby's International Realty
SourceCell
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Westmount Asset Management
Whitehill Family Foundation
Yin Yang Naturals
Anonymous (3)

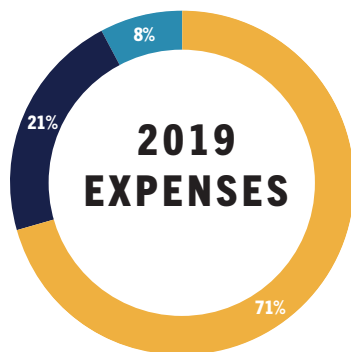
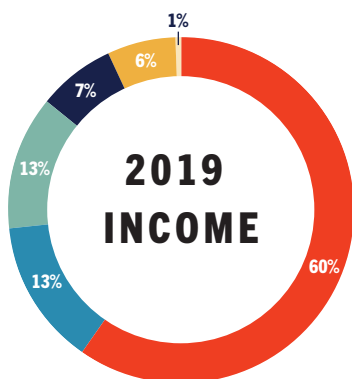
\$500 and above

A and F Distributing Corp.
American Business Bank
Capital Group Co.
CBC Federal Credit Union
Challah for Hunger at Occidental College
ETE Marketing Solutions, Inc.
Farm Bureau of Ventura County
Gold Coast Health Plan
Marsh & McLennan
Presser Family Charitable Fund
Recovered Living LLC
Redbird
YH Advisors
Anonymous

“Food Forward is a remarkable result of vision, dedication, inspired volunteerism, and organizational ability.”

- Jeffrey G.
Donor

FINANCIALS



FOUNDATION \$1,661,051

GOVERNMENT \$374,304

INDIVIDUAL \$347,992

CORPORATE \$198,622

SPECIAL EVENTS \$175,693

MERCHANDISE/OTHER \$15,035

TOTAL \$2,772,697

PROGRAM SERVICES \$1,915,417

FUNDRAISING \$584,987

ADMINISTRATION \$205,134

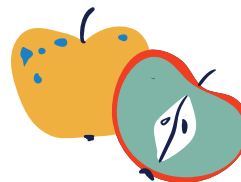
TOTAL \$2,705,538

**IN 2019, FOOD FORWARD COLLECTED AND DONATED
PRODUCE WITH AN IN-KIND VALUE OF
\$43,124,636**

OUR TEAM

Dory Bennett • Simon Bergara • Joe Bobman • Sam Cahall
Michele Chase • Wendy Chen Epstein • Celia Cody-Carrese
Rachel Cohen • Dominique Derse • Daniel Gallegos
Ally Gialketsis • Merced Giles Bonfil • Pamela Guerra
Alia Haddad • Andrea Howry • Tanzi Jackson • Laura Jellum
Pearson King • Jason Landers • Dani Lyons • Felipe Maldonado
Fortino Mendez • Rick Nahmias • Quang Nguyen • Emily Parker
Leo Paz • Vivian Poonopin • Jason Reedy • Adrienne Roellgen
Betsy Storm • Samantha Teslik • Antonio Velasquez
Christopher Wehling • Luis Yepiz • Amir Zambrano

CORE VALUES



Creative

We seek to innovate in all facets of our work.



Joyful

We cultivate a meaningful, fun, positive, and spirited work environment.



Authentic

We are transparent and honest in our words, deeds, and actions. We act at the highest level of integrity.



Committed To Food Justice

We believe that access to wholesome food and fresh nutritious produce is not a privilege, but a right. We work hard to end food inequality and reduce food insecurity.



Disciplined

We are reliable, professional, accountable, rigorous, and committed to excellence in all areas of our work, both internally and externally.



Community-Minded

We aim to include and connect people in the community and to remain open, diverse, respectful, and accessible. We take pride in offering people meaningful volunteer and work experiences.



OUR MISSION

Food Forward fights hunger and prevents food waste by rescuing fresh surplus produce, connecting this abundance with people in need and inspiring others to do the same.

Harvest Food • Fight Hunger • Build Community

818-764-1022 | foodforward.org | info@foodforward.org
7412 Fulton Ave, Suite 3 | North Hollywood, CA 91605

