DEAR FOOD FORWARD FAMILY,

Picture 30 elephants walking down Wilshire Boulevard. Hold that image…can you believe that in 2017 Food Forward recovered an average of more than 350,000 pounds of fresh produce every week—the weight of 30 elephants! Every week! That works out to 18.4 million pounds of delicious fruits and vegetables going into the hands of our neighbors in need. More than ever before!

2017 was a year when our food recovery efforts didn’t just increase, but when awareness of our work grew on a local, regional, and national level. This was also a year of intentional listening. We listened to what partners and communities needed and learned how to best support them. With a dedicated volunteer base, institutionalized logistics, and the highest level of accountability, Food Forward now possesses the competence and the passion to augment the capacity of our partners.

Working alongside some of L.A.’s most respected social justice organizations, our team has worked tirelessly to architect and pilot Food Forward’s first hands-on distributions. Rescued wholesale produce is delivered straight into communities in need and distributed within a matter of hours by volunteers. For the first time, we’re taking the food we recover the “last mile.”

The initial response to these collaborations has been very positive. Through this model, we increased access to healthy food by distributing over 300,000 pounds to students, families, individuals, and hunger relief agencies last year. The potential for further collaboration is extremely promising. This pilot year is only the beginning.

We hope you’ll see this report as a reflection of some of the highlights and stepping stones that represent a new level of engagement and impact across Southern California.

With Gratitude,
Rick Nahmias
Founder/Executive Director

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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.
2017 IMPACT

18.4 MILLION pounds rescued and 1.5 MILLION people fed

Partnered with Salt & Straw to create the Rescued Food series of ice cream flavors

134,860 pounds of celery recovered from Duda Farm Fresh Foods in Ventura County

Won a National Food Recovery Challenge Award from the U.S. EPA

Recovered fruits and vegetables reached all eight Southern California counties

Donated to 225 unique hunger relief agencies—a 35% increase over 2016
289 farms donated surplus fruits and vegetables to the Farmers Market Recovery Program

1,600 bags of fresh produce provided to students and families in Inglewood

Organizational cost to recover and donate one pound of produce: 9¢

Wholesale Recovery Program rescued 464,000 pounds of apples in two months

23,000 hours of volunteer labor

19,015 pounds of oranges harvested at The Huntington Gardens
2017 was a year of building partnerships that went above and beyond Food Forward’s standard donation model. One catalyst was a collaboration with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), who, for the last 40 years, has been improving the quality of life for residents of Watts and neighboring communities.

In May, the Wholesale Recovery Program began dropping off a truckload of mixed produce two Wednesdays a month to create a free farmers market at WLCAC’s colorful and airy community center. In September, volunteers were invited to join the efforts, which, for the first time, provided an opportunity to experience our work from recovery to distribution. This innovative model allowed Food Forward and WLCAC to distribute 240,000 pounds of healthy, fresh produce to South Los Angeles community members and local social service organizations last year.
Food waste is responsible for over 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a significant contributor to climate change. 15.5% of California’s landfills are filled with food, making it the single largest source of waste in the state. Food Forward’s work to curb the waste of edible produce reduces the presence of harmful greenhouse gases, decreases our carbon footprint, and works to slow climate change.

In 2017, Food Forward diverted 18.4 million pounds of viable food from landfills to win a third U.S. EPA Food Recovery Challenge award in a row. We prevented 7,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent, which is like removing 1,473 passenger vehicles from the road!
In 2017, produce recovered by Food Forward was donated to over 225 hunger relief agencies, some of whom distribute to an additional 350+ organizations across Southern California.

These fresh fruits and vegetables helped to feed 1.5 million food insecure people in our region from virtually all social service sectors: homeless outreach, domestic violence shelters, street youth homes, LGBT teen/adult/senior services, after-school programs, mental health services, low-income college programs, and veteran services. One such agency is New Directions for Veterans. They not only provide food assistance, but also help veterans struggling with PTSD, substance abuse, mental illness, and homelessness.

“A NDVets’ partnership with Food Forward has given our participants access to the freshest foods for healthier diets, after going without the proper nutrition for so long. Being homeless means you are at the mercy of donations or whatever can be scavenged—fresh fruit and vegetables are an extreme rarity. Food Forward has helped NDVets provide participants with a balanced meal and essential nutrients from fresh foods.”

-Molly Ann Mroczynski, Chief Development Officer, New Directions For Veterans
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DONATE
It only costs Food Forward 9¢ to recover and donate one pound of fresh produce. That means a gift of any size goes a long way! Your financial support helps Food Forward make a positive change to people’s health and the health of our planet every single day. Join us to become a part of the solution to hunger and food waste across Southern California. Visit foodforward.org/donate to make an impact.

VOLUNTEER
Food Forward hosts an average of 175 volunteer-powered events across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties every month. Join us to pick oranges in an orchard, glean local veggies from a farmers market, or train as an Event Leader. Giving just a few hours of your time can make a big difference. Learn more at foodforward.org/volunteer or by emailing volunteer@foodforward.org.

SHARE
Do you have more fruits or vegetables than you can use? Contact Food Forward! 100% of what we collect is donated, free of charge, to hundreds of hunger relief agencies across our region. Plus, produce donors get a tax-deductible receipt. Go to foodforward.org/fruittrees or email harvest@foodforward.org for more information.

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

Find us:
facebook: foodforwardla
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Instagram: foodforward

To receive our newsletter, email freshjuice@foodforward.org.
2017 FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

$250,000 and Above
New Argosy Foundation

$100,000 and Above
Roy & Patricia Disney Family Foundation • Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation • Whole Foods Market

$75,000 and Above
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation • Rosenthal Family Foundation

$50,000 and Above
The California Endowment • Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation • The Smidt Foundation • Flora L. Thornton Foundation • Anonymous

$25,000 and Above
The Philip & Muriel Berman Foundation • David Bohnett Foundation • The Bruery • Flora Family Foundation • The Green Foundation • Marisla Fund of the Orange County Community Foundation • The Plum Foundation • The Rose Hills Foundation • Yahoo Employee Foundation

$10,000 and Above
Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation • Albert & Elaine Borchard Foundation • The Louis L. Borick Foundation • California Wellness Foundation • Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation • The David Geffen Foundation • Alan J. Heinrich • Laemmle Charitable Foundation • Scott Litt • The Los Angeles Times • Los Angeles Times Family Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund • Max Factor Family Foundation • Julia Meltzer & David Thorne • Patagonia • Ralphs/Food 4 Less

$5,000 and Above
Caring Community Foundation • Clif Bar Family Foundation • Ava Jane Downing • Esther and Steven Feder & Family • Haltrecht Family • John Randolph Haynes & Dora Haynes Foundation • Carla & Thomas Heer • Jaguar Land Rover • Scott & Rebecca Jarus • LA Weekly • Salt & Straw • Smog City Brewing Co. • Sony Pictures Entertainment • SourceCell, Michael Kelley Harris, Owner • Ware Disposal, Inc. • World Wildlife Fund

$1,000 and Above
Sean Aron • Margaret & Danilo Bach • Bad Robot • Michael & Randy Jane Bayard • Diane & Jim Berliner • Karl & Emily Beutner • Steve & Melissa Bidermann • Stevie Blacker & Jenna Snow • Laurie Blasko • Corinne Bourdeau/360 Degree Communications • Julie & Steve Bram • Bruce R. Brodie & Janet Farrell Brodie • Dave & Jennifer Broering • Dena Brummer • Robert & Marilyn Buckley • Carl & Kathy Buratti • Anne & Paul Burmeister • California United Bank • Michaela (Mikki) Catlin • Challah for Hunger at Occidental College • The Charitable Foundation - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties • Christ Lutheran Church • City National Bank • Clementine Cafe and Catering • Lisa Cooper • Creative Artists Agency • Keri & Andrew Crowell • Daphne Dennis & John Given • Joan Egie • Julie Eizenberg & Hank Koning • Ernst & Young LLP • Judy Fiskin • Food and Nutrition Resources Foundation • Christopher & Margaret Forman • Friedman Family • James W. Gibson & Diana S. Lowe • Sam & Rena Given Foundation • Carol Goldstein & Bernie Nadel • In loving memory of Edgar F. Gross: Gross Family • Dr. & Mrs. Ewald Heer • Eric & Samantha Heer • Karen Hermelin & Mark Borman • Chris A. Hollinger • Boltran & Lila Hu • Stan Jeong & Ruth Kwan • Pam & Evan Kaizer • Alan Kaye Family • David & Janet Kline Family Foundation • Robin & Neil Kramer • John & Maria Laffin Trust • Lionsgate • Tzviah & David Mayman • Jamie Melas, Gabe Kramer, Debbie Peters • Beth Sieroty Meltzer • Susan Menkes • Annie Miler • Etan Chaim Milgrom • Mohawk Bend • Nate & Joyce Nahmias • Traci & Alan Nahmias • Rick Nahmias & Steve Kadel • The Original Farmers Market • Samuel & Ruby Patterson • Premier America Credit Union • Pyken/Chae Family • Bill Resnick & Michael J. Stubbs • Jack & Susan Reynolds • Nike Irvin, Trustee, The Riordan Foundation • Anne & Robert • The Schoenberg Family • Sidney Stern Memorial Trust • Studio City Chamber of Commerce • Susan Taylor • Umpqua Bank • Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City • Jennifer Thornton Wieland • Windward School • Cari Wolk & Athena Parking • YH Advisors • Zimmerman Foundation • Anonymous (16)
FINANCIALS

2017 INCOME
$1,774,049

64%
Foundation

16%
Individual

12%
Corporate

7%
Special Events

1%
Merchandise/Other

In 2017, Food Forward collected and donated produce with an in-kind value of $31,765,914.

2017 EXPENSES
$1,706,234

70%
Program

21%
Fundraising

9%
Administrative