



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



HARVEST FOOD ★ FIGHT HUNGER ★ BUILD COMMUNITY

FOODFORWARD.ORG

# 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



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



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



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**

# BUILDING COMMUNITY



**Sheila Thomas, Director of Family Services at Watts Labor  
Community Action Committee - Family Source Center**

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 Recovery Challenge (FRC) participants, like Food Forward, make a positive difference in their communities by reducing wholesome food from landfills and incinerators. In 2017, Food Forward increased its donation of fresh, surplus produce to people in need in eight counties by 25% over the previous year.”*

*-André Villaseñor, Southern California FRC Coordinator, U.S. EPA*

# REDUCING FOOD WASTE

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!



# INCREASING FOOD SECURITY



**A New Directions for  
Veterans client enjoying  
Food Forward produce**

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.

*“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](https://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](https://foodforward.org/volunteer) or by emailing [volunteer@foodforward.org](mailto: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](https://foodforward.org/fruittrees) or email [harvest@foodforward.org](mailto: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:

f: [foodforwardla](https://foodforwardla)

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To receive our newsletter, email [freshjuice@foodforward.org](mailto: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 Blacke  
& 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 Egrie • 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 •  
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• Beth Sieroty Meltzer • Susan Menkes •  
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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%

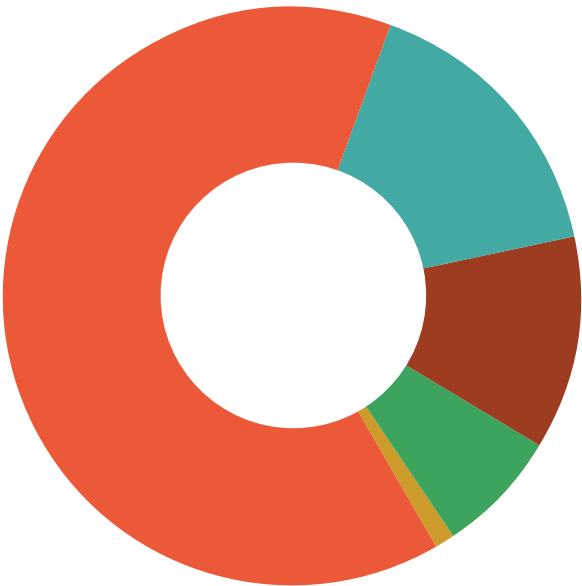
Corporate

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





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