2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

SHARE THE ABUNDANCE™
CEO and Board Chairperson Message

Having been fortunate enough to have Food Forward included at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in fall 2022, it’s inspiring to report the event galvanized people from all demographics, sectors, and geographies to elevate actions and innovations around food insecurity. Where the terms “produce prescriptions,” “scaling,” and “food is medicine” echoed from every corner of the conference center, it was gratifying to know that for our entire fourteen years we at Food Forward have been ahead of the curve.

We have always seen our food as medicine. Through the last three years of historic worldwide health and supply chain challenges, as the nation’s largest independent urban and plant-based recovery nonprofit, Food Forward has already been scaling. Having recovered and distributed over 72 million pounds of A+ grade fresh produce last year alone, we can confidently say we are an efficient, proven solution to the dual problems of hunger and food waste.

Food Forward on an average day is now responsible for moving enough produce to satisfy the daily nutritional needs of over 220,000 people (up from 150,000 the year before). In 2022, these were people in Los Angeles, plus seven other urban and rural California counties, and six adjoining states and tribal lands. Our deepened impact has been the result of weaving a top-notch staff of veterans with folks totally new to the sector—all fiercely devoted to our mission. The collective result has been a brain trust and organizational muscle we’ve never had before.

As last year closed out and we moved on from the triage mode that led us to nearly triple our impact from pre-pandemic levels, we took the time and expense to make several deep dives into our mountain of historic data; solo and together with some outside assessments, including pro bono modeling done by McKinsey & Company, Inc. Looking under the hood, we learned things like:

1. For 2022’s budget of $5.2M—we produced nearly $140M in social impact through our free produce.
2. Food Forward is not just “net zero,” but our operations organization-wide are 215x carbon negative.
3. Even with the tens of millions of pounds of fresh produce we distribute to underserved areas across Los Angeles County, we have gaps in our service area, which we are committed to addressing as our supply of fresh produce grows.

Taking this and more into account, we ended 2022 with a newly minted three-year strategic plan we set out to grow deeper roots in 2023, while setting us up to support wider branches of expansion in 2024 and 2025.

Food Forward has emerged from the pandemic years more potent, nimble, and impactful, serving incredibly diverse communities experiencing food insecurity. We are also grateful for the thousands of supporters and volunteers who helped us hold nearly 2,000 gleaning events in 2022, such as the one who wrote us personally this summer:

“Last year I lost several family members...I cried so many mornings out in orchards with tangerines in my hands. I might be saving the fruit, but really, I think the fruit has saved me.”

Food Forward. Moving produce from a place of abundance to a place of need. It is indeed a virtuous circle...

Rick Nahmias
Founder/CEO

Rob Valencia
Board Chairperson
Coming out of the emergency expansion in 2019, it was our responsibility to step into this new reality by looking inwards. With our team growing by 54% in 2022, we refreshed our core values to reflect this new phase for the organization, while investing in the staff and overall systems to support our team’s tremendous work. This included facing the inflation crisis head on; implementing a cost of living increase for all staff in 2022 and supporting their diverse needs with professional development partnerships, bilingual services, and accessibility tools. We look forward to building on this effort on both the staff and board level. Some of our 2022 partners included the Center for Nonprofit Management, Jamii, HBCUConnect, and Trabajamos.

**EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

“…This is the only place I have worked that makes an effort to include everyone despite their language. I’ve never had interpretation in any of my other jobs; they’ve just expected you to speak whatever everyone else speaks.”

Vivian Poonsopin, Food Forward staff

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**Our Core Values**

**Community Engagement**
Working together, we inspire and are inspired by the people in the communities we serve.

**Equity and Inclusion**
We cultivate a diverse workforce that nurtures equity and inclusion.

**Food Justice**
We share the abundance of fresh produce and prevent food waste because everyone deserves access to fresh and nutritious food.

**Integrity**
We are honest, accountable, and authentic in our words and actions.

**Joyfulness**
We embrace a creative, spirited, and fulfilling environment.
Food Forward recovers enough produce to feed **224,000 individuals** their five daily servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

**WHOLESALE RECOVERY PROGRAM**
- Produce vendors and distributors
- Large scale packing houses and food growers
- Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market

**Food Forward distributed:**
- **226 varieties of produce** from wholesale donors

**FARMERS MARKET RECOVERY PROGRAM**
- 14 local farmers markets
- Produce from over 180 farmers market vendors

**BACKYARD HARVEST PROGRAM**
- Orchards, farms, gardens, private properties in Los Angeles and Ventura counties
- **50 varieties of produce** from backyards in Southern California

**Total pounds for 2022**
- **71,326,833 lbs**

**PRODUCE PIT STOP**
- **Food Forward prevents 215X more greenhouse gasses** from entering the atmosphere than its operations emits

**Multi-Agency Distributions**
- Large Agency
- Small Agency
WHERE WE SERVE

Food Forward is Southern California’s largest independent produce reclamation and urban gleaning organization devoted exclusively to bringing healthy fresh produce to food insecure communities. In 2022, Food Forward increased its distribution by more than 5.2 million pounds from 2021.

In addition to eight California counties, Food Forward also served six neighboring states and tribal lands (Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Washington, New Mexico [Navajo] and Oklahoma [Cherokee]) in 2022.
Food Forward collaborates with a variety of like-minded brands to create partnerships that raise awareness about our vital and sustainable work in the community. Some exciting projects to note include our longstanding and fruitful partnership with Smog City Brewing Co. on the release of their Kumquat Saison benefitting Food Forward. We’re also a community partner of the newly formed National Women’s Soccer League team, Angel City Football Club, and vitamin brand, Ritual. Many LA and Ventura-based companies continue to support Food Forward through beneficiary promotions including Eataly LA, The Garland Hotel, Topa Topa Brewery, Angel City Brewery, and more!

Awards and Brand Partners

Food Forward provides food to low-income communities in Southern California.

NBC 4 - Telemundo 52

Legacy Program Champion

Humanitarian Action & Services (Silver)

Sustainability, Climate & Environment (Gold)

Proud 1% for the Planet

Environmental Partner since 2017

The Hidden Franklin Canyon Orange Grove Moves Food Forward

LA Weekly

This Group Has Rerouted 250 Million Pounds of Food From Landfills to Feed People in Need

Civil Eats

Share the Abundance: One Organization’s Solution to our Nation’s Food Equity Problem

Edible LA

Food Forward: An Organization Where Every Voice Matters

The Paths Forward Podcast

“Food Forward” ofrece alimentos a comunidades de bajos recursos en el sur de California

Edible LA

The Paths Forward Podcast

Legacy Program Champion

Humanitarian Action & Services (Silver)

Sustainability, Climate & Environment (Gold)

Proud 1% for the Planet

Environmental Partner since 2017
BACKYARD HARVEST PROGRAM

What began as a small group of volunteers in 2009 has now blossomed into a dedicated community of hundreds of volunteers.

**Volunteer Leader who led 124 harvests in 2022**

“I love seeing the whole process, from fruit pick to dropoff. It’s such a great feeling picking the fruit, dropping it off at the hunger relief agency, and seeing how excited they are with every delivery and how fast they can give it away. It’s backyard to table!”

Ceci Mak, Volunteer Pick Leader

**676 fruit tree donors**

“Food Forward is doing great work. The harvests at my parents’ grapefruit tree grove are highlights in their year. Their grove was planted somewhere between 98 and 100 years ago, so to see how it continues to bear fruit to fight food insecurity a hundred years later has been inspirational.”

Steve Ramseyer, Fruit tree donor

**A record 1,217 volunteer events**

“Our volunteers, fruit donors, and agency partners generously donate time and resources to make our Backyard Harvest program so fruitful. Each of these dedicated community members brings a piece of the puzzle to rescue fruit and share abundance with our neighbors.”

Ally Gialketsis, Food Forward staff

Core Value:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
FARMERS MARKET PROGRAM

Ten years since the program launched in 2012, a record 57 new Glean Team Leaders signed on in 2022 to lead 687 gleans of unsold fresh fruits and vegetables from Los Angeles and Ventura County markets.

2 million servings of fruits and vegetables recovered through gleaning

“Mar Vista Farmers Market is bursting with pride to have partnered with Food Forward since 2013. Ten years of awe inspiring results and profound impact in food recovery felt at the community level is a beautiful feat! This is connection and good work at its best.”

Diana Rodgers, Executive Director, Mar Vista Certified Farmers Market

“I share abundance by sharing time. But it’s a circular event in that the time spent planting, harvesting, and gleaning at Food Forward returns to me as an abundance of joy!”

Kathy Helms, Farmers Market Glean Team Leader

We are grateful for all of the Farmers Market vendors who donate produce. If you are at one of our markets look for our extraordinary volunteers gleaning.

Los Angeles County Markets:
Culver City Tuesday Farmers Market
Encino Sunday Farmers Market
Hollywood Sunday Farmers Market
Mar Vista Sunday Farmers Market
Melrose Place Sunday Farmers Market
Santa Monica Wednesday Farmers Market
Studio City Sunday Farmers Market
Thousand Oaks Thursday Farmers Market
Torrance Saturday Farmers Market
Torrance Tuesday Farmers Market

Ventura County Markets:
Channel Islands Harbor Sunday Farmers Market
Downtown Oxnard Thursday Farmers Market
Ventura Saturday Farmers Market
Ventura Saturday Farmers Market (Downtown)
Westlake Village Sunday Farmers Market
In 2022, the Wholesale Recovery Program invested in critical infrastructure and increased distributions to partner agencies by 7.62%. We added a second refrigerator at the Produce Pit Stop—this one 1,750 square feet, more than doubling our refrigeration capacity—as well as reconfiguring office space, adding safety improvements, and reforming workflows. While partners in Los Angeles County received the majority of the recovered produce, Food Forward was able to expand distributions for farmworker communities in Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. We also launched a partnership with Brighter Bites as their exclusive produce supplier of fresh fruits and vegetables for their nutrition education programs for students and families in 12 Los Angeles County schools.

“With limited government assistance many farmworker families have found themselves lacking nutritious food and other basic necessities. Food Forward has played a critical role in filling such gaps in keeping our communities whole and healthy. Working with Food Forward has been an honor and a pleasure.”

Mily Treviño-Sauceda, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
Agency Relations

**Served 264 hunger relief partners across 313 sites**

Food Forward’s agency relations team ensures that distributions reach our valued network of hundreds of hunger relief organizations by maintaining collaborative relationships. In 2022, the team returned to in-person visits and more frequent outreach to learn more about our partners’ programs and ensure Food Forward’s produce donations meet the needs in their communities.

**Produce Ambassadorship**

In 2022, we expanded our outreach to position Food Forward as a sustainable solution in the produce industry to further our impact of feeding food insecure communities and mitigating food waste. With the assistance of our new produce ambassador, we joined the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) and began building more industry trade relationships at their annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

“We view Food Forward as so much more than simply a produce supplier; they are our strategic partners that help us move excess produce in our facility to food insecure families. They operate with integrity, intelligence, and compassion. We are proud to be aligned with them.”

David Lake, President, 4Earth Farms

**Core Value:**

**INTEGRITY**
Every contribution to Food Forward results in multiple servings of fresh, healthy food distributed to people experiencing food insecurity. Food Forward’s operation is extremely efficient: in 2022, it cost just $.07 in operational costs to recover and distribute a pound of fruits and vegetables. With expenses of just $5.2 million, Food Forward returned a social impact value of $138,917,167 (in-kind produce) to communities across the region.

The following illustrates the sources of Food Forward’s funding and expenses in 2022 by category, including in-kind (produce and services value) and cash donations. Food Forward is grateful to the thousands of people who supported our work in 2022.

For more information, contact: Jen Cox, Chief Development Officer
jen@foodforward.org
818-764-1022 ext. 110

To support Food Forward’s mission with a financial contribution, visit: foodforward.org/give
Thank you for helping us move Food Forward.

Food Forward is grateful to all of the incredible people helping achieve our mission every day, including our volunteers, hunger relief partners, and produce donors. A special thanks to our financial supporters who power our operation.

$1,000,000+
Diane and Dorothy Brooks Foundation
Anonymous

$400,000+
Anonymous

$100,000+
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through California Climate Investments
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Third District
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation
The Smidt Foundation

$50,000+
Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA), a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
The Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation
Butterfly Equity Foundation
Cotyledon Fund
Joan Egie
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
RELiON Battery
Telemundo 52 and NBC4
Anonymous (3)

$25,000+
Bank of America
Elizabeth Bixby Janeway Foundation
John and Katherine Gurash Foundation
The Henkin Family
Sarah Ketterer Family Foundation
The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation
Venice Family Clinic
Ware Disposal, Inc.
Anonymous (4)

$10,000+
Howard and Nikki Applebaum

Kim and Keith Allen-Niesen
Antelope Valley College
Angel City FC
Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation
Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation
Andy Bogen
Flora and Andrew Birdsell
The Louis L. Borick Foundation
Roger Brossy and Rona Elliot
Brighter Bites
CalVita Farms
Clif Family Foundation
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Esther and Steve Feder
David Geffen Foundation
Ernest G. Herman Foundation
George Hoag Family Foundation
The Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation
JEC Foundation
Ron D. Kline Foundation
Shari Letwin
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors First District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Second District
Laemmle Charitable Foundation
Northstar Sustainability Fund
Charles R. Pollock Fund of the California Community Foundation
Plum Foundation
Roger and Deborah Riske
Reissa Foundation
George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
The TJX Foundation
Universal Waste Systems, Inc.
WHH Foundation
Anonymous (2)

$5,000+
Edna R.S. Alvarez
Ameriprise Financial, Inc.
American Business Bank
Christine L. Borgman and George M. Mood

David Bohnett Foundation
Michaela (Mikki) Cattin
Tara Cornell and John Aitchison
Crystal Frierson
The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation
Halprrecht Family
Hanley Foundation of the California Community Foundation
Horchikas Foundation
Inland Empire Health Plan
The Scott and Rebecca Jarus Family
Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
Linda Manasee
Meisel and Pesses Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Order of Malta
The Nathanson Family
NASA Services, Inc.
The Albert Parvin Foundation
Sylvia Prietz
Playfuly LLC
Bill Resnick and Michael J. Stubbs
David and Anne Rimer Foundation
Mark Rhein and Warren Brodline
Reverie Content, Inc.
Alan Sieroty
Smog City Brewing Co.
Rob and Kim Valencia
Donella Wilson
Anonymous (3)

$2,500+
4Earth Farms
Maurice Amado Foundation
Athenis Services
David and Jennifer Broering
Diane and Kendall Bishop
Laurie Benn Blasko*
Margaret and Danilo Bach*
Patience Browne
Betty Belts
Butterfly Equity
The Charitable Foundation - Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties
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Child Care Resource Center
Daphne Dennis and John Given
David Dassey
Richard Dachman
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Ron and Yvette Einard
GIU Foundation
Paul Gordon Hoffman and Sue Caren Hoffman
J. Kleinberg Gift Fund at Schwab Charitable
Brian and Haley Lazarus
Mar Vista Farmers Market
The Miner Barber Fund of the Bank of America
Charitable Gift Fund
Maura Pally
Tina and John Quinn
Reiter Family Foundation
Republic Services, Inc.
SPRCHRGR
Paul Tordella
Tetra Tech
Can Wolk and Richard Dane
Westmont Asset Management
Wachter Family Foundation
The Wolfpack Partnership
Anonymous (3)

$1,000+
Kelsey Allen-Niesen
Leslie Abbott
Mary Archibald
Sharareh Abedi
Avocado Green Mattress
Aversa Foundation
Anne and Paul Burmeister*
Allison and Christophe Bragard*
Corie Brown and Chris Fager Family*
Kathryn and Philip Brown
Matthew and Miho Blumkin
Mark Buchignani
Mary and Steve Brockmeyer
Richard and Taylor Beale Family Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation
Richelle Blanken
Scott Brooks
Bad Robot Productions
The Claremont Colleges
The Conways, Studio City
The Claremont Colleges
The Claremont Colleges
Bad Robot Productions
The Claremont Colleges
The Conways, Studio City
Chae Pyken Family
Coldwell Banker Realty Community Foundation
Susan Drews
Danning, Gill, Israel and Krasnoff, LLP
Daden Family
Anne Etheridge and Robert Porter
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Alison Faith

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Pam and Evan Kazer
Ronald and Joann Koopman
Kavod Tzedakah Collective
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Diane Lowe
Darryl Leavitt
Eric Liebman and Rebecca Liebman
Ilana and Wayne Lewis*
Mitchell Landsberg and Mary MacVean*
Rachel Levin
Mitchell Landsberg and Mary MacVean*
Ilana and Wayne Lewis*
Eric Liebman and Rebecca Liebman
Ilana and Wayne Lewis*
Darryl Leavitt
Diana Lowe
Barry Littman
Kavod Tzedakah Collective
Los Angeles Food Bank
LA Parks Foundation
Marnie and Randy Greenwald
The Garland
Grabber Family*
Eric and Samantha Heer
Whitson Family Foundation
Anonymous (9)

$500+

52andChange
AmazonSmile Foundation
John Antignas and Rabbi Susan Laemmle
Laura Avery
Robert Augusta*
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Diane and Michael Zering
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*Acknowledges a monthly donor.

This list recognizes donors who gave $500 or more from January 1 – April 30, 2022. Please contact our Development team at (818) 764-1022 ext. 111 or development@foodforward.org with any inaccuracies or omissions. We regret any errors.
WHO WE ARE

Staff
Natalie Arboagast
Simon Bergara
Sam Cahall
Alejandro Calderon-Gamboa
Jen Cox
Caitlin English
Melina Finck
Jose Flores
Diego Frankel
Daniel Gallegos
Allison Garlick
Ally Gialketsis
Merced Giles Bonfil
Diane Helfrey
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Mark Rhein, Secretary
Rob Valencia, Chair
Donella Wilson
Betty Zamorano-Pedregon
Pam Kaizer (honorary)

*Staff and Board of Directors list as of December 2022. Visit foodforward.org/who-we-are for the current team list.
Looking Ahead...
Food Forward’s 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

We enter 2023 having reached an astounding level of impact: Food Forward has rescued more than 300 million pounds of fresh produce since its founding and distributed that abundance to hunger relief partners in Los Angeles and across the region. That's the equivalent of nearly 1.7 billion servings of fruits and vegetables—as well as the prevention of the emissions of 267,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent that would contribute to climate change.

Our effective and efficient produce donation operation is helping people every day. At the same time, the growth of Food Forward’s food recovery is illustrating how this intervention in the nation’s food system can continue to be scaled to address health equity and nutrition, reduce climate impact, and rethink how we use good food that so often goes to waste.

The Food Forward Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan for 2023-2025 that sets an ambitious three-year goal: to recover and distribute 270 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to hunger relief partners—nearly equal the volume accomplished in the first 14 years of the organization. This next phase will continue a trajectory of growth in impact as we increase the amount of food we recover, the communities we serve, and the efficiency of our operation.

Innovative and responsive action will address key objectives organized as pillars of the strategic plan: Fight Hunger, Prevent Food Waste, Inspire Others and Connect with Community, and Invest in the Future. Join us in this mission to serve communities experiencing food insecurity and mitigating climate change and reduce food waste.

Make an impact:
Volunteer
foodforward.org/volunteer
Inspire Others
foodforward.org/inspire-others
Register Your Trees
foodforward.org/donate-food/fruit-tree-faq
Produce Industry
foodforward.org/produce-industry
Support food insecure communities and help meet our goal of 270 Million pounds
foodforward.org/give
ABOUT THE ART IN THIS REPORT

Food Forward was proud to partner with artist Brian Peterson whose humanitarian work captured the essence of Food Forward’s fight for food justice through the installation of the 60 by 20 foot Share the Abundance™ mural at Food Forward’s Produce Pit Stop, in Bell, California.

“As an artist, there are rare occasions when a project resonates deeply with both your passion and talent. This was precisely the case when I had the opportunity to collaborate with Food Forward. Throughout my time on-site painting, I was constantly surrounded by fresh produce and the dedicated staff and volunteers who were committed to both the success of the mural and the daily activities of Food Forward. As I added color and depth to the refrigerator mural wall, my connection to the organization’s mission of improving the lives of families in the SoCal region grew stronger. On behalf of Brian Peterson Art, we are forever grateful to creatively visualize all that Food Forward has worked so hard to achieve.”

FEATURED ARTWORK

Brian Peterson Art, Share the Abundance™ Mural, 2022
Spray paint on sheet metal 60’ by 20’
Installed by the artist on location at Food Forward’s Produce Pit Stop in Bell, CA
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How will you Share the Abundance™?

Volunteer
foodforward.org/volunteer

Inspire Others
foodforward.org/inspire-others

Register Your Trees
foodforward.org/donate-food/fruit-tree-faq

Produce Industry
foodforward.org/produce-industry

Support food insecure communities and reduce food waste
foodforward.org/give

For more information on financial contributions:
Jen Cox, Chief Development Officer
jen@foodforward.org
818-764-1022 ext. 110
For more information, visit foodforward.org/give