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FOOD FORWARD IS RECOGNIZED BY WHITE HOUSE FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO HELP END HUNGER

Food Forward, a SoCal-Based Produce Recovery Nonprofit, Commits to Increasing Its Annual Recovery Volume to 100 Million Pounds of Fresh Produce to Benefit Southern California Families In Need

LOS ANGELES (February 27, 2024) – **Food Forward Inc.**, a leading produce recovery and hunger relief nonprofit, is proud to announce its recognition by the White House for its commitment to the national effort to end hunger and build healthy, sustainable communities.

As part of its commitment to the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities, Food Forward pledges to recover and distribute over 290 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables by 2026, increasing its current annual recovery volume from 80 million to 100 million pounds.

"Food Forward is honored to join the White House in this critical challenge. Our commitment to recovering and redistributing surplus fresh fruits and vegetables directly supports the goal of ending hunger and building healthier communities," said Rick Nahmias, Founder and CEO of Food Forward. *"By expanding our reach, we can ensure that more people and more families throughout Southern California and across the region have access to the nutrition they need and deserve, while also making a tangible difference in the environmental impact of food loss."*

This ambitious goal will translate into providing an additional 1.6 billion servings of fresh produce to those in need, significantly expanding Food Forward's impact on food insecurity in historically underserved communities. By diverting this fresh and nutritious food from landfills, Food Forward will also contribute to environmental sustainability, preventing emissions of more than 250,000 metric tons of CO² equivalent. This effort aligns with the White House's challenge and a comprehensive approach to combat hunger and food waste, while also addressing climate change.

The recognition from the White House underscores Food Forward's leadership and innovation in the field of food recovery. As part of its commitment, Food Forward will utilize its scalable model of rescuing surplus produce and expand its network of produce donors—leaders from the national produce industry, small family and larger farms, farmers markets, and backyard fruit trees—in order to redirect surplus produce to those in need through food banks and hunger relief agencies.

"Food insecurity and climate change are interlinked crises that require bold and immediate action. By recovering surplus produce, we're not only addressing hunger but also contributing to a more sustainable and equitable food system," added Nahmias. *"We are grateful for the recognition from the White House and excited to deepen our impact through this partnership."*

Food Forward invites community members, volunteers, and partners to join in supporting its mission to end hunger and build healthy communities. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of millions and lead toward a more sustainable future.

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About Food Forward

Based in Southern California, Food Forward Inc. is a nonprofit organization that bridges the nutritional gap for those in need by bringing surplus fresh fruits and vegetables to people experiencing food insecurity throughout 13 counties in California, and seven additional states and tribal lands. Founded in 2009, Food Forward has grown into one of the nation's largest independent urban produce recovery organizations. Since its inception, Food Forward has redirected over 390 million pounds of fresh produce to tables of local families. Today, Food Forward rescues more than 240,000 pounds of fresh produce daily and distributes that produce free of charge to over 250 partner food pantries and relief organizations throughout the region. As a result, on an average day, Food Forward provides enough fresh fruits and vegetables to meet the recommended daily servings for more than 270,000 people.

For more information about Food Forward and how to get involved, please visit foodforward.org and contact media@foodforward.org.