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Food Forward Names Jeff Harris as Board Chair and Welcomes New Board Members Jim Berliner and Pam Schwartz As It Increases Its Annual Produce Recovery Volume Goal to 100 Million Pounds

LOS ANGELES (April 10, 2024) - Los Angeles-based [Food Forward](https://www.foodforward.org) Inc., a leading produce recovery and hunger relief nonprofit, is pleased to announce Jeff Harris as chair of its Board of Directors and new Board members Jim Berliner and Pam Schwartz, MPH. As [recently announced](#) by the White House, Food Forward has committed to the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities, pledging to recover and distribute more than 290 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to people experiencing food insecurity by 2026, increasing its current annual recovery volume from 80 million to 100 million pounds.

“Food Forward is stepping up to the plate to help end food insecurity and bridge the nutrition gap that affects 1 in 5 Californians. I am eager to continue my work with the Food Forward Board as chair, supporting the organization’s high-volume food recovery and continuing the mission of fighting hunger and preventing food waste,” stated Harris.

Harris is the founder of JB Harris Consulting, a firm focused on supporting nonprofit organizations with strategic planning, executive coaching, and partnerships. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Golden Globe Foundation. He recently served as the Director of School and Community Partnerships for the Compton Unified School District. Harris is the former Chief Executive Officer of The Junior State of America Foundation, an organization that he was involved in for more than 25 years as a high school student leader, program director, civic educator, and mentor to students. Harris has served on Food Forward’s Board for four years and chaired the Board committee that produced the current Strategic Plan. He will support Food Forward as it plans to grow its recovery operations and distribute produce to the communities most affected by food insecurity. He is looking forward to serving as an ambassador to increase Food Forward’s recognition as a leader in the field of food recovery while highlighting the



organization's impact in the fight against climate change. Harris will also be planning for future growth of Food Forward's impact and scope.

Newly elected Board members Jim Berliner, Chairman of Westmount Partners, and Pam Schwartz, MPH of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, will be joining Harris on the Board as the 14-member Board will be working to support Food Forward in its efforts to Build Generational Health. Berliner is the former board chairperson of the California Community Foundation. He is currently the Chairman of Westmount Partners, a Los Angeles wealth management firm he co-founded in 1990 after a distinguished legal career. Schwartz is the Executive Director of Community Health for Kaiser Permanente. She leads Kaiser's national-food security strategy and other social health priorities. She is a nationally recognized expert in the rapidly developing field of Food Is Medicine.

Harris succeeds Rob Valencia who served as Board Chair for three years and will remain on the Board. Valencia has been credited with evolving the Board and its policies to lay the foundation for exponential organizational growth.

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About Food Forward Inc.

Based in Southern California, Food Forward Inc. is a nonprofit organization that bridges the nutritional gap 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 400 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.