

Dear Friends,

Food Forward's origins had little in the way of an agenda—simply a handful of well-meaning fruit warriors and a grassroots experiment to share the abundance in our own backyards.

But along the way we've seen the need and grown into the region's most efficient and impactful produce recovery organization, helping **1.75 million food insecure individuals across 8 counties annually.**

Much of our work is about taking risks: "Go out on a limb, it's where the fruit is," was one of our very first slogans. It resonates just as much today. When faced with 40% of food going to waste and millions of food insecure individuals in our region, you are compelled to think and act big.

In 2018, we began expanding the concept of our wholesale produce hub—the "Depot." First was the development of the audacious idea itself: creating a 6,000-square-foot warehouse—allowing us to double our Fruitanthropy by 2020. Then we added the necessary \$1.3 million to our budget over the next two years to make it a reality.

Several of our most dedicated funders have stepped up to be lead supporters of this project. These foundations, along with anchor funder CalRecycle, plus 143 intrepid, fruitastic souls who donated at levels from \$1 to \$50,000, are right there with us and making it all possible.



The Depot is just one of Food Forward's initiatives. All three of our produce recovery programs have grown and will continue to grow in their own way; our volunteers and staff will remain change-makers on the frontline of SoCal hunger relief; and we will be there for all 1,800 agencies that depend on us.

With one eye staring down our first decade and the other on the exciting and impactful projects ahead, I'm filled with anticipation. I want to extend Food Forward's collective gratitude to all who have gotten us here, redefined words like **abundance**, and defied expectations of what is possible when a group of individuals come together as a community to act on a simple but powerful idea.

Thank you—
Rick Nahmias
Founder/Executive Director

