



Food Forward Annual Report 2021

Food Forward now distributes an average of 250,000 pounds of food each day – enough produce to supply over 150,000 individuals with their five daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

THIS IS OUR IMPACT

By breaking down barriers that limit access to fresh and healthy food, Food Forward promotes wellness, education, and nutritious produce to help shorten the **Health Equity** gap.

Nearly 35 percent of the food supply in the United States — more than 133 billion pounds — goes to waste. Food Forward's produce recovery model reduces food waste to deliver long-term **Environmental Benefits**.

In 2021, Food Forward distributed 67 million pounds of fresh produce in 12 California counties, as well as six adjacent states and tribal lands, resulting in vast **Economic Impact** to the hundreds of food insecure communities we serve.



CEO MESSAGE



One of the only things that is constant on this magnificent and fragile planet of ours is change, and 2021 more than any year has borne that out. We are all in a state of constant change, which the optimist in me feels is, or at least can become, an evolution.

Food Forward has been in its own constant state of change since it sprouted nearly 13 years ago – but these recent two years have been different. It's grown into what feels like a new organization: in size and scale, Board and volunteer involvement, culture, and most importantly, impact.

2020 was the year Food Forward stared down a historic national food emergency, meeting the moment to empower millions of people experiencing food insecurity in Southern California communities, across six adjacent states and tribal lands reaching all the way to the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. 2021 was the year we began growing into our new skin.

During this period, we saw some of our key staff move on to new adventures, but we also gained a number of exceedingly talented teammates who are busy building out a new Food Forward as one of the nation's most impactful and innovative nonprofits tackling food insecurity and the flip side of the environmental ramifications of food waste.

This is happening at a rate that still is jaw-dropping: an average of 250,000 pounds per work day – or, seen another way – enough produce to supply over 150,000 individuals their **USDA-recommended** five daily servings of fruits and vegetables.

In 2021, we came to better understand our work as a significant booster to health equity in historically marginalized communities, our positive role in curbing the effects of climate change, and our economic impact on the economy.

Pulling together to accomplish all this work comes deep gratitude for the chance to embrace our “new normal” – and make the most of the challenges foisted upon us all. Gratitude not just for the staff who has pivoted, dug deeper and in doing so discovered greater resilience and innovation, and a board and advisors who clocked more hours than in any year past, but to our partners who continued to help us get our produce the last mile, the volunteers who stepped up in new ways, the produce donors, farmers, and homeowners who make this work possible, and the many funders – those who’ve walked beside us for years and those who found us during the darkest days of COVID-19, then re-upped with us for another year.

I hope we can each reflect on the good we will take from this beyond challenging time – see the opportunities ahead in 2022, and most importantly, support each other as we renew our commitment to **SHARE THE ABUNDANCE.**

Rick Nahmias
Founder & CEO



BY THE NUMBERS

67 Million

**Pounds of Produce
Recovered and Donated**



6

**Neighboring States
and Tribal Lands
Served**

24

**New Glean Team
Leads Activated**

10

Vehicles in Service

344

Agencies Served

12

**California Counties
Served**

1,813

**Volunteer-powered
Events**

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT

“Food Forward checks all the boxes: feeding hungry people with healthy food, reducing food waste, and organizing mobs of volunteers. Food Forward elevates LA, making this a better place to live.”

Chris Fager, Food Forward Donor

“The partnership between Food Forward and Inland Empire health entities has proven an innovative effort to improve the health of rural populations living in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Food Forward has assisted in optimizing healthcare access with healthy produce, while spurring additional partnerships to improve food systems and advance the health and well-being of communities.”

Inland Empire Health Plan, Agency Partner



FINANCIALS

Food Forward operates with high efficiency. With cash expenses of \$4 million in 2021, we distributed produce valued at \$120,032,773 million – an incredible 30 times return on social investment!

The following charts illustrate the sources of Food Forward’s **funding and expenses in 2021** 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 2021.

EXPENSES



This chart includes the in-kind value of the produce donated to Food Forward for distribution. In 2021, Food Forward received a significant cash gift from an individual, represented as accrued here, intended to support work in future years.

INCOME



In 2020, Food Forward’s supporters enabled our programmatic work to greatly increase its impact. In 2021, expenses represented here include investments in organizational capacity to strengthen the infrastructure that will maintain this expanded level of service.

DONORS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$100,000 and above

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Karen and Sean Aron
Joan Egrie
Esther and Steve Feder

\$25,000 and above

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*We greatly appreciate each gift given in support of Food Forward, and we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify development@foodforward.org of any inaccuracies or omissions. We regret any errors.

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

\$100,000 and above

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CaIRecycle) through California Climate Investments
Los Angeles County CARES Act via the California
Community Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation
The Ahmanson Foundation
The Herbert R. Mayer and Jeanne C. Mayer Foundation
The Smidt Foundation
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Accelerate Resilience LA (ARLA), a sponsored project of
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Northridge Hospital Foundation
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The Charitable Foundation - Berkshire Hathaway
HomeServices California Properties
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Anonymous (2)

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Bolton and Co.
Clementine Foods LLC
Community's Child
Danning, Gill, Israel and Krasnoff, LLP
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Google
Hope Share Care Foundation
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Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Fifth District

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The Wolfpack Partnership
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Guggenheim Partners
Hudson Pacific Properties
JP Morgan Chase and Co
MacLeod Ale Brewing
Salesforce
The Walt Disney Company

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HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Equal access to fruits and vegetables is not only critical to community health, but it has a long-term economic impact and environmental consequences. Every volunteer hour and dollar donated is an investment in food justice and sustainability.

VOLUNTEER

INSPIRE OTHERS

DONATE

To make a financial contribution, please visit foodforward.org/give

