

FOOD FORWARD'S
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

Moving Food Forward



CEO AND BOARD CHAIR LETTER

Dear Food Forward Community,

For those of us working in hunger relief, this past year has been nothing short of constant whiplash. It was a year that stretched us in every way, literally from start to finish.

Though we cherish the ritual of reflecting on each year, the chaos of 2025 made it hard to see the fruit from the orchard. Yet putting pen to paper, it has taken several tries to fully express our deep appreciation for how this organization not only made it through last year, but thrived amidst its unforeseeable twists and turns.

Partnerships fostered and deepened amidst crisis have always solidified our belief in how much better community works when it is lived in collaboration. When faced with pervasive crisis, how does one respond? You look to what you can do. And then, you do it.

- You mobilize produce industry partners to deliver care packages to first responders tackling the largest wildfires in our city's history.
- You reach the cumulative **organizational milestone of 500 million pounds of fruits and vegetables recovered and distributed.**
- You ensure low-income service and domestic workers across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties who lost their jobs have consistent access to healthy food.
- You grow to be **ranked fourth amongst the nation's largest independent food distributors.**

The lesson: you don't go through it alone, but together.

We hold such deep gratitude for the universe of incredible supporters, board members, and volunteers who were there at every step, through every emergency.

As we look ahead, we grow even more firm in our conviction that **access to healthy, nutritious food is a human right**, and our commitment to **nutrition equity** has never been stronger.

With gratitude,

Rick Nahmias
Founder and CEO

Jeff Harris
Board Chair



2025 IN HEADLINES: RALLYING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



Los Angeles City Council honors Food Forward with a formal resolution recognizing the milestone of recovering 500 million pounds of fresh produce.

“Los Angeles January Fire Relief”

KCAL News

“California’s Food Forward Nears **500 Million Pounds** of Recovered Produce”

The Packer

“L.A. Care Invests **\$5.4 Million** to Help Address CalFresh Funding Shortfall Due to Federal Shutdown”

LA Care

“SNAP benefits remain delayed — local leaders are creating their own solutions”

Los Angeles Blade

“With Hunger on the Rise, Urban Gleaners Seek to Strengthen Local Food Security”

Civil Eats

“Is the Solution to Hunger All Around Us in Fertile California?”

Capital and Main

JANUARY - MARCH

Los Angeles Wildfires

MOBILIZING IN THE FACE OF DISASTER

As **2025** dawned, we never imagined that days later the **largest wildfires in Los Angeles history** would tear through our city. Within hours, our phones were ringing. Partners needed food. Neighbors needed help. **Our 17-year history** prepared us for this moment, and we activated across every level of our operation.

We scaled up emergency distributions across the county, reaching neighbors who had lost homes as well as those who had lost their livelihoods overnight. Service workers, caretakers, and many of our friends and families faced a dire and uncertain future.

Within **48 hours**, we partnered with the **Los Angeles Rams** for a distribution at SoFi Stadium serving **thousands of evacuees**, supplied produce for **UCLA's emergency student distribution**, and coordinated care packages for **first responders**. Working with partner agencies across fire-affected communities ensured **consistent support when it was needed most**.

Our mission had never been clearer: make sure our neighbors had **consistent access to fresh, nutritious food** during the crisis and throughout the long recovery ahead.

9+ million pounds

DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY 2025

(40% INCREASE COMPARED TO JANUARY 2024)

35+ emergency distributions

ACROSS LA COUNTY



"Food Forward nos proporcionó una abundancia de frutas y verduras frescas, las cuales pudimos entregar a nuestras familias afectadas por los incendios. / Food Forward provided us with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, which we were able to deliver to our families who had been impacted by the fires."

Swany Barahona, National Day Laborers Organizing Network

"We were inspired by how the community from all walks of life came together to support fire victims. Partners like Trinity Harvest and the American Heart Association stepped up to provide transportation to the National Day Laborers Organizing Network and Pasadena Community Job Center."

Food Forward Agency Relations Team

APRIL

Federal Funding Cuts

Federal funding cuts swept across the country in the spring and pushed many nonprofits to the brink. Organizations that were depending on these funds suddenly found that money wasn't coming through. Period. Many of our hunger relief partners faced impossible decisions about which programs to cut and which neighbors to turn away.

Your support made it possible for us to **keep the food moving** to communities. We maintained **consistent produce deliveries** to agencies that would have otherwise had to reduce services or close their doors entirely.

In a moment of widespread uncertainty, you enabled us to give our partners stability.

"We've lost our main source of funding to purchase critical food items. In a world where access to fresh, healthy produce is often a privilege, we are able to extend Food Forward's generosity to economically disadvantaged college students."

Student Lunchbox



MAY

Farmers Market Recovery Mentorship

Food Forward launched its new program to share our expertise through one-on-one support, equipping other community organizations to rescue food and nourish their neighbors. Through our inaugural **"Farmers Market Recovery Mentorship"** program in 2025, we mentored and activated **three new market recovery programs** in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which then redirected locally grown surplus fruits and vegetables to **eight local hunger relief organizations**. This program, along with our online resources and information-sharing with national gleaning networks, is helping to expand communities' access to fresh produce.

"When we launched our market recovery programs as part of the Food Forward mentorship, farmers and agencies were immediately ready to participate. It is great to be the connecting point between two communities perfectly situated to work together and to see how this reliable source of fresh produce enables our partners to provide delicious meals and pantry distributions throughout the week."

Sarah Bluestein, Rachel's Table, Springfield, MA



JUNE

Food Justice Means Access

Federal immigration enforcement actions sent shockwaves through California's food system. As partner agencies shifted their operations to support communities on high alert, we worked side-by-side with them with flexibility and urgency. We adjusted pickups, deliveries, and distributions as needs changed to ensure communities maintained consistent access to healthy food.



"Many in our community are older or undocumented folks who rely on food distributions. We're seeing more new people come, but overall attendance is down. We're changing how we distribute food to protect those we serve."

Angelica Rodriguez, UMMA

*"Líderes Campesinas, a statewide women-led organization advocating for farmworker women and their families, witnessed many of their recipient households facing ongoing challenges related to food security, health access, and economic stability. The **fresh produce Food Forward supplied** allowed them to keep showing up for their community."*

Food Forward Agency Relations Team

JULY - SEPTEMBER

Record-Breaking Recovery

500+ MILLION

By summer, we hit a milestone years in the making: 500+ million pounds of produce recovered and donated to hunger relief since Food Forward's founding in 2009!

This much food recovery is possible because of our strong relationships with wholesalers, shippers, and growers who know Food Forward can accept and distribute large volumes of surplus across the region. It reflects our environmental commitment, too. We don't just fight hunger. We keep good food out of landfills, which prevents greenhouse gas emissions at a massive scale.

Critical, too, are the thousands of volunteers who rescue fruits and vegetables from backyards, orchards, and farmers markets. In fact, our Farmers Market Recovery Program reached a record of its own in 2025, recovering 11% more produce than the previous year.

2.8

BILLION SERVINGS OF FREE PRODUCE

445,000

METRIC TONS OF CO₂ EQUIVALENT EMISSIONS
KEPT OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE

*"Food Forward and DYRT share a belief that every piece of produce deserves a purpose. This partnership is proof that **hunger relief and environmental responsibility** go hand in hand."*

DYRT, Sustainability Partner

*"Working together across the entire **supply chain** helps us increase **healthy food access** and **reduce waste** in meaningful ways."*

Amir Zambrano, Managing Director, Food Forward Wholesale Recovery Program

OCTOBER – DECEMBER



Partnering for Impact

Over **40 million people** across the country faced deep uncertainty about their next meal when **SNAP**, the largest food assistance program in the country, paused during the government shutdown. In Los Angeles County alone, **1.5 million people** rely on SNAP benefits.

Food Forward answered this urgent call. In partnership with the **YMCA of Greater Los Angeles** and with support from **L.A. Care**, we rapidly expanded the number of **YMCA fresh food distributions** from **13 to 24 sites** across Los Angeles County, delivering **2.4 million servings of fruits and vegetables** to communities most impacted. We also worked with **community growers** to widen the pipeline of fruits and vegetables as quickly as possible.

This momentum helped us reach a milestone: for the first time in our history, we recovered **over 100 million pounds of fresh produce** in a single year.

*“Produce giveaways with Food Forward are a **beacon of light** in our community. It has been amazing to serve families with limited access to healthy affordable food and to see the community come together to volunteer.”*

Chicas Verdes, Agency Partner

COMMUNITY IS OUR BACKBONE

If you have been part of supporting Food Forward, chances are you have been part of moments like these. Whether you joined us in person or made these events possible through your generosity, this is your impact in action.



ZEST FEST

Zest Fest brought our community together in a way that captured everything Food Forward stands for. Supervisor Horvath's office joined us to honor our milestone of 500 million pounds of produce recovered. We also took the moment to recognize the volunteers and partners who make our work possible.

MUSIC FEEDS

Food Forward's "Music Feeds" event celebrated the legacy of rock and roll in the fight against hunger. Along with viewing never-before-seen footage of George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh, Food Forward supporters enjoyed a conversation hosted by veteran journalist and advocate Rona Elliot and featuring icons Jim Keltner, Henry Diltz, and Chip Monck. An auction included unique music memorabilia signed by Ringo Starr, The Doors' John Densmore and Robbie Krieger, The Cars, and a one-of-a-kind photograph of George Harrison's Concert for Bangladesh signed by five of the artists from that historic night.



FINANCIALS: YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

Food Forward's 2025 operating budget of just \$8.5 million leveraged nearly \$200 million in fresh produce for people across the region.

Income: 2025

\$209,306,014

TOTAL SUPPORT RECEIVED

97% Donated produce
and other in-kind support

3% All other revenue

Foundations: 64%

\$4,510,300

Individuals: 28%

\$1,977,422

Corporate: 5%

\$327,662

Other: 3% (Gov, Programs, Events, Other)

\$225,602

Expense: 2025

\$212,264,862

98.6% of every dollar goes directly to programs.

Including produce recovery and distribution

1.4% Management and Fundraising

Figures above are unaudited. The 2025 audited financial statement will be posted later in 2026.

[Click here](#) for Food Forward's previous 990s and audited financial statements.

Food Forward has received the "Platinum Seal of Transparency" by Guide Star and the "4-star" rating by Charity Navigator.

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

To make a financial gift to Food Forward, visit [foodforward.org/donate](https://www.foodforward.org/donate)

2025 DONORS

We are deeply grateful to the thousands of people who helped us rescue and distribute more than half a billion servings of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2025. Along with our volunteers, produce donors, and hunger relief partner organizations that make this impact possible, we appreciate those who made financial contributions.

The following gave \$500 or more between January 1 - December 31, 2025. Thank you!

\$1,000,000+

L.A. Care Health Plan
Novo Nordisk Inc.
Anonymous

\$100,000+

Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA)
Angell Foundation
California Community Foundation's Wildfire Recovery Fund
Elizabeth Bixby Janeway Foundation
FireAid
Kaiser Permanente
OXO
The Rose Hills Foundation
The Smidt Foundation
Anonymous (3)

2025 DONORS

\$50,000+

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The Robert and Lisa Margolis Family Foundation
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Ware Disposal Inc.
Anonymous (2)

\$25,000+

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The Ernest G. Herman Foundation
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Shari Leinwand
Max Factor Family Foundation
UNFI Foundation
Anonymous (4)

2025 DONORS

\$10,000+

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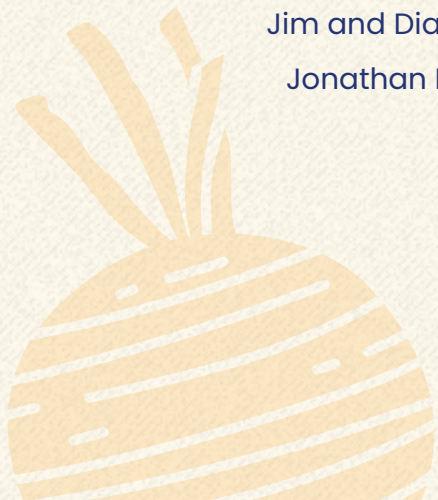
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2025 DONORS

\$5,000+

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Anonymous (6)

\$2,500+

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Anonymous (5)

2025 DONORS

\$1,000+

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2025 DONORS

\$500+

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— 2025 DONORS

Along with hundreds of donors of fruits and vegetables, we are grateful for those who provided in-kind support to Food Forward in 2025:

Apricot Lane Farms • Veronica Argentieri • Bulletin Displays • Mirit Cohen • Connected Fresh • Dropbox • Felix Trattoria • Google
Goorin Bros • Kaiser Permanente • Kevani • Liza Marie Ramos • Dr. Wendelin Slusser and James Bruce • Smog City Brewery Co.
Amanda Vela • Warren Packaging • Westmount Partners • Anonymous

Special thanks to those who were part of Food Forward's "Music Feeds" event:

Maggie Baird • Elliot Easton • John Densmore • Henry Diltz • Rona Elliot • Robert and Christy Feinfield • Arlo Guthrie
Jim Keltner • Cliff Lipson • Chip Monck • Richard Nahmias and Steven Kadel • Janice Pober and Brian Higgins • Sarah A. Spitz
Ringo Starr and Barbara Bach • Studio City Custom Frame • The Village Studios • William Turner Gallery • YUZUCO



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Rob Valencia

*Staff and Board of Directors list as of December 2025



MOVING FOOD FORWARD IN 2026

There's a moment that happens at distribution sites across Los Angeles. A grandmother reaches for fresh produce, and her face shifts. Not just relief, but something deeper: recognition that someone noticed she was struggling, that she matters. A parent selects vegetables, knowing tonight's dinner will be more than expected. A person living alone finds stability in **consistent access to nutritious food**. These moments happen because of your support that moves us closer to a **sustainable and equitable food system** for our communities and generations to come.

"As a food and health writer, I know how essential fresh fruits and vegetables are, and I know how much gets wasted. Food Forward makes it easy to do something about both. Supporting them, with money or with time, is one of the simplest ways to fight food insecurity and make life a little easier for our neighbors."

Mary MacVean, Food Forward Donor

Give Today:
foodforward.org/donate

Become a Sustainability Partner
or Donate from Your Fruit Trees:
foodforward.org

