

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2023

Contact:
Robin Gephart
San Diego Communication Council
drgephart@msn.com
(619) 248-2537

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” Drive-Thru Food Collection to benefit the San Diego Food Bank

On Saturday morning August 19th, 2023 hundreds of cars drove through 15 locations around the county donating thousands of pounds of food to help the San Diego Food Bank feed those struggling in the community to keep food on their tables. This is a bi-annual event organized by Our Father’s Grace Ministries and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Participants included: the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Ideal Plumbing Heating, Air & Electrical, Our Father’s Grace Ministries and congregations from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Church will deliver 39,186 lbs. of food from its Humanitarian Dept. directly to the San Diego Food Bank in conjunction with this food drive. Local businesses and organizations participated during the month of August by collecting food donations from their clients and customers. On Saturday morning 14 parking lots were set up with tables, red barrels, pallet boxes, and volunteers. Drive-thru locations could be found in Allied Gardens, Bonita, Cardiff, Chula Vista, Del Mar, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Costa, Lemon Grove, Mira Mesa, Rancho Penasquitos, Rancho Del Rey, San Diego Central, and 4S Ranch.

Volunteers used the **JustServe.org** website to find the 15 drop-off locations which also provided a link to participate in the food drive virtually. The event on Saturday yielded **46,952 lbs.** of food and **\$4,315** in cash and virtual donations. This converts to **47,756 meals** that the San Diego Food Bank will use to feed hungry families here in San Diego County. This was a wonderful and very productive community collaboration to help so many in need. This event truly is neighbors helping neighbors.



On Saturday morning volunteers of all ages helped get food donations from cars into the collection bins.

DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION

Saturday, 9-11am
Donate Food Here

BENEFITING



Banners (above) were placed around town earlier in the week to advertise the event.



Volunteers at the La Costa location filled collection bins from generous donors driving through their parking lot with cars full of food to donate.



Volunteers from 4S Ranch gathered food donations from their neighbors.

JustServe Clubs are currently being created in high schools all over San Diego County. Their motto is "BUILDING UNITY THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE"



Members of JustServe Clubs from Helix Charter School and La Costa Canyon High School helped unload cars and fill collection bins at the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" county-wide food drive on Saturday.

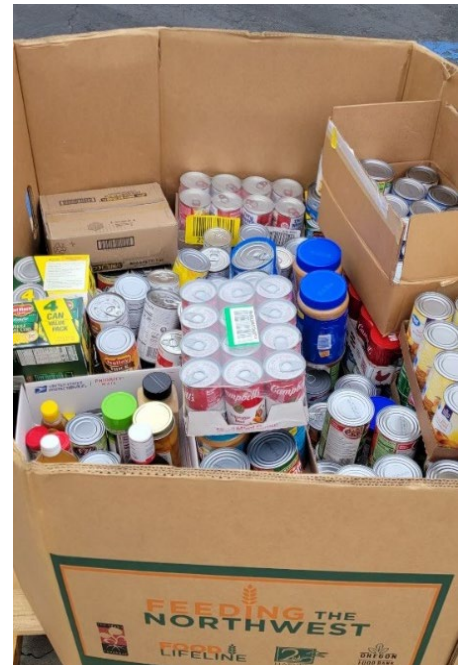


The Allied Gardens location added a Blood Drive to their Food Drive.

Community members donated food for the San Diego Food Bank and then headed over to the Blood Mobile where they donated 11 pints of blood to the San Diego Blood Bank (which will be used to save 33 lives).



The Buddhist Temple of San Diego provided a much-needed drop-off location for the neighborhoods in central San Diego. Hundreds of pounds of food were gathered from this location.



Happy volunteers in Del Mar filling containers from generous donors.



Volunteers, organizers, and full bins at the Allied Gardens drop-off location pictured with San Diego Food Bank CEO Casey Castillo (right) who stated how grateful he is for the help that the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” food drive provides.

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank CEO Casey Castillo said, “On behalf of the San Diego Food Bank’s staff, board of directors and family of volunteers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Father’s Grace Ministries, and Ideal Plumbing, Heating, Air & Electrical, who joined together to collect food donations for the Food Bank’s hunger-relief program. All food collected will help feed families suffering from the lasting impacts of the pandemic and soaring inflation that is currently at a 40-year high. On behalf of those we serve, we honor this generous partnership of caring community groups for supporting our vital mission in San Diego County.”

####

For more information please call (619) 248-2537
Communication Council, San Diego
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints