STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

Food In Need of Distribution, Inc.
FIND Food Bank
Founded 1983
For some people, the idea that we can actually “solve hunger” may seem an ideal unfortunately beyond our reach. This can include our own FIND Food Bank team sometimes, especially when the number of our neighbors seeking food assistance seems only to climb, month after month, year after year. Even so, hope persists that our work will lead to the end result we need to realize.

Further complicating the outlook vs. reality equation that clouds the views of many in the fight against hunger is the idea that “we’ve recovered from The Great Recession,” knowing that so many of those we meet and serve still feel lost amidst a new normal that has left them behind to fend for themselves. Sharp increases in housing and food costs, along with the volatility of fuel prices, are sure to negate any “recovery” that might otherwise trickle down to those with the lowest incomes.

With the enduring support of generous donors for whom we are forever grateful, FIND Food Bank continues to invest the donations entrusted to us to strategically grow the scope of services we offer. This includes fostering a healthier approach to food banking for the long-term health and well-being of not only those we serve through our programs, but the greater community. It means connecting people to resources that help build household sustainability and reduce food insecurity.

Stakeholder support of all kinds helps us accomplish important work such as fighting spikes of childhood hunger that occur each summer when low-income families have kids home from school and away from the free and reduced-price meals that are a significant form of supplemental nutrition assistance. And in helping meet this season need, FIND and our partners are encouraging new tastes for fresh produce and other healthy, kid-friendly snacks among children reached by FIND’s Kids’ Summer Feeding Program.

Moving forward, FIND’s vision is that NO ONE GOES HUNGRY, and that we, as a community, see food as not only a basic human need, but a necessity to a life fully lived. Dedicated donors like you make this commitment possible, so together we CAN solve hunger.

Sincerely,

Lisa Houston
President & CEO

Gwen Ford
Chair, Board of Directors

Report Design: Sandra Baroni
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Food In Need of Distribution, Inc. (d.b.a. FIND Food Bank) is the regional food bank serving eastern Riverside and southern San Bernardino Counties in southern California. We are a member of Feeding America, the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief charity, and the California Association of Food Banks.

**OUR MISSION**

FIND Food Bank is dedicated to relieving hunger, the causes of hunger, and problems associated with hunger, through awareness, education, and mobilization of resources and community involvement.

**OUR VISION**

To create a community that is free of hunger and food insecurity.
The Pace Of Progress

2013-14 brought with it the promise – and reality – of great change for FIND. Long in need of an upgrade to our critical, inventory-control infrastructure, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Berger Foundation that allowed us to make use of new technology that would change the way we work.

CEO Lisa Houston likened the level of progress FIND made with this critical infrastructure upgrade to the transition from the nearly ancient DOS-operating system to Windows 8 – *in one fell swoop!*

“But it was time,” she said, “In fact, we were long overdue. And the transition didn’t happen all at once.

We worked in stages, implementing new systems in coordination with our internal fiscal-year and year-end auditing periods. We had an on-site trainer to assist with a key hardware transition. Our team was great, helping one another at every step along the way,” said Houston.

FIND’s new inventory-control system is key to our food bank efficiently managing the increased distribution demands we face.

**In fiscal year 2013-14, FIND Food Bank distributed 10.6 million pounds of emergency and supplemental food assistance in eastern Riverside and southern San Bernardino Counties.**
“The increases in efficiency and addition of soft- and hardware to help us manage our growing inventory mean that we can now do even MORE with the food donations that drive FIND’s work in the community,” said CEO Lisa Houston.

Part of that work is a growing commitment to healthy food banking, with an emphasis on concern for nutrition, not just calories, as we discuss in the next section. Our community-based partner agencies will benefit as well, as we move to online ordering that promises to reduce transportation expenses across the board.

These inventory-control and infrastructure upgrades also allow FIND to meet the increasing food-safety requirements we face in handling greater quantities of perishable product and to more accurately measure our work, with increased capacity to manage the metrics of modern food banking.

The Feeding America network serves 46.5 million people each year.

In the Coachella Valley, that works out to an average of 90,000+ people seeking food assistance each month.
There’s an old joke in the entertainment industry: *How do you get to Carnegie Hall?* You “Practice, practice, practice!”

FIND adopted that idea with a slight twist: *How do you get to better health if you’re hungry?* More “Produce, produce, produce!” As in the bounty of fresh fruits and veggies being distributed through our network, thanks to our partnership with the Desert Health Care District and their commitment to increasing the quality of food assistance available locally.

There is an often misunderstood and terribly unfortunate relationship between people experiencing long-term hunger and negative health outcomes such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Consider recent information from Feeding America that notes 58% of responding households accessing food assistance have a member with high blood pressure, and 33% include someone with diabetes; these numbers climb even higher if a senior is living in the household.

Essentially, people experiencing uncertainty about where their next meals are coming from have far less room to be picky in their choices, even if their health suffers – they eat what is offered or what is cheapest, not necessarily what’s best for them. What might seem like a reasonable, economical decision in the moment too often ends up having unfortunate, unforeseen outcomes...
that lead to poor health, for individuals as well as our community at large.

Why does it matter what hungry people eat, you may be asking? It matters because health is about what you eat for more than a single meal, in the same way that our community health is only as strong as our combined well-being – if some among us are suffering, we all lose out in some way or other, in terms of increased health care costs and productivity losses.

So what’s an answer? Produce, produce, produce! As part of FIND’s strategic plan, we have been increasing our commitment to distributing as much nutritious, healthy food assistance as possible, starting with fresh fruits and vegetables.

In FY2013-14, FIND and our network of community-based partners distributed 4+ million pounds of fresh produce.

That is more than 40% of total food assistance distributed during last fiscal year, as evidence of our growing commitment to individual as well as community health and well-being.

58% OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A MEMBER WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

33% OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A MEMBER WITH DIABETES

Source: Hunger in America 2014, Feeding America
Keeping Kids Coming Back For More

Picture it: FIND’s Mobile Pantry Truck rolls up to the front door of any of several area Boys & Girls Clubs to unload the week’s fresh-produce bounty. A team of BGC volunteers, usually teen members of the Club, stream out to help our driver unload and begin setting up this week’s (free) “mini farmer’s market.”

Up to 20 sites handle their weekly distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables in a manner that works best for their program, but FIND’s Kids’ Summer Feeding Program partners have a common goal: to provide healthy snacks during summer programming and to send home with program participants 8 – 11 pounds of nutritious, fresh produce to share with the rest of their family each week.

“We know some families struggle in the summer,” says Traci Reed, Program Director for the Indio Boys & Girls Club. “The extra produce helps feed hungry kids home for summer vacation from school. We hear from parents how excited they are to have the help, especially in the form of such gorgeous fresh fruits and vegetables,” she says.

Support from generous donors has helped FIND’s Kids’ Summer Feeding Program grow year over year, as we attract new funders and bring on new partners to expand the reach of our annual effort.
to fight local childhood food insecurity each summer. Your contributions, past and future, mean more children return to school ready to learn each fall.

In addition to helping meet the nutrition needs of children and families who might otherwise participate in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program during the regular school year, FIND’s Kids’ Summer Feeding Program partners have another, longer-term goal, as well.

“The mini farmer’s markets are a hands-on experience for kids to become more familiar with different fruits and vegetables,” says FIND CEO Lisa Houston. “It’s wonderful to see a child’s eyes light up when he takes a bag full of beautiful, fresh produce he chose himself up to his mom, who’s been waiting and watching her son work his way through bins of potatoes, peppers, squash, broccoli, pears and plums, glancing back for her approval when he was unsure — that’s how we get them hooked,” she says.

Hooked on a lifetime of fresh produce and a taste for more nutritious snacks — that’s a recipe where everyone wins!

Across 3 Coachella Valley school districts, more than 75% of students qualify for Free/Reduced-Price Meals during the school year.
From the most mundane to the most complicated, who doesn’t appreciate knowing the right “who” to ask when you need a question answered? And while smart phones and the internet make it easy to find many answers, when your cupboards are bare, your kids are hungry, and you’re at a loss for the right “who” to call, FIND has developed an outreach program that has made our team the one to contact.

In less than four years, FIND’s Outreach and Case Management Program has grown from an idea into an award-winning team, setting the standard in Riverside County and elsewhere for how to effectively reach out to dramatically underserved communities, overcome traditional barriers, and increase access to needed programs that help hungry households connect to existing resources that offer the potential for greater self-sufficiency and reduced food insecurity.

We do it by taking our show on the road, so to speak, participating in more than 200 events each year, large and small, wherever people gather who may benefit, or know someone else who may benefit, from knowing more about a wide variety of programs that are intended to assist
struggling households. We flood our service area with printed materials that offer ways to connect with programs, including our own; we follow up, pre-screen those who are interested, and assist clients in completing applications when appropriate.

And we talk to people who visit local pantries and other food-assistance distributions, to learn more about the needs they have so our outreach team can help connect them to resources that mean they won’t have to wait in line for food anymore – sometimes all it takes is a connection to a new resource to make the difference in someone’s life. Thank you to all the partners that make FIND’s outreach work in the community possible – THIS is how we fight hunger one family at a time.

20% OF FEEDING AMERICA HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A MEMBER WHO HAS SERVED IN THE US MILITARY

Source: Hunger in America 2014, Feeding America
The idea of seniors without enough to eat is one none of us likes: we want to think of grandmas making cookies to share, not scouring bare cupboards to make a meal out of broth and rice yet again.

And no one seems more surprised than seniors themselves about how “hunger” became a reality in their lives, after decades spent working, raising families, serving our country, helping others as they could; pride and shame keep too many from asking for any help at all.

“I never would have thought I’d need help with food,” says Victor, 94 years young and a proud World War II veteran.

“But when my wife had a stroke, we used up our savings in a matter of years, and we still had to eat, still had bills to pay, and there just wasn’t enough.”

So Victor visits a neighborhood food pantry when he needs to, on the lookout for low-sodium and sugar-free items to share with his ailing wife, overjoyed at the beautiful, fresh produce the pantry has to offer most weeks. “It’s wonderful they can help take such good care of us,” Victor says of the food-pantry volunteers that greet him. “We truly couldn’t make it without their help.”
General Breakdown of Foods Distributed through FIND Network

$1 = 7 Meals

- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Grains, Pasta, Bread & Cereal
- Meat
- Water, Juice & Beverages
- Dairy
- Cookies & Deserts
- Cleaning Products & Non-Food Items
- Non-Meat Protein
- Cereal
- Prepared Foods

Sources of Revenue for FIND

- In-kind: Food: 85%
- Corporate: 3%
- Private: 5%
- Government: 5%
- Shared maintenance: 2%

Revenue Distribution for FIND

- Distribution / Produce: 96%
- Outreach: 2%
- Administration: 1%
- Fundraising: 1%

Information taken from FIND Food Bank’s external audit for fiscal year 2013-14.
In 2013-14, FIND Food Bank was the grateful beneficiary of more than 12,800 volunteer hours from more than 2,800 individuals, which is the equivalent of more than six, full-time employees, extending by another 25% the capacity of FIND’s team. To say we could not do what we do without the donation of time from so many is a vast understatement; we are who we are and do what we do only through the generosity of others – THANK YOU to the people and organizations who value volunteerism and give of themselves so generously in service to others.

**Volunteers Are Heart of FIND’s Work**

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**WE❤️VOLUNTEERS!**
Find Food Bank can’t do what we do without the help of the following organizations, our community-based partners, who step up to the plate day in and day out, fighting hunger from the front lines with us, helping people and families in need. In 2013-14, we distributed more than 10.6 million pounds of food assistance across eastern Riverside and southern San Bernardino Counties, serving an average of 90,000+ people each month. The fuel that drives these relationships is dedication, from those who donate, to those make sure your generous donations go to work where they are needed most. The dedication and service of the following organizations makes it possible for all of us to work together to accomplish something none of us could achieve alone, and for that we are extremely grateful.

ABC Recovery Program
American Red Cross
Anza Christian Men’s Home
Apostolic Church of God
Blythe Food Pantry
Boys & Girls Clubs (multiple sites)
Bread of Life / Landers
Calvary Bible
Casa de Milagros
Catholic Charities
Cathedral Center
Centro Cristiano
Centro Libre
Christ is Salvation
Coachella Senior Center
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
College of the Desert
Community Food Pantry
Connected to the Vine
Cornucopia Services
Desert AIDS Project
Desert ARC
Desert Chapel
Destiny Church
Eagle Mountain Baptist Church
Esperanza Youth Center
Father’s Heart Ranch
Family Worship Center
Family YMCA of the Desert
First Assembly of God
FISH of the Coachella Valley
Food for Life Ministries
Food Now
Galilee Center
Hacienda Valdez
Harmony Lunch Kitchen
Hope Through Housing
Hope Community SDA Church
House of Hope
Iglesia Bethel
Iglesia Tercer Cielo
Iglesia Un Manantial
Jordan Outreach
Joslyn Center
The LGBT Center of the Desert
Life Steps
Martha’s Village & Kitchen
Ministerios Un Manantial
Mizell Senior Center
Monte de los Olivos
Oasis Elementary School
Our Lady of Soledad Church
Palm Desert SDA Oasis Church
Raices Cultura
The Ranch Recovery Center
Riverside Latino Commission
Safe House of the Desert
Salvation Army
St. Elizabeth’s Church
St. John’s Church
St. Margaret’s Church
St. Margaret’s Outreach
St. Theresa’s Church
Shelter from the Storm
Stroke Recovery Center
Temple Sinai
29 Palms Armed Services YMCA
Twenty-Nine Palms Food Pantry
Unity Home, Inc.
The Way Station
Victory Outreach Program
Well in the Desert
HUNGER IS A COMMUNITY PROBLEM
WITH A COMMUNITY SOLUTION.
ASK US HOW TO HELP!

“Hunger in America is a solvable problem. In the richest, most agriculturally productive nation on earth, it should stand as a point of national shame that we have any households struggling to put food on the table at all.

Ensuring access to nutritious food is essential to productivity, health, and social functioning for those in all stages of life. Nutritious food means higher academic performance for kids, healthier workers for America’s businesses, and a senior population that can age independently in their own homes instead of in hospitals or institutions.”

– FEEDING AMERICA