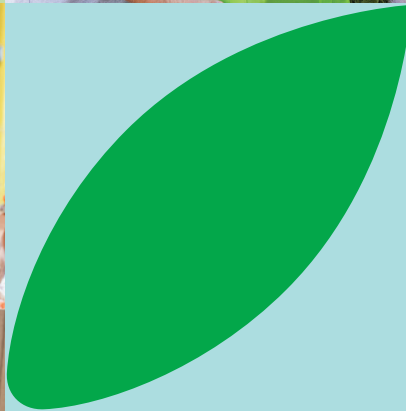


# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2024



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youpower

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A Letter From Our CEO

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fighting hunger. Feeding hope.

As the CEO of the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, this simple yet powerful phrase means so much to me and embodies everything we stand for. It reflects the dedication of our staff, partners, donors, and volunteers — all working together to provide not just food, but dignity, respect, and hope to our neighbors in need. Every month, we assist more than 400,000 San Diegans, each with a unique story and different challenges that have led them to seek additional resources to make ends meet.

As you read the following pages, you can share in the incredible milestones we achieved together. The San Diego Food Bank distributed more than 50 million pounds of food and essential supplies, such as diapers and menstrual products, ensuring that families not only have access to nutritious food but also the basic necessities needed to work, attend school, and move toward financial stability.

This year, we also strengthened relationships with community farms and food growers, increasing our role as a “Nutrition Bank.” Fresh produce now makes up 44% of the food we distribute, with significant portions sourced through partnerships with independent local growers. Additionally, we launched an exciting new collaboration with San Diego fisheries, bringing fresh, high-protein seafood to our procurement efforts while supporting one of our region’s most iconic industries.

With the committed partnership of 450 nonprofit partners and individuals like you — our friends, donors, sponsors, and volunteers — our mission continues to grow stronger. For nearly five decades, we have fought hunger and fed hope across San Diego County. With your continued support, we will nourish our neighbors, strengthen our community, and help families build a brighter future.

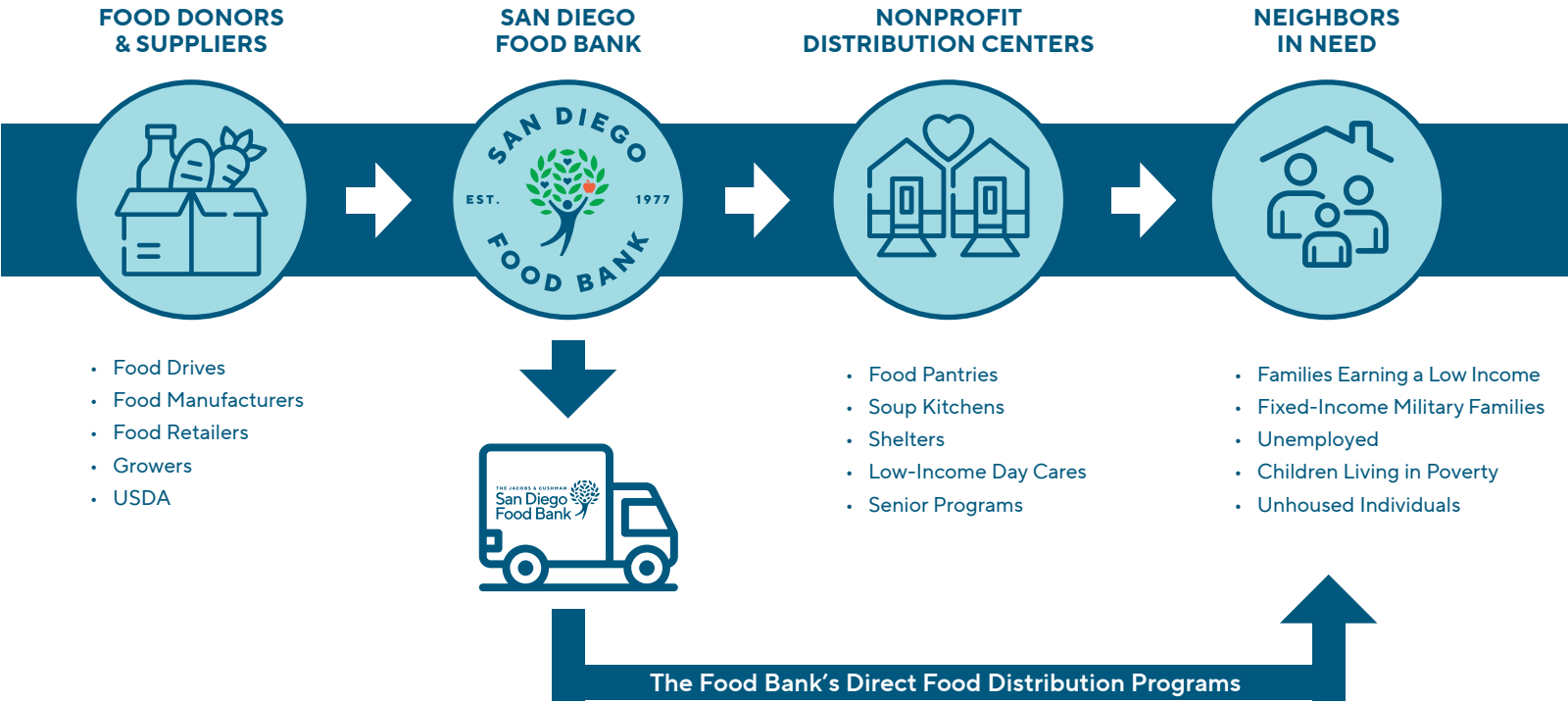
Thank you for being part of this journey.

*Casey Castillo*

**Casey Castillo**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank



How the Food Bank Works



More Than a Meal: How the Food Bank Nourishes the Community



At 96 years young, Loretta has lived a full and vibrant life, traveling from Canada to the southern tip of Mexico, nurturing newborns, and teaching schoolchildren. Now blind and living with her daughter, Pam, she continues to enjoy independence and dignity, thanks to the Food Bank. “I think this program is one of the best I have ever experienced in my life,” Loretta shares. “It keeps you from having to ‘want,’ which I did a lot of in my youth.”

Each month, Pam and Loretta visit the Food Bank’s Client Choice Food Pantry, a welcoming, grocery store-style pantry filled with fresh, high-quality food. While Loretta and their poodle, Bob, enjoy the warm sun outside, Pam carefully selects fresh fruits, vegetables, proteins, dairy, and pantry staples, ensuring their meals are both nutritious and satisfying.

In addition to the pantry, Loretta receives a 40-pound Senior Food Program box each month, packed with nutritious, USDA-provided food items designed to support the health and well-being of older adults.

Beyond nourishment, these visits provide a sense of community and connection. “Life can feel repetitive day after day,” Loretta reflects. “I don’t feel my age, and going out there makes me feel more normal. Everyone talks to everyone, which is nice.” At the pantry, staff, volunteers, and fellow clients often stop to chat with Loretta and admire Bob, making her feel like a celebrity.

Both mother and daughter express deep gratitude for the Food Bank and its generous donors. “It’s a wonderful feeling to receive something you truly need,” Loretta says. “It makes life a lot easier.” Thanks to our donors, Loretta and Pam — along with thousands of other families — have access to the nutritious food they need to thrive.



## Programs & Initiatives

The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank experienced an increase in demand across nearly all program areas last year compared to 2023. By closely monitoring the evolving needs of our clients and neighbors, we can improve food access and enhance operational efficiencies, ensuring we meet the growing demand with responsiveness and care.

### CLIENT CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

When we enlarged the Client Choice Food Pantry in our Vista warehouse location last year, the number of neighbor visits to shop for healthy food increased 86%, from 43,500 in 2023 to nearly 81,000 in 2024. Set up like a small grocery store, this unique shopping experience promotes dignity and autonomy, allowing individuals to choose what they want based on their food preferences, cultural needs, and dietary requirements. By giving our neighbors the ability to select their own groceries, we reduce food waste while also ensuring they receive nutritious options that best support their health and well-being.

**37,500 more neighbor visits occurred at the Client Choice Food Pantry after our expansion last year, demonstrating a successful and more efficient food access model.**

“The only way we can keep food on the table is to come here to the Food Bank, and we have been rejoicing at the quality of the food. I think it’s far better than what you can get at the market.”  
- Nancy, San Marcos

### SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM

Each year, more seniors are turning to the Food Bank as they work to make ends meet on limited incomes, all while the cost of living in San Diego continues to rise. In 2024, senior visits increased by up to 4,000 more per month compared to 2023, bringing the total number of seniors we serve to as many as 35,500 each month. These are our neighbors — ages 65 and older — who face difficult choices about how to allocate their limited resources between food, housing, and medical care. By ensuring they have consistent access to healthy, nutritious food, we support healthy aging and help them stretch their budgets to cover other critical needs.

One of the key programs serving older adults is the federally funded Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides monthly food assistance to 15,500 seniors earning \$19,578 or less per year. Each CSFP box includes cheese, canned foods, and other shelf-stable staples designed to supplement seniors’ diets. Thanks to private philanthropic support, the Food Bank is able to enhance these boxes with fresh produce and frozen proteins, creating a more balanced, nutritious menu.

**Food access among seniors in need of assistance increased by up to 4,000 additional seniors monthly from 2023 to 2024. Philanthropic gifts help us stretch every dollar on their behalf, such as adding fresh produce and proteins to shelf-stable commodity boxes.**



### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides food packages to neighbors in crisis who meet specific income guidelines. Each month, the program serves more than 92,000 individuals through 81 distribution sites across San Diego County. The pounds of food distributed rose from 9.7 million in 2023 to over 12.3 million in 2024. A typical EFAP package includes shelf-stable essentials such as canned vegetables, soups, fruit juice, canned fruits, canned meats, spaghetti, rice, and beans. We often supplement these packages with fresh produce, dairy products, frozen meats, and other nutritious, perishable food items to ensure a healthy menu.

### DIAPER BANK PROGRAM AND PERIOD SUPPLY PROGRAM

The Diaper Bank Program and Period Supply Program address critical, yet often overlooked barriers that prevent individuals from working, attending school, and achieving self-sufficiency. For example, day care centers often require parents to supply a minimum number of diapers daily — without them, children cannot attend, and parents are unable to work or go to school. In 2024, we distributed 8.5 million diapers to support family stability. Beyond financial relief, access to clean diapers reduces health risks for babies and toddlers, helping to ensure they grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

The Period Supply Program helps women and girls maintain dignity, health, and opportunity by providing access to essential menstrual products. When women cannot afford safe, hygienic period supplies, they often miss work or school, disrupting their education and financial independence. This past year, the program expanded significantly, increasing the number of period supplies distributed from 3.1 million in 2023 to 6.3 million in 2024.

### FOOD 4 KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Food 4 Kids Backpack Program remains one of our most critical initiatives, ensuring that children who rely on free school breakfasts and lunches have food to eat over the weekend. Thanks to increased donor support, the number of meals provided to the participating elementary school students grew from 102,000 in 2023 to 120,000 in 2024.

Support doesn’t stop when students move beyond elementary school. Through our middle school and high school On-the-Go pantries, we continue providing essential nutrition to older students. This past year, those benefiting from the in-school pantries grew by 24%, reaching nearly 88,000 student visits.

By ensuring access to nutritious food at every stage of a student’s education, we help students stay healthy, focused, and ready to learn — because no child should have to worry about where their next meal will come from.



“I’m a single mom. I work full-time and we are barely making ends meet at this point. The food coming home with us on Friday [through the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program] has been a great help for us.”  
- Ashley, mom of 8-year-old Sadie

**The San Diego Food Bank provided 18,000 more meals through Food 4 Kids from 2023 to 2024. The number of On-the-Go visits for middle and high schoolers grew by 24%.**

### NONPROFIT FOOD CENTERS

In addition to direct food distribution, the Food Bank partners with more than 450 nonprofit organizations who receive food from our warehouses to distribute across San Diego County, from urban centers to rural communities. This Food to Nonprofits Program includes pantries, soup kitchens, day care centers, after-school programs, homeless shelters, and multi-service agencies. Food is distributed in multiple ways — as groceries for families to take home or as hot, prepared meals served at congregate feeding sites.

## Thank You

Our work is possible because of the generosity of our donor partners, whose unwavering support fuels every program we offer. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, and more food-secure San Diego for all.

By the Numbers

Financials


This report covers the fiscal year 7/1/2023–6/30/2024.




**50,737,119 lbs**  
Total food & supplies distributed



**41,535,731 meals**  
(49,842,877 lbs)  
Total food distributed



Emergency Flood Response:  
**6,000 Households Served**



Food 4 Kids Inaugural Summer Distributions:  
**2,200 Families Served**

**Food Bank Volunteers**




**14,828 Volunteers** = **23% Increase in Volunteers**



**39,126 Visits** = **29% Increase in Visits**

**Food 4 Kids Backpack Program**

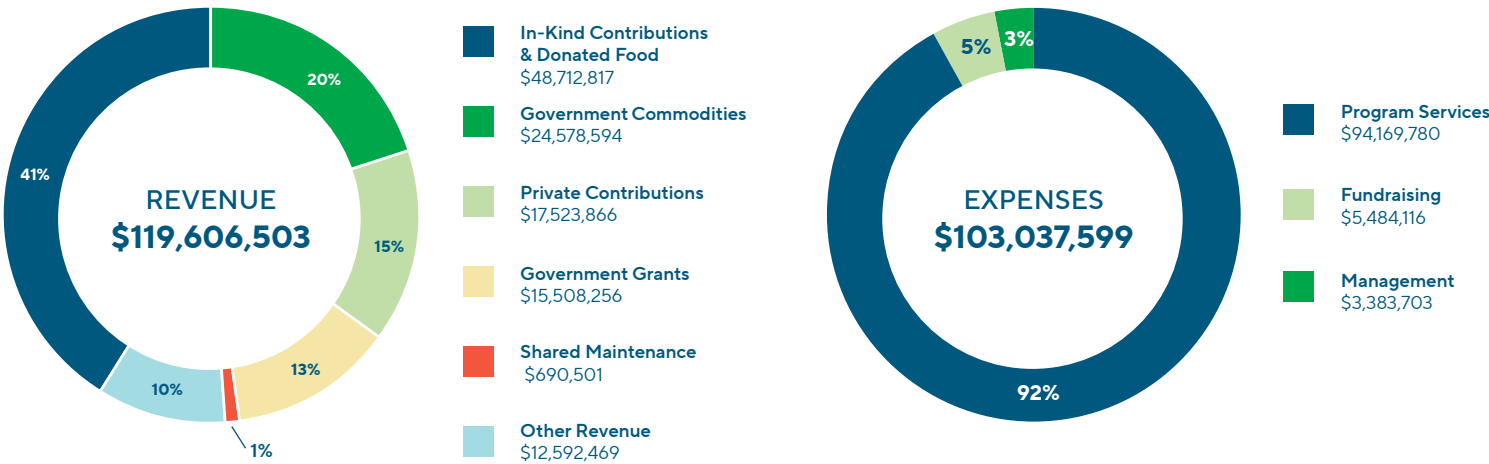


**120,838 meals (426,325 lbs)**  
Total number the program distributed

**18% Growth from the previous year**  
In total, we distributed 18K more meals

**Client Choice Food Pantry**

**1,884,741 lbs**  
Total food distributed  
(157,062 per month on average)



Total Net Assets: \$97,042,390

Volunteering: Impacts Go Both Ways



**“I love the Food Bank and I love the mission; it’s incredibly important,” says John. “You don’t understand the scope of the problem until you get out to see the people who are getting the food. [Most] people volunteering haven’t thought about food insecurity...waking up and thinking ‘am I going to have food to eat today?’”**

John Buzzard started looking at places to volunteer when he semi-retired seven years ago. The San Diego Food Bank was the first place he contacted. “It is incredibly easy to sign up, comparatively,” says John. “You can sign up for three-hour shifts. It doesn’t need to be a long-term commitment. Things are efficient and staff is so friendly.”

Although in John’s case, it did become a long-term commitment. John now oversees five critical Food Bank Neighborhood Distributions and he volunteers, with friends, at the Food Bank’s signature Gala and Golf fundraising events. John first started his volunteer journey in the Food Bank warehouse, packing boxes and bags with food to be distributed. Then he realized he needed to be outside, distributing food directly to people seeking help. “Volunteering gets me out of bed. I get some exercise and emotionally, it’s huge. People are so grateful. There’s a huge need and hopefully I help a little bit,” says John.

Partnering to Improve Health and Well-Being Across San Diego County



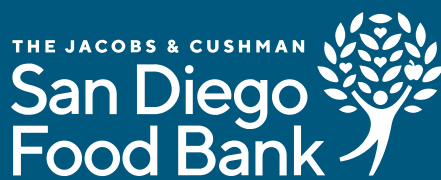
Nearly 25% of seniors in the San Diego region are nutrition insecure, lacking regular access to nutritious food. Sharp HealthCare, through its Sharp Community Resource Center, offers classes demonstrating the fundamentals of good nutrition while also providing free health screenings. The Sharp Community Resource Center also directs older adults facing food insecurity to the programs available at the San Diego Food Bank, such as shopping at the Client Choice Food Pantry or receiving a monthly 40-pound box of USDA-provided foods through the Senior Food Program.

The missions of the two organizations are so closely aligned, in fact, that Sharp has long partnered with the San Diego Food Bank, supporting its many activities at both the personal and corporate levels.

Sharp employees, for example, regularly organize food drives across the organization’s dozens of San Diego locations. And their contributions are significant: In 2024 alone, they gathered 11,000 pounds of food – enough to prepare 9,166 meals. Teams of Sharp employees also dedicate their time volunteering at the Food Bank’s warehouses – bagging produce, sorting donations, and assembling food boxes. In the past year, Sharp employees contributed over 80 volunteer hours – the equivalent of more than two weeks of full-time work. And with over 50 million pounds of food and supplies flowing through the Food Bank annually, these volunteer hours are invaluable.

As a health care leader in San Diego, Sharp furthers its mission by making monetary donations to the Food Bank’s many nutrition programs. The organization is also a valued sponsor of the Food Bank’s annual Gala, a major fundraising event. It’s a win-win for both organizations who each seek to protect the health and well-being of the San Diego community.

“Sharp’s commitment allows us to reach more San Diegans facing food insecurity,” says Julie Moore, Director of Corporate Partnerships. “We encourage other organizations, big and small, to join us in the fight against hunger through employee engagement and financial support. By combining our mutual efforts, we can maximize the impact on our neighbors in need.”



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