



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2025



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## A Letter From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

As you read this Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, I hope you feel the deep gratitude we carry for you, our donors, volunteers, and partners, every day. Everything shared on these pages is possible because of your generosity, trust, and longstanding commitment to our neighbors facing hunger.

Your support enabled us to distribute more fresh produce than ever before, accounting for nearly half of all the food shared. It powered programs serving children, college students, seniors, military families, and thousands of households each month across San Diego County. It also made it possible to expand spaces like our Client Choice Pantry in Vista, where dignity, choice, and compassion are at the center of every visit. Stories like Sara's remind us that hunger relief is not only about food, but about restoring stability, confidence, and hope.

With your partnership, we strengthened local systems through innovative collaborations, from providing locally caught seafood to families in need, to fully integrating our North County operations under one unified name, website, and logo. We also invested in long-term solutions by expanding our government affairs efforts, ensuring the voices of our neighbors are heard where policy decisions are made.

Your loyal support fuels every program, partnership, and meal. Thank you for standing with us and for believing in a future where no one in our community goes hungry.

With heartfelt thanks,



**Casey Castillo**

Chief Executive Officer



## BY THE NUMBERS



### VOLUNTEERS





## A Bigger Space for Dignity and Choice

Because of the generosity of our supporters, the Food Bank continued to grow programs that place compassion and choice at the center of hunger relief. We enhanced the Client Choice Pantry in Vista, creating a more welcoming and efficient experience for the families we serve. Since opening just three years ago, we have more than doubled the pantry in size, expanding from 577 to 1,729 square feet and increasing capacity to serve over 4,000 visits each month. The larger space allows multiple households to shop comfortably at the same time, with each family able to select the nutritious foods and household essentials, including diapers, that best meet their needs. Made possible through donor support, this expansion ensures more North County neighbors can access food in a way that is both dignified and satisfying.

### Sara's Story

When Sara first arrived at the Client Choice Pantry in Vista, she felt the same uncertainty many people experience when asking for help the first time. She did not know what to expect, and the process of seeking assistance was overwhelming.

Sara moved to the San Diego region more than two decades ago and built a career as a professional sign language interpreter. At age 32, her life changed suddenly when an undiagnosed birth defect became paralyzing later in life, leaving her in a wheelchair with an acquired brain injury and unable to continue working. The transition was difficult, and the need for support became part of her new reality.

The structure and respect of the Client Choice Pantry helped restore a sense of stability. Clients shop by appointment, move through the space with support from staff and volunteers, and select the foods that best meet their needs. "It's run well," Sara shares, "and that makes it accessible for me."

Through access to fresh produce, proteins, and staple foods, Sara began cooking again, learning new recipes and meal prepping with support from her caregivers. "It gave me something to follow through on," she says. "That sense of accomplishment matters."

What stands out most, however, is the people. "I can't say enough good things. They know what they're doing, and they're always offering to help. They're nice to everyone. You can feel that."

Today, the pantry is part of Sara's routine. Though asking for help is never easy, the experience has become familiar and manageable. "I'm very grateful," she says. "Very, very grateful."



**“**  
The Client Choice Pantry is run well," Sara shares, "and that makes it accessible for me.  
**”**

# Paving the Way for a Stronger Tomorrow

— Strengthening Services in North County and Beyond —



North County Warehouse in Vista

**Food Distributed  
From the North County  
Warehouse**

2025

**9.2 million lbs**



2015

**550,000 lbs**

In 2015, the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank assumed operations of the North County Food Bank at the request of the community, and for the last decade we have steadily expanded programs and capacity to meet the growing needs of North County.

In fall 2024, we took steps to fully integrate the North County Food Bank into our regional network of services by unifying operations under one name and identity. This milestone was shaped with direct input from our community after we identified longstanding confusion caused by multiple names, websites, logos, and social platforms. By bringing everything together, we've created a clearer, more accessible experience for San Diegans seeking support, especially as food insecurity continues to rise in our northernmost cities.



## New Logo, Same Hunger-Relief Mission

In coordination with the name integration, we unveiled a refreshed logo and streamlined brand system to make it easier than ever for the community to recognize and trust the Food Bank's services across San Diego County. The new design brings our Miramar and Vista locations under one cohesive name and identity, reinforcing our role as the county's leading independent hunger-relief organization.

## Making Waves With Locally Caught Seafood



Photo by Lindsay Bauman of Surfgrass Productions

Through a new partnership with the San Diego Fishermen's Working Group and with initial support from the San Diego Foundation, the Food Bank expanded access to fresh, locally caught seafood for families facing hunger beginning in fall 2024. This nutrient-dense fish, including tuna, swordfish, and halibut, is prepared locally by a chef, then portioned, vacuum-sealed, and frozen before distribution. Recipient agencies span 14 cities, reaching North County, South Bay, East County, and rural communities such as Ramona and Jamul. For neighbors who rarely have access to seafood, this partnership delivers both nourishment and a sense of belonging. It also supports San Diego's fishing community while creating a shorter supply chain that reduces environmental impact. This innovative model strengthens local systems and ensures healthier food reaches more families in need, and with continued funding now from ASML, the partnership is positioned to carry this impact forward into the next year.



**8,761**  
pounds of seafood provided



**43**  
nonprofit partners served

**100%**  
locally sourced

## Our Military Initiative to Combat Hunger

In San Diego County, home to one of the nation's largest military populations, many service members and their families quietly face food insecurity. Through the Military Initiative to Combat Hunger, we remain proud to stand beside them thanks to partnerships with 11 military-focused nonprofit agencies. In recognition of this ongoing commitment, the Food Bank was honored as the Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton's 2024 In-Kind Donor of the Year as well as welcomed the organization as a new Emergency Food Assistance Program partner, expanding access to nutrition support for North County military families. Backed by committed donors, this initiative ensures those who serve our country receive the support they need to thrive.

**1,486,543**

pounds distributed by our local military partners



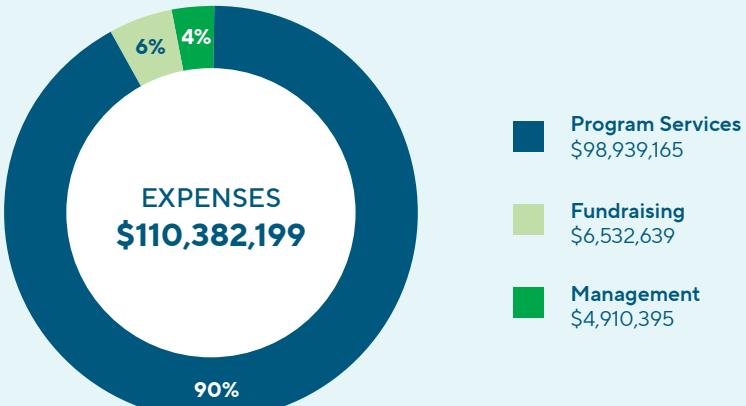
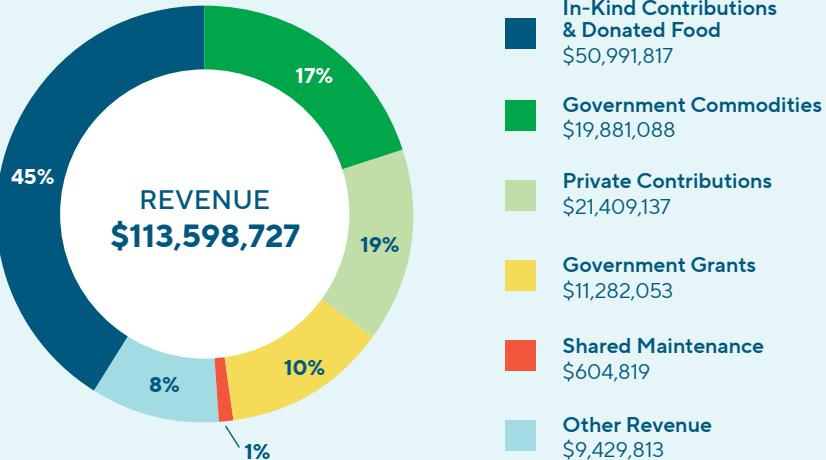
### WE ARE PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:

Armed Services YMCA  
Support the Enlisted Project  
Murphy Canyon Bread Ministry  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
Us for Warriors Foundation  
Veterans Village of San Diego  
Workshop for Warriors  
Brother Benno Foundation  
Military Outreach Mission  
Assistance for Veterans  
USO Council of San Diego

# FY 2025 AUDITED FINANCIALS

This report covers the fiscal year  
7/1/2024-6/30/2025.

**Total Net Assets:**  
\$100,258,918



## Advancing Advocacy for Long-Term Solutions

With advocacy as one of the Food Bank's three core mission pillars, we took a major step forward by establishing a dedicated government affairs team. Two new positions were added to strengthen anti-hunger policy efforts across the region, ensuring the voices of neighbors facing hunger were represented in conversations shaping long-term solutions.

Throughout the year, the team met with elected officials and their staff to elevate data and real-life stories from local communities. In March, the Food Bank launched VoterVoice, a digital grassroots advocacy tool enabling supporters to engage directly and easily with decision-makers. Thanks in part to these efforts, the state Legislature included full funding for CalFood, which ensures California-grown produce reaches families in need, and in June, the Food Bank was awarded a \$500,000 grant by the County of San Diego. Together, these successes show what's possible when advocacy and community action come together to keep hunger and basic needs a top policy priority.





Contact Us:

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**1-858-527-1419**  
**@SDFoodBank**

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**Miramar Warehouse**  
9850 Distribution Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92121

**Vista Warehouse**  
2260 Oak Ridge Way  
Vista, CA 92081

To view online, please visit:  
**sandiegofoodbank.org/annual**