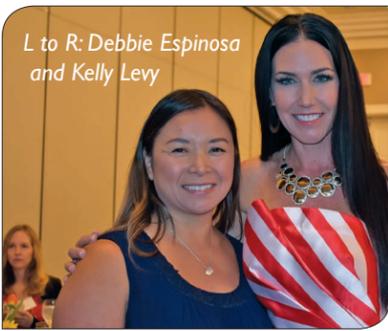


## Giving Society Update



L to R: Debbie Espinosa and Kelly Levy

Our Fourth Annual Giving Society fundraising breakfast was held this past November 16. It was, once again, an inspirational success. Powerful personal stories

of facing and overcoming food-insecurity were shared with the 120+ attendees. Graciously sponsored by the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort & Spa, the food, service and ambiance were perfect.

This year's event featured two guest speakers. Kelly Levy, Charities and Marketing Director at BIGHORN Golf Club, shared her personal story of how hunger affected her in childhood and how that shaped her passion to help others. The other speaker, Megan Greene, shared her eye-opening experiences seeing first-hand childhood hunger as a dedicated educator

at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Coachella. All of the students who attend Cesar Chavez receive free and reduced-priced lunches, yet they still often find themselves without enough to eat.

Megan talked about how many of the students live in "survival mode." They go home and are responsible for caring for their siblings. They may or may not have had dinner and some are without a bed of their own.

Due to Megan's persistence, FIND has been able to include Cesar Chavez in our Kids Farmers Market program with a monthly mobile food distribution to serve the more than 900 students in attendance.

*This is why our Giving Society members are so important to our work.* They are the financial foundation upon which we depend. These resources help us determine which of our programs can be funded. Membership in the Giving Society includes a five-year financial commitment and a choice of three levels of donations. Beginning at \$83 per month, you, too, can become a member of this important collective.

## Stories From the Valley

Magdalena is a mother of three teenage children and together they live with her disabled mother-in-law in the East Valley. As the sole provider for her family, Magdalena earns her living working eight hours a day in the agricultural fields of Thermal picking vegetables.

About two years ago, Magdalena began experiencing health issues. To make matters worse, the condition caused her to have heightened sensitivity to sunlight. For an outdoor worker, especially with the extreme Coachella Valley sun and heat, constant sunlight is unavoidable. As the effects of her illness intensified, Magdalena had to stop working for a period

of several months. She was in desperate need of food as well as proper medical care. Fortunately, she found FIND Food Bank. Magdalena reached out to FIND for help and received food for her and her family.

In addition to food distribution, FIND's outreach team helps connect clients to a wide network of community partners ranging from utility assistance to rental assistance and medical resources. At the onset of her illness, Magdalena did not have any medical coverage and had attempted unsuccessfully to apply for MediCal. FIND's outreach team member, Guillermina Cano stepped

in and worked diligently to help Magdalena successfully apply for MediCal. After receiving several months of medical treatment through her MediCal benefits, she was able to return to work.

*"Her spirit is noticeably different now,"* said Guillermina. *"Before she was sad and weak due to her illness. Now she smiles and she always says, 'I'm blessed.'"*

Magdalena is just one example of the many hard working people who are doing their best to provide for their families and just need that little extra support. **Your donations to FIND help bridge the gap and make a difference in the lives of many.**



Support FIND Food Bank and you too can help the 85,000 adults, children and seniors we provide food assistance to across the Coachella Valley every month.

FIND Food Bank is Food In Need of Distribution, Inc. Established 1983.

501(c)(3) TAX ID # 33-0006007

[FINDFoodBank.org](http://FINDFoodBank.org)

83775 Citrus Avenue • Indio, CA 92201 • (760) 775-3663



15-FINCA-019N



# Stepping Up!

WINTER 2019

## Watch ... Give ... Celebrate!

### 2019 Telethon to Benefit FIND Food Bank

Get your TV remotes ready, prepare to dial your phones or click your computers!



April 5, 2019 is FIND Food Bank's 9th Annual Telethon. The high-energy, enthusiastic and live telethon will be sponsored by **News Channel 3, The Desert's News Leader**. The telethon is FIND's biggest and most visible fundraiser of the year. Mark your calendars now!

Last year's telethon was a wonderful success thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors who joined us in the fight to end hunger throughout the Coachella Valley. This year, please help support us as we continue to advocate for the thousands of children, adults and seniors who live and work throughout all of our desert cities.

L to R: Board of Directors Treasurer Clark Hallren and Chair Deborah McGarrey

### Here's How You Can Help

There are several ways you can participate in the telethon. You can call in the evening of the telethon and donate or you can choose to donate on our website: [www.FINDFoodBank.org](http://www.FINDFoodBank.org). You may also volunteer at FIND'S office that night to answer phone calls, or join in by helping with food sorting in the warehouse. Of course, providing a "matching gift" challenge will help increase the dollars raised. We hope you will consider this as well. Every donation counts.

**Let's work together to make this our most successful telethon yet.**

### INTERESTED?

For more information, call (760) 775-3663 and ask for Barbara Ben-David, Director of Development and Communications.



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The Regional Food Bank



## Message From CEO

### With Grateful Reflection: Focusing on the Future of FIND

February 2019 marks my one-year anniversary as the President and CEO of FIND Food Bank. I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction and joy as I reflect back on the last 12 months. I have been continually inspired by the passion of our staff, the dedication of our Board of Directors and the warmth and generosity of our donors and volunteers. In concert with all of our FIND family, my deepest appreciation is for the tangible rewards we have experienced from providing thousands upon thousands of food-insecure people in our Valley with fresh, nutritious foods to fill their plates and to help mitigate the effects of poor nutrition on their health and well-being. We are proud of the strides we have made in the fight against hunger and breaking the cycle of poverty.

As we enter this New Year, our 36th year of service to the community, our focus will continue to address the root causes of hunger. Our strategy is to provide greater amounts of fresh nutritious foods, lower the number of food-insecure people and engage our community to join us in ending hunger.

We will continue to nurture strong partnerships with organizations, foundations and donors to support our work. Annually, we average nearly 5,000 volunteers who work in our warehouse, individual offices and out at distribution sites. Without their service to our mission, we would not be able to run this organization.

To everyone who made a difference, I would like to say, Thank You!

Debbie Espinosa,  
President & CEO

#FINDaWaytoEndHunger

## Get Your Tickets Today! Sip, Savor and Benefit FIND at Palm Desert Food & Wine Festival



Calling all foodies and those who just want to enjoy some delicious fun for a good cause. The 9th Annual Pacific Sales Kitchen & Home Palm Desert Food & Wine, presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa and organized by Palm Springs Life, is coming up **March 22-24 at The Gardens**

**on El Paseo.** FIND Food Bank is honored to again be selected as the charity beneficiary of the festival. Over the past two years, this event has raised more than \$20,000 to benefit FIND Food Bank. **The festival offers a special opportunity for you to enjoy an exciting three-day culinary event with your family and friends and help benefit FIND Food Bank at the same time!**



If you haven't been to the festival, this is your year to experience it and find out why it has become the premier culinary festival in Southern California. You can sample great food from more than 40 local and regional restaurants, taste wines from 60 vintners, sip craft beer and spirits and

learn a few cooking tips at entertaining demonstrations by celebrity chefs including Scott Conant, Antonia Lofaso, Fabio Viviani, Gale Gand, Laura Werlin, Nick Roberts and more.



In addition to the Saturday and Sunday grand tastings, you can RSVP to special events like the James Beard Gourmet luncheon Friday and a Sunday Champagne & Bloody Mary Brunch. The Friday James Beard Gourmet luncheon will feature a four-course meal expertly prepared by a different chef and paired with premium wines. FIND Food Bank President and CEO Debbie Espinosa will also be speaking at the Friday luncheon.

With more than 5,000 people attending the popular Palm Desert Food & Wine, it's wise to buy your tickets early. Come sip, sample and savor some new tastes and help provide meals for those in need by benefiting FIND Food Bank. **To purchase tickets, visit [www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com](http://www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com) or call (888) 596-1027.**

## FIND Food Bank's 35th Anniversary & Community Benefit Events

It was a banner year for FIND Food Bank. We celebrated our 35th anniversary of service in September and many community organizations surprised us with special benefit events over the past few months.



FIND Food Bank's 35th Anniversary celebration was an intimate gathering and a special jazz concert at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino with the music of The Brian Nova Trio featuring FIND Food Bank Board Member Mr. Paul MacKey. Paul also serves as Director of Legal Affairs for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Tribal Government. At the event, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians presented a \$35,000 donation to FIND to commemorate 35 years of service.

*(L-R) Fantasy Springs Resort Casino Vice President of Hotel & Food and Beverage Jay Chesterton, FIND President and CEO Debbie Espinosa, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Member Brenda Soulliere, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Vice Chairwoman San Juanita Callaway and Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Secretary/Treasurer Helen Ruth Callaway.*



Contour Dermatology's Day of Beauty — Breakfast at Timothy's — benefitted FIND Food Bank with a \$4,000 donation. Dr. Timothy Jochen, founder of Contour Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery Center, also participated in FIND's hunger awareness campaign during Hunger Action Month.

*(L-R) Contour Dermatology Executive Director Lee Erwin, FIND Food Bank Director of Development & Communications Barbara Ben-David and Dr. Timothy Jochen.*



Southern California Gas chose FIND as the beneficiary of this year's annual golf tournament and raised \$4,150.

*(L-R) are SCC Public Affairs Manager Deborah McGarrey, FIND Food Bank President and CEO Debbie Espinosa, and SCC High Pressure Construction Manager Tim Pearce.*



Toyota of the Desert has graciously offered loaner vehicles to FIND's outreach team for use in the field. This resource will save FIND a considerable amount of vehicle expenses and allow us to use that money toward other community programs.

*(L-R) FIND Food Bank Cesar Garcia and Toyota of the Desert Regional Marketing Manager Austin Walker.*



Jay Nixon, owner of Thrive Fitness Studio, became aware of FIND Food Bank and wanted to do something to help. He had a simple idea: challenge his customers to donate 1,000 jars of peanut butter over a two-week campaign. Thrive received 900 jars within the first four days and the total number of jars donated was 2,309!

