

FOOD For THOUGHT



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

FIND Delivered Comfort and Joy at Our Holiday Distributions

In December, we had the good fortune of receiving over **3,500 whole turkeys for distribution**. These turkeys were generously donated by three of our corporate partners: Walmart Corporation, the Desert Regional Medical Center, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital.

The turkeys, combined with a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and other donated food items, were the approximate equivalent of **300,000 meals**. The distributions took place over a two-week period at 18 distribution sites, and **served approximately 13,548 people**.

One of these distribution sites was Anza Gap-Site Mobile Pantry. Located in Riverside County, Anza has a population of approximately 3,000 people. Anza is one of the most rural and remote parts of FIND's 5,000-square-mile service area. **In order to reach the nearest**

grocery store, clients have to travel 30 minutes each way. As you can imagine, with rising gas prices and clients barely able to make ends meet, the added challenge of the long drive to shop for food can become extremely difficult.

At the distribution, we spoke with one client, Jerry Eggering. **Jerry, who faces the challenge of being disabled, receives food once a month from FIND at this distribution site.** He described having to get himself and his wheelchair all packed into a vehicle, and that traveling down the hill is incredibly hard on him and his mother. **He referred to FIND's distribution as a blessing to him and his family,** and expressed his gratefulness that he can now bless others who are in need too. "Sometimes we are able to bless people who are around us who can't get out and go and get food," Eggering said.



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Message From CEO

As we celebrate this new year, I want to look back for a moment to thank everyone who so generously donated to FIND during the 2019 holiday season. As always, our donors were remarkably generous with their financial gifts. Local companies held numerous food drives for us in November and December, and we continued with our own 22 direct distributions providing chickens and fresh produce, as well as supplying all of our 66 agencies in our network. Thank you for caring enough to help. Every day we remind ourselves that our neighbors, friends and families have a greater chance of a long, meaningful life if they consistently receive healthy foods year-round.

This year, we are asking ourselves once again, “How many families will go to bed hungry tonight?” Along with our sister food banks, we are facing an uncertain future for the enrollment requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This safety-net program helps families finish out each month with enough food for their families. It is just one of the ways we help people from dropping into homelessness. Over the year, I will keep you apprised of the changes and challenges FIND will face.

Debbie Espinosa,
President & CEO

New Truck Helping Bring Food to Region

The photo below is of the **latest addition to the FIND Food Bank fleet of trucks**. It's our 53-foot refrigerated semi-tractor trailer. This beautiful visual representation helps demonstrate the scope of FIND's growth as the Desert's Regional Food Bank.

Typically for a mid-sized food bank the size of FIND, a trailer of this large size would not be included in the fleet. However, **because FIND has continued to grow so consistently over the past several years**, we needed to scale up to a vehicle that could provide a much larger capacity for both sourcing and resourcing food items. This truck allows us to pick up food more efficiently and more effectively. Also please note the list of FIND Food Bank sponsors showcased on the trailer.



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You Heard Our Call and Responded!

The launch of a new fundraising campaign by Wells Fargo, called the Wells Fargo Holiday Campaign, began on November 1 and ran through December 31. **The goal of this campaign was for FIND to raise \$25,000 in donations in order to meet the 1-to-1 match of an additional \$25,000 from Wells Fargo.** 200 Feeding America food banks competed for this match. FIND Food Bank was one of 14 food banks that hit the

\$25,000 threshold. We received the good news on December 13.

YOU DID IT! Forty-nine of our donors responded to our request and we raised \$29,646! We beat the limit!

To everyone who participated: **a huge FIND Food Bank thank you!** The holidays were so much brighter for so many people due to your generosity.



Palm Desert Food & Wine

Presented by Agua Caliente Casinos

The Gardens on El Paseo | March 27–29, 2020

Palm Desert Food & Wine, presented by Agua Caliente Casinos and organized by Palm Springs Life, **has again chosen FIND Food Bank as the benefiting charity.**

Tickets are on sale for this **three-day culinary event, which presents some of “the best people” in the food industry** — chefs, vintners, craft beer brewers, and spirits makers — from across the country and welcomes all who share a love for good food and fine wine to the beautiful tree-lined El Paseo shopping district in Palm Desert, California.

The lineup of events includes the popular James Beard Gourmet Four-Course Luncheon, Saturday Grand Tastings, Sunday Brunch with Bubbles & Spritz, and Sunday Grand Tastings. **You will enjoy celebrity chef demonstrations and book signings, taste exquisite bites from local and regional restaurants, and sip more than 60 premium wines, craft beers, and spirits.** Vintners and chefs will be on hand to discuss their culinary offerings.

The past three years, Palm Desert Food & Wine **raised over \$33,438** benefiting FIND Food Bank!

palmdesertfoodandwine.com • 800-210-0689 • #PDFW

Calling All Donors to FIND’s 2020 Telethon

Join us for the live television broadcast of FIND Food Bank’s 10th Annual Telethon on Friday, April 3, 2020. Sponsored by News Channel 3, The Desert’s News Leader, **this is your opportunity to donate** by calling in to the food bank that night and adding your dollars to the increasing total of donations for this landmark fundraising event. You can also donate online — just click on the TELETHON link on the homepage of our website: FindFoodBank.org.

This year’s 2020 Telethon is a momentous event for FIND as we continue to grow and expand our programs for the neediest of our neighbors — children and seniors. Be sure to engage your friends by following us on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.



**10TH ANNUAL
TELETHON**
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020

Holiday Joy

One of FIND Food Bank's regularly scheduled mobile pantry distribution sites is Mountain View Estates, which is a trailer park in Thermal. On Saturday, December 21, 2019, a special distribution was held there due to a new partnership with the Mission Hills Country Club. The country club's members called FIND to ask how they could help. It was decided that they would provide 450 gifts for children between the ages of 1 to 18 at Mountain View Estates. Just a few of

the wonderful toys gifted were bicycles, scooters, dolls, doll houses, soccer balls, and skateboards.

Along with the toys, FIND distributed 11,868 pounds of food, including whole turkeys and an assortment of fresh produce — bell peppers, lettuce, cauliflower, apples, carrots, and mandarins.

The children were ecstatic as they received such generous toys — some of the country club members along with FIND's staff looked on.



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Support FIND Food Bank and you too can help the 90,000 adults, children and seniors we provide food assistance to across the Coachella Valley every month.

Join us on:   

FINDFoodBank.org

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#FINDaWaytoEndHunger

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