



Foodfirst

Moving the Community from Hunger into Health

WINTER 2018



DISASTER HITS HOME
AT THE FOODBANK
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HELPING A FRACTURED
COMMUNITY HEAL
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IT TAKES MORE THAN
A CLOSED FREEWAY
TO SLOW DOWN
YOUR FOODBANK
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DISASTER HITS HOME AT THE FOODBANK

Recent disasters devastated all sectors of the community. Here at the Foodbank, our CEO and several team members with their families were evacuated during the fire, some in the middle of the night.

Our South County development coordinator Leslie Velez, her husband Angel, their three-year-old son Louis and dog Sydney fled their home and spent the first night of the Thomas fire in the just-opened Red Cross shelter at the Ventura fairgrounds.

More than 25% of our South County staff could not get to work while Hwy 101 was closed for two weeks after the mudslide, making emergency relief efforts that much more challenging to execute.

Our development manager Caroline Harrah, who lives in Montecito and is still in temporary shelter at press time, rents there so her children can attend Montecito Union School (MUS).



The three-year-old son of a Foodbank staff member who lives in Ventura spent the first night of the Thomas Fire in the Red Cross evacuation shelter.



A Foodbank staff member's mud-filled carport two weeks after the debris flow.

More than 25% of our South County staff couldn't get to work while Hwy 101 was closed.

Disaster Response by the Numbers

We provided fresh produce, healthy groceries and nutritious lunches at churches, schools, businesses, Boys & Girls Clubs, community centers, our warehouse and offices.

110
emergency food
distributions

20
lunch
locations

3
Red Cross
emergency
shelters

12,487
individuals
served

363,475
meals
461,613
lbs.
provided

42%
more clients
served than
same time in
previous year

47%
more meals
served than
same time in
previous year

Volunteers Rise to the Occasion

Hundreds of community members rushed to help after the Thomas fire and Montecito debris flow. Thanks to our extensive reach in the community, the Foodbank offered lots of ways to help. On the Saturday after the mudslide, 100 people - children, parents and grandparents - took to the warehouse for Family Day to sort groceries and fresh produce to be bagged and distributed on Monday morning.



Meanwhile a Orchard...

That same day, 90 neighbors, school families — spent time picking trees at a glean in an orchard with our Bounty program. 100 lbs. of mandarins were harvested and donated to the community.

HELPING A FRACTURED COMMUNITY HEAL

Fully 50% of families at the small, highly regarded public elementary school rent in the district to provide their children with an MUS education. The school, along with all households in the district, came under mandatory evacuation two days after the debris flow. Most families left their homes on little notice, without extra clothing, school backpacks or supplies for the long haul.

Enter Santa Barbara City College (SBCC): “We aim to be truly a resource for the community,” said SBCC president Anthony Beebe. “We all agreed instantly that we wanted MUS to be here.” SBCC offered facilities where MUS could continue instruction.

Kids from MUS were cooped up for over a month due to poor air quality during the Thomas fire, and their community was disrupted for weeks while under evacuation during the fire and after the mudslide. Families at MUS scrambled for places to stay and were scattered everywhere, many living without kitchens and eating unhealthy, pre-packaged foods.

That’s when Harrah initiated a farmstand and outdoor event where MUS families could have access to fresh produce and fresh air, and regain their sense of community. The idea ballooned into a community-wide show of support for the more than 400 MUS students and their families.

MUS families were joined by Duncan the Dinosaur and friends from the Santa Barbara Zoo, Explore Ecology, Dream Foundation, Santa Barbara Soccer Club, Martial Arts Family Fitness, My Gym Santa Barbara, Gameseeker, Gavin Roy Presents, Spencer from 103.3 The Vibe, Santa Barbara Library, Friday Night Lights, Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center and Office of Emergency Management, and more.



Montecito Union School students whip up fruit smoothies on the human-powered blender bike.



Evacuated MUS students play soccer at SBCC with Duncan the Dinosaur from the SB Zoo.



An MUS kindergartener selects mandarins, pears and celery to enjoy with her family.

A joyful Friday afternoon event took place on a sunny hilltop meadow at SBCC overlooking the Pacific.

The Foodbank Responds

at the

0 others —
l friends, and
the morning in
n a local
Backyard
6,000 pounds
re harvested
he Foodbank.



Bridging the Gap When Schools Closed

Santa Barbara and Carpinteria schools closed for two weeks or more leaving over 10,000 low-income kids without the school meals they rely on for daily nutrition. We were there to help.



IT TAKES MORE THAN A CLOSED FREEWAY TO SLOW DOWN YOUR FOODBANK

The Foodbank is a member of the Feeding America network of 200 foodbanks that span the entire country. We train together, advocate together, source food together.

And when disaster strikes, we work together.

When Ventura was overwhelmed early in the Thomas fire, the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County stood ready to source and deliver food for our Feeding America sister foodbank to the south, Food Share, Inc.

During the 101 freeway closure after the Montecito debris flow, Carpinteria was cut off from food re-supply by our Santa Barbara warehouse.

All it took was one call to Food Share for them to start a re-supply process that helped us ensure that our partners and emergency food distributions in Carpinteria kept enough healthy food entering the community.

Thanks to Monica White and her team at Food Share for making this happen.

Foodbank team members who live south of the closure and couldn't get to work in Santa Barbara staffed many of the distributions.

We also collaborate with foodbank partners in San Luis Obispo County who can resupply north county, and even Fresno who can bring food in from the east. It's good to know we're covered!



*Hwy 101 was closed for weeks after the debris flow.
(Aerial photo: California Highway Patrol)*

*When disaster strikes,
we work together.*



Foodbank team member and Oxnard resident Albert Tejada helps at a distribution site in Carpinteria when he couldn't make it to our Santa Barbara warehouse north of the highway 101 closure.



Part of the Community Team

The Foodbank pivoted as the Montecito mudslide led to very different and quickly evolving needs. We distributed food and information for three weeks at the Local Assistance Center, got fresh produce to first responders, and shared local mandarins with those waiting in line at the post office.



A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Month after month, the Foodbank deals with the daily disaster of hunger and food insecurity. With the Thomas fire and Montecito debris flow, we have had to deal with a more dramatic form of disaster.

My daughter Mia was looking forward to Christmas, and we had just decorated the tree when we were forced to evacuate from our house on Santa Barbara's east side. Little did we know how many people would suffer more than disruption.

The Foodbank had to respond quickly to the Thomas fire because many of our partner agencies were unable to operate regular food distributions due to hazardous air quality. Staff members and a host of community volunteers put on extra indoor distributions across South County.

Who would have expected a food distribution to take place out of the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf in Carpinteria? Thanks to community-minded general manager, Karl Metzger, it happened.

We were able to meet nutritional needs across a broad spectrum of the community, both those directly affected by the disaster and those suffering secondary effects of economic dislocation – lost work hours and lost jobs.

We provided \$20,000 in food grants to offset costs incurred by member agencies who are providing nutrient-dense food to those affected by the disasters. These agencies include Unity Shoppe, Catholic Charities, Boys and Girls Clubs, Salvation Army and Jewish Federation.

We are the delivery point for all USDA food aid in the county, as well as for food sent by our 200 Feeding America partner foodbanks.

We got home for Christmas. Mia got an American Girl doll (a hand-me down, don't tell her) and in the face of our challenges, the community has bound together tighter than ever.

Best for the new year,



Erik Talkin
CEO, Foodbank
www.hungerintohealth.com

*The Foodbank
is here for
everyone in
times of
disaster.*



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The Foodbank Responds

Stepping Outside the Box

During the Thomas Fire, widespread evacuations and hazardous air quality meant many of our partner organizations were unable to distribute food. We opened our warehouse and office doors to ensure the community had access to healthy nutrition.



FOODBANK DISASTER PLAN

The Foodbank trains for our disaster role on a regular basis.

We are also the fiscal sponsors for VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster) which works closely with the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management to ensure agencies coordinate their efforts in the most effective way.

However, we are looking to expand our disaster response capacity over the coming years. Our most pressing need is for a new South County warehouse to allow us to store enough food for the community. We are pursuing a number of possibilities, but real estate is the hardest challenge in South County.

Other elements of our disaster planning include:

- Training a cadre of nutrition 'super volunteers' ready at short notice to run food programs in specific areas.
- New programmatic initiatives in food literacy to strengthen community resilience in disaster. People will be able to maintain good health even with very limited choice of food, because they have had the skills training.
- Acquire new vehicles to replace our aging fleet and increase our logistical readiness.
- Hold a Disaster Summit to train our 300+ member agencies, so we can operate together most effectively in emergencies.

These steps will help us keep the community fed and healthy in times of crisis. This is your Foodbank and we are ready to offer assistance.



SAVE the DATE

Join us for events that strengthen and feed the community.

March 11
**Rising from the Ashes:
A Feast to Benefit the
Foodbank**
Rancho Santa Barbara

March 18
**Jack Johnson & Friends
Supporting Thomas Fire &
Flood Recovery**
Santa Barbara Bowl

March 21
Mariculture
**Can the Seas Feed Santa
Barbara?**
SB Maritime Museum

March 28
Lompoc Empty Bowls
**Dick DeWees Senior &
Community Center**

May 12
**Stamp Out Hunger: Postal
Carriers' Food Drive**

May 17
**North County Appreciation
Event**
Presqu'île Winery
Santa Maria

June
End Summer Hunger

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
Donate • Volunteer • Get Help

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