

Food FOR Thought

Food Finders

Fresh News on Food Rescue And Hunger Relief

WINTER 2016

Rescued Food Makes for a Fabulous Party

Local chefs were the rock stars at Food Finders' recent Fall fundraiser, **Chefs To The Rescue**, where nine of Long Beach and Anaheim's finest culinary talents were featured. A few of the sample dishes included a vichyssoise soup, braised pork tacos and salmon tartare, with pumpkin cake and a blackberry cobbler to appease the sweet tooth. What was unique was that each dish featured rescued or repurposed ingredients, things that might have otherwise been discarded or were considered leftovers.

More than 200 guests came and noshed their way through the food stations, enjoying DJ music, a silent auction, and photo booth as well. Jose Ramirez, Executive Director at St. Francis Center in Los Angeles, shared how his agency, which serves food 6 days a week, benefits from the food received from Food Finders. In addition, the six teams from this year's CANstruction event were given recognition awards in categories including People's Choice and Judge's Favorite.

Based on all the positive responses to this event, Food Finders hopes to host another like it in the future with even more chefs. Many guests were inspired to expand their restaurant repertoire, and overall it encouraged everyone to put ALL their food to good use in the kitchen. Many thanks to our amazing Chefs along with sponsors, including Sysco, Tesoro, Gelson's, Team100 and more. Also, thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success.



Heidi Neilson and friend sample the farm-to-table sangria



Catal Restaurant's vichyssoise soup, just one of many food samples



Chef T and crew with Federal Bar keeping up with a line of guests

COMING UP

October thru December
Holiday Food Drive

November 18/19
Thanksgiving Sort & Pack
@ DLJ Produce in Long Beach

November 29
National "Giving Tuesday"



Food Finders
Rescuing Food, Ending Hunger

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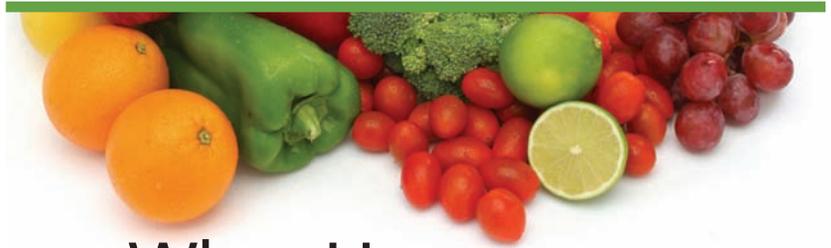
Time To Spread Some Cheer

The Holidays are when we spend extra time with family and friends, and while food plays a central part to our celebrating, that's just one aspect. We hope you'll participate in our holiday campaign this year, if not by donating canned food or hygiene items, then by getting involved in some meaningful way so that those who don't have the resources to celebrate can feel included in the holiday cheer as well. Our Holiday Food Drive runs through the end of the year and we have opportunities to volunteer as well as donate. See our website for more details under **FoodFinders.org** or give us a call at **(562) 283-1400** to learn how you can help!



Thank You to Our Recent Funders

BCM Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
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Doheny Foundation
Crail-Johnson Foundation
Fluor Foundation
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TJX Foundation
Bagne Family Foundation
Murad Family Foundation
Blue Moon Boutique
Toyota Motor Sales
DPR Construction
Plains All American Pipeline
Good Shepherd Presbyterian
Naples Rib Company



What Happens to All That Food?

When food gets donated to Food Finders, it's immediately delivered to pantries and agencies to become part of a meal service or given as grocery items for recipients to take home. Here are a few recent photos of our donated food in use!



Your support ensures that thousands of people are fed every week

Think Tank Inspires Collaboration

Our second collaborative effort, dubbed the Food Bank Think Tank, was held this October in North Long Beach. Seven of our partner agencies were represented along with two guest speakers, one from CalFresh and one from Groceryships.

These meetings are designed to be a sharing event, and lots was shared! Not only were agencies thrilled to know they could have a representative come directly to their location to sign up recipients for CalFresh, a significantly underutilized program formerly known as Food Stamps, but they learned of shortcomings in service in their areas. North Long Beach is lacking in social services, even food, so having these meetings is crucial for identifying the gaps and being able to develop additional services. Food Finders also uses this time to gather updated information on what additional needs and resources are required for agencies to properly function and likewise learn of any new services added by agencies.



Groceryships, a nutrition education program, described their healthy eating and life skills trainings. They plan to initiate a pilot program in the Long Beach area, so the Think Tank was the perfect environment to identify the greatest need.

Overall, there was a positive spirit of learning and sharing, and our staff looks forward to planning the next Think Tank in January to include a different segment of Long Beach and involve some of the agencies that were not able to attend the first two collaborative meetings.

All the Difference You Make

As of September, Food Finders has collected and redistributed 6.3 million pounds of food—well on our way to our goal of rescuing 8.5 million pounds for the year! This is the core, the root of what we do day in and day out. But what does this really mean, in addition to hungry people being fed? When you donate food or money, it not only helps provide a basic need, but in the bigger picture it means that...

- More than 320 Pantries, Agencies and Shelters are being served, either daily, weekly, or less frequently. That's how many nonprofits Food Finders is partnered with in L.A., Orange County and beyond.
- Businesses are able to divert food that might end up in a landfill, improving our environment and our community's well-being at the same time.
- Families, seniors, veterans, students and disadvantaged individuals are more able to sustain themselves so they might become more focused, productive, able and healthy.
- Food Finders can give hundreds of citizens an opportunity to volunteer and give of their time, talent and resources, keeping them engaged in a program that is ongoing all year long.
- Agencies can concentrate on and fund other services or needs, such as housing, clothing, job services or counseling when the burden of paying for food is removed.



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Ralphs Gives Back When You Sign Up

It's that time of year when grocery shopping reaches a fever pitch. It's also when Ralphs Reward program renews for the upcoming year, so we kindly ask our friends who shop at Ralphs to register or re-register their Reward card under Food Finders. This program is easily activated online by visiting **Ralphs.com** under "Community/Contribution Program". Or, call **(800) 443-4438** and have a Ralphs associate enter your information for you, making Food Finders your charity of choice. Each time you shop at Ralphs, a small percent of the sale gets donated to our program—a great way to support Food Finders that won't cost you any extra money and certainly adds up!



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