



VEGGIE RESCUE

PUTTING GOOD FOOD TO GOOD USE

*Redirecting fresh food to neighbors across
Santa Barbara County since 2009.*



A Message of Gratitude & Hope



As I reflect on this year at Veggie Rescue, I feel deep gratitude for the community I have been fortunate to call home for nearly my entire life. Earlier in my career as a social worker for the County of Santa Barbara, I saw firsthand how many people in our county struggle with hunger. I was drawn to this work in part through seeing family members dealing with mental illness and understanding how vulnerable people can become when they lack support and stability. Those experiences continue to shape my commitment to ensuring that fresh food nourishes our neighbors rather than going to waste.

The impact reflected in these pages represents far more than numbers. It reflects neighbors, families, farmers, volunteers, and nonprofit partners working together to ensure that fresh food reaches people who need it most.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff team, whose hard work ensures food moves quickly and safely across Santa Barbara County, and to the farms and food donors who choose to redirect abundance back into the community. I also want to thank our financial supporters, whose generosity makes every pickup, delivery, and mile traveled possible.

I also offer heartfelt appreciation to our founder, Terry Delaney, and his wife, Holly. Terry's vision—that surplus food could and should nourish our neighbors—continues to guide our work today.

In a county where housing costs leave many working families and seniors with little left for food, Veggie Rescue plays an important role connecting surplus fresh food with nonprofit partners serving our neighbors in need.

Together, we are building a more resilient local food system, one where good food nourishes people, not landfills.

Eryn Shugart, PhD
Executive Director

Bridging Abundance and Need

- **Veggie Rescue ensures good food feeds people**, not landfills, by rescuing surplus food and delivering it to nonprofit partners serving neighbors facing food insecurity across Santa Barbara County.
- **Despite the region's abundance, many residents struggle to meet basic needs.**
- **Housing costs consume a large share of household income**, forcing many families to cut back on food.
- When the cost of living is considered, **Santa Barbara County ranks as the poorest county in California.**
- At the same time, our region is **one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world**, where large quantities of good food go unused every day.



Veggie Rescue connects these two realities.

- Veggie Rescue partners with **farms, grocery stores, farmers markets, and food businesses** across Santa Barbara County to recover surplus food.
- That food is **delivered free of charge to nonprofit organizations** serving people facing food insecurity.
- While much of what we rescue is **fresh produce**, we also recover protein, dairy, bread, and shelf-stable foods.
- These deliveries help nonprofit partners provide **more complete and nutritious meals** to the communities they serve.

Through partnerships with organizations such as ***La Casa de la Raza, the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Noah's Anchorage, Freedom 4 Youth, Allan Hancock College's Food Pantry, the Mental Wellness Center, Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach, Harry's House***, and **56 others**, rescued food reaches children, families, seniors, college students, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Increasingly, our food reaches individuals who are fearful of leaving their homes due to circumstances in their communities and who depend on trusted nonprofit partners for support.

Veggie Rescue Benefits Our Community By

Reducing Hunger

Healthy food that might otherwise go unused instead reaches people who need it most.

Strengthening Nonprofits

By providing food at no cost, Veggie Rescue helps nonprofit partners preserve precious financial resources that can instead support housing assistance, mental health services, childcare, and other essential programs.

Protecting the Environment

Rescuing surplus food prevents it from entering landfills where it would produce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.





A YEAR OF GROWTH



In 2025, Veggie Rescue reached a historic milestone, rescuing 744,000 pounds of surplus food, the largest annual total in our organization's history, and bringing our lifetime impact to nearly **5 million pounds** of food redirected to our community.

Working with farms, food businesses, and nonprofit partners across Santa Barbara County, we strengthened relationships, expanded recovery efforts, and increased the volume of fresh, nutritious food delivered to people facing food insecurity. This year marked a period of growth, visibility, and deepening impact, positioning Veggie Rescue for continued momentum in the years ahead.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

- 18% growth in food recovery compared to 2024
- 13 new nonprofit partners, increasing the number of organizations we serve across the county
- 4 new food donors, expanding our network of farms and food businesses



\$1.3M

SAVED FOR
NONPROFIT PARTNERS

In Food Value Delivered



744,000

POUNDS
Of Food Rescued



620,000

MEALS

Provided to our Community



334,000

GALLONS OF
WATER
Conserved



68

NONPROFITS
Served Across the County



670

TONS OF CO₂
Emissions Prevented



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“Veggie Rescue helps us provide fresh produce and baked items to more than 250 households each week. Their support allows us to stretch our limited budget and offer a wider variety of food to the families we serve.”

**Linda Marzullo-Bethenia
Lutheran Church**

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“Veggie Rescue has been an invaluable service to our community, providing food for families and individuals facing shortages. We are grateful for their support of the people of Guadalupe.”

**— Lourdes Ramirez,
Guadalupe Senior Center**

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“At Babé Farms, we believe every harvest has a purpose. Through our partnership with Veggie Rescue, over 100,000 pounds of produce that might have gone to waste is now helping feed our community.”

**— Jeff Lundberg, Owner &
President, Babé Farms**

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YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

When you give to Veggie Rescue, your generosity helps transform surplus food into nourishment for our community.

Every dollar helps ensure fresh, healthy food reaches neighbors facing food insecurity across Santa Barbara County

IMPACT

\$10,000 → 10,000 meals

\$5,000 → 5,000 meals

\$1,000 → 1,000 meals



BE A HERO

Good food shouldn't go to waste, and no one in our community should go without. Veggie Rescue works with farmers, food businesses, nonprofit partners, donors, and volunteers to ensure fresh, healthy food reaches people in need throughout Santa Barbara County.

Ways to Help

Give

Your financial support helps us rescue and deliver more fresh food across the county. Donate at veggierescue.org/donate

Volunteer

Help harvest produce, assist in the office, drive trucks, and more. Learn more at veggierescue.org/volunteer.



Contact Us

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Our Website

www.veggierescue.org





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