

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Second Harvest Food Bank

Background

Second Harvest Food Bank began serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in 1980 from a small warehouse on 3rd Street in downtown Riverside. It provided an average of 10,000 pounds of food per month to twenty member agencies and was previously known as the Survive Food Bank.

Second Harvest Food Bank is one of 200 food banks affiliated with Second Harvest National Food Bank Network.

Second Harvest Food Bank is a not-for-profit, non-denominational organization that provides food resource assistance to over 740 nonprofit charities, 550 of these are active. Each month over 750,000 pounds of food are distributed to agencies such as homeless shelters, community kitchens, day care centers, halfway house, residential treatment centers, shelters for the abused, and group homes. In addition, the Food Bank helps supply emergency food pantries, which in turn distribute food to more than 75,000 people per month. The Food Bank also provides food to over 4,000 low-income senior citizens each month through senior centers.

Presently located in a 32,000 square-foot warehouse on Jefferson Street in Riverside, Second Harvest contains 32,640 cubic feet of walk-in refrigeration and freezer space. Vehicle equipment includes five tractors and several semi-trailers, dry box and refrigerated, used for pick up and delivery of foods. These are supplemented with several smaller trucks, vans and forklifts.

Funding for Second Harvest Food Bank comes solely from the community it serves. Involvement includes religious groups, businesses, civic organizations, United Way, city, county, state government and individuals.

Findings

Second Harvest Food Bank is presently staffed with twenty-eight full-time employees and four part-time employees, supplemented with 100+ volunteers. They gather food donated by 450 corporations, wholesalers, farmers, retailers, brokers, local food drives and individuals. National and local donors have channeled more than 105 million pounds of food

through the food bank.

Growth of the Mira Loma/Fontana area as a major national warehouse area has vastly increased availability of national brand food supplies to the Second Harvest Food Bank and other like organizations.

The 32,000 square-foot warehouse is inadequate for the amount of palletized food on hand.

The lease agreement of the Second Harvest Facility is \$125,000 annually. Moving would reduce this expense. The lease has fourteen months remaining with a 90-day out-clause. This lease is renewable.

Second Harvest Food Bank has requested the old March Air Force Base commissary, a facility of 85,000 square feet, from the March Joint Powers because:

- A) A larger facility would allow acceptance of additional agencies, now limited by square footage.
- B) Adding employees is limited to budget and size of present work area.
- C) Storage and sorting areas are limited by present square footage.
- D) Existing walk-in refrigeration and freezers can be relocated if needed.

The March Joint Powers Authority, located at the March Air Reserve Base, has approved the acquisition of the old commissary complex by the Second Harvest Food Bank. However, at this time, the property is involved in litigation in Federal Court.

Recommendation

County Board of Supervisors:

1. Promote the assistance of our State and Congressional representatives to expedite the acquisition of the March Air Force Base old commissary to house the Second Harvest Food Bank.