

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

353 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95110-2335



DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Robert Menicocci, Agency Director *RM*

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report - Hunger at Home

Under advisement from April 14, 2020 Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, the Board directed Administration to provide an off-agenda report relating to whether or not the County is investing in Hunger at Home, the amount of funds invested in the organization, and the organization's bandwidth of service.

Hunger at Home is a non-profit organization in the Bay Area that partners with convention centers, hotels, resorts, stadiums and entertainment venues to recover and distribute unused food and surplus toiletries, bedding and other non-food related items to soup kitchens and other charities. Hunger at Home is funded through private donations, corporate sponsors, fund raising, and general operating grants. Since it was established in 2014, Hunger at Home has provided a total of 1.4 million meals in the community.

Currently Social Services Agency's (SSA) does not fund or have an agreement with Hunger at Home. Further research concluded that SSA contracted CBOs, such as Second Harvest, collaborate with Hunger at Home but do not necessarily provide funding.

Hunger at Home provides individual or family meals to approximately 300-400 clients per event at their two drive up and go distribution locations on Berger Drive and at Union Local 19 on Zanker Rd twice a week. The ready to heat frozen meals are cooked, packaged and distributed from a leased 4,000 square feet office space, which includes storage and a commercial catering kitchen owned by San Jose Conservation Corp. If there is a need to increase production, Hunger at Home has a second leased storage space and commercial kitchen on De La Cruz Blvd. that can be utilized during off hours.

To support their efforts, Hunger at Home relies on volunteers. Besides a minimal number of paid staff, there are approximately eight regular volunteer chefs that collaborate to create the menu, and cook the meals, including five production and distribution volunteers to package and assemble meals. With Hunger at Home's current workforce, they can scale their production to providing 10,000 – 30,000 meals per day. Since mid-March 2020 to present, Hunger at Home has distributed 285,000 meals. In addition, the organization has a fleet of six refrigerated delivery trucks that are utilized to recover food donations from the hospitality community, entertainment venues, and restaurants to be delivered to their various charity partners.

cc: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith