



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In recent months, there has been a lot of attention on a pressing issue in Orange County: the impending food cliff. The pandemic's economic repercussions, coupled with the expiration of certain government aid programs this Spring, have exacerbated food insecurity, leaving many individuals and families in dire need of support. As a result, food pantries have become a vital lifeline for those facing hunger. In the face of this growing concern, **South County Outreach** has stepped up our efforts to provide crucial support and alleviate hunger within the community.

At the heart of SCO's response is our **comprehensive food program**. Every day, our team and volunteers ensure that our shelves are well-stocked with essential groceries to provide balanced and healthy options. SCO works tirelessly to ensure that those in need have consistent access to nourishing meals, helping to bridge the gap during difficult times. In 2023, SCO has seen a record number of people coming to our pantry for assistance. And the increased demand has put a strain on organizations like South County Outreach. On average, our food pantry serves 865 households and 2,155 individuals each month – a **44% increase** from those served in 2020.

To address the growing need for support, it is essential for community members to consider contributing their time and resources. By donating funds or organizing fundraisers, supporters like you can help sustain the operations of South County Outreach and ensure that we can **continue to provide crucial aid**. Volunteering is also a meaningful way to make a direct impact on the lives of those experiencing food insecurity.

By **collaborating** with community partners, volunteers, and generous donors, SCO continues to expand its reach and impact, ensuring that no one goes hungry in Orange County. As we navigate these challenging times together, SCO's unwavering dedication serves as an inspiring example of how compassion and collective effort can alleviate hunger and transform lives.

If you would like to contribute or learn more about South County Outreach, please visit www.sco-oc.org/donate.

Best Regards,

LaVal Brewer

President & Chief Executive Officer

Here are ways you can help SCO:

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Host a fundraiser
- Host a food drive



EMPTY BOWLS RAISES MORE THAN \$200,000

Thank you for helping to end hunger and house hope at SCO's signature fundraising event!



To end hunger and house hope, South County Outreach (SCO) hosted its annual fundraiser at the **Segerstrom Shelby Event Center** on April 13, 2023. More than **260 guests** attended the 2023 Empty Bowls event, which raised \$205,715 for the nonprofit's programs that help thousands of individuals and families in crisis **reach self-sufficiency**.

In partnership with renowned chefs and restaurants, SCO treated attendees to a delicious tasting experience with an array of small dishes and drinks. This year's program also included two inspiring guest speakers, Claudia Bonilla Keller of Second Harvest Food Bank and Mike Learakos of Abound Food Care. Taking the stage with **SCO President and CEO LaVal Brewer**, the trio engaged in a thoughtful conversation about how the community is working together to end hunger in Orange County.

The immersive evening began with a lively cocktail reception held in the SCO food market, then attendees were able to walk in the shoes of SCO clients as they enjoyed wine, cocktails, and charcuterie cups at tables set up between the aisles of donated dry goods. Before settling into their seats in the main dining room, guests had a chance to visit tasting stations set up outside with delicious cuisine prepared by Bracken's Kitchen, Tlacopan Cocina Mexicana, Luciana's Ristorante, Trevor's at the Tracks, and The Food Repurposing Kitchen at Orange Coast College, with sweet treats created by The Cookie Branch.



As a reminder of this powerful evening and the impact they can **continue to make on those in need**, all attendees received a handmade bowl created by ceramics partners including Bonnie Baller and the Laguna Woods Village Ceramics Slipcasting Group, and fine arts students at Trabuco Hills High School, Costa Mesa High School, Laguna Beach High School, and Los Alamitos High School.

SCO is grateful for the generous support of Empty Bowl sponsors, including:

Celebrity Chef Presenting Sponsors

Experian
Abound Food Care

Iron Chef Sponsors

Banc of California
Mission Lutheran Church

Top Chef Sponsors

Capital Group
UBS

Sous Chef Extraordinaire Sponsors

The Bowen Team
Angels Baseball, Farmers & Merchants Bank,
In-N-Out Burgers, Sacred Harvest, Marcum LLP,
Jasmine Hethcote, Stiffel, Ted & Kat Quinn
(Technology Resources), PNC Financial Services,
Waste Management

Underwriter Sponsors

Kitchen Table Marketing & PR (traveling food underwriter);
Southern California News Group (Media Underwriter);
Northern Trust, Holland & Knight LLP (Event Underwriters)

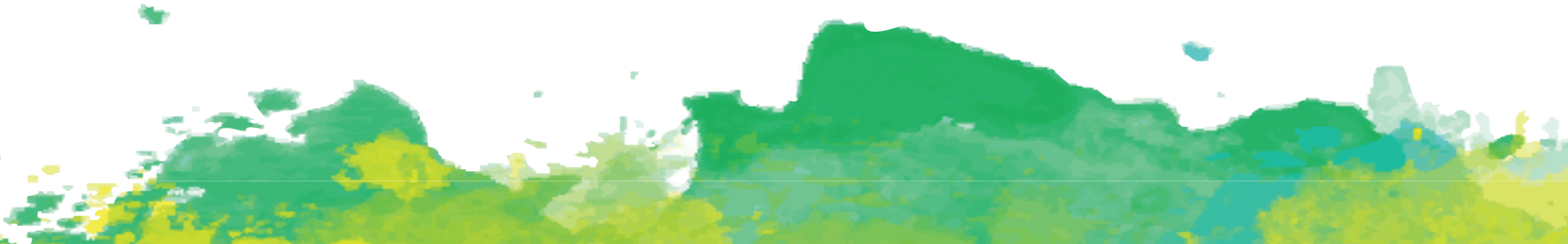


COLLEGE CORPS SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

South County Outreach hosted **19 College Corps Fellows** through the first cohort in 2022-2023. The **#CaliforniansForAll College Corps** program was created to help create debt-free pathways to college while engaging students across California in solving problems in their communities. Irvine Valley College and Concordia University Irvine are two of the new partner campuses mobilizing students to **engage in 450 hours of direct service** in areas of K-12 Education, Climate Action, and Food Insecurity.

These students were committing to multiple shifts throughout the week while also attending college classes, working part-time, and taking care of their families. We look forward to hosting another cohort for 2023-2024!

For a list of other volunteer opportunities with South County Outreach and ways you can get involved, please visit www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/volunteer



GIVING BACK WITH SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH



Cathy Medeiros has been a Board Member with South County Outreach since 2020 and holds deep admiration for the incredible work SCO carries out in the community. Grateful for the opportunities she has been granted, she wholeheartedly offers support, both financial and through acts of kindness, whenever the opportunity arises. Cathy is committed to helping others through SCO, preventing them from enduring homelessness, hunger, or the fear of an uncertain future.

As the **youngest sibling of six**, Cathy didn't always grasp the full extent of their financial struggles. Determined to create a better future for herself, Cathy seized a temporary position in the "personnel" department of a renowned food processing company soon after graduating high school. Supported by the company, Cathy **pursued further education**, and went on to have a successful career in Human Resources until her retirement in 2020 from Eaton as Global Vice President of Human Resources.

Soon after her retirement, Cathy's dear friend and former colleague, **Cheryl Flohr**, introduced her to South County Outreach (SCO). Instantly recognizing the organization's alignment with her values, Cathy felt a deep connection and a strong desire to give back, acknowledging the blessings she had received throughout her life. The emphasis SCO placed on preventing homelessness resonated profoundly with her. **Reflecting on her own upbringing**, Cathy vividly remembered the times when her family struggled to afford groceries or pay bills, unknowingly teetering on the brink of homelessness. Witnessing the immense stress her parents experienced during those challenging moments left an indelible mark on her memory. In the area where they lived, resources like SCO, including food pantries and financial support, were nonexistent.

South County Outreach serves as a beacon of hope for individuals and families facing similar adversities. Cathy considers it an honor to support this organization, standing united in their mission to empower others and create a brighter future.

To make a donation or partner with SCO, please visit www.sco-oc.org/donate

NEW! LEGACY OF HOPE WEBSITE



Gift Planning

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Your Contribution, *Our Future.*

Let us help you tailor your charitable gift to your financial, tax or estate planning objectives.

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Planned Gifts
Calculator

South County Outreach is excited to launch our new **Legacy of Hope!** Are you looking for a way to make a significant gift to further our mission to end hunger and homelessness in our community? Get tools and resources on how to give, what to give, learn about wills, and more by visiting www.legacyofhope.sco-oc.org.

The Legacy of Hope is a group of people who help perpetuate **South County Outreach's influence** through long-term support. Individuals and couples qualify to become members of the Legacy of Hope in one or more of the following ways:

- Making an outright gift to the Endowment Fund of securities, property, or other marketable assets
- Creating a charitable trust or life estate gift to benefit South County Outreach
- Naming South County Outreach as a beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, retirement fund, or another asset
- Naming South County Outreach to receive a gift through a will or living trust

The goal of the Legacy of Hope is to help you plan your **estate and charitable giving** in a way that benefits you, your family and charities like South County Outreach. Let South County Outreach help you tailor your charitable gift to your financial, tax or estate planning objectives. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Teevans, Director of Administration, at steevans@sco-oc.org or **949-687-2421**

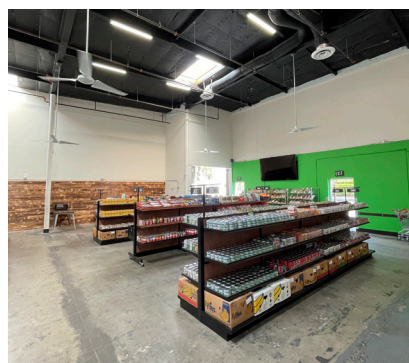


MAKING AN IMPACT WITH CAPITAL GROUP

On May 5, 2023, South County Outreach hosted Capital Group for their annual **Community Action Day!** Their team spent the last few months organizing a refresh of our main location including painting, building furniture, and adding a shiplap wall to brighten the food pantry. Throughout the day, 25 volunteers helped paint and transform our food pantry, client lounge, and education room.

What Capital Group did in a day would have been an added cost to SCO and taken a lot of manpower. South County Outreach couldn't be more grateful for the "extreme makeover" that Capital Group provided for us to better serve our clients with the dignity and respect they deserve. Thank you to Capital Group for their generosity!

For more information on how you can help end hunger and homelessness in Orange County by supporting the work of South County Outreach, please visit www.sco-oc.org/get-involved/.





SHOP UPSCALE RESALE

Upscale Resale is a Thrift Store that benefits South County Outreach clients facing food insecurity and homelessness throughout Orange County.

We offer opportunities for donors to give their new to **gently used clothes and household items** to support SCO and make a difference in Orange County. You can also donate a few hours of your time as a volunteer in our thrift store to help with pricing, sorting, stocking donated items, merchandising and more! To volunteer at our thrift store, contact volmgr@sco-oc.org or call **949-687-2408** for more info.

If you love finding great deals and shopping for a cause that supports our community, then come visit us today!

Upscale Resale is located at **23461 Ridge Route, #D, Laguna Hills, CA 92653**. Our shopping hours are Monday CLOSED | Tuesday – Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Donations accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.



CA LIVE **LAVAL BREWER**
PRESIDENT & CEO, SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH







40% OFF 

ONE regularly priced item
some exclusions apply, one per household
Valid thru 08/31/2023



south county outreach

Social Media

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Upscale Resale Thrift Store

23461 Ridge Route #D
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Phone: 949.855.4158

Hours:

Monday CLOSED
Tuesday-Friday 11am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 4pm
Sunday 10am to 3pm

Food Market

7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618
Phone: 949.380.8144, ext. 207

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am to 2pm | Friday 9am to 11am



South County Outreach
7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618
www.sco-oc.org | 949.380.8144

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