

**Long Beach Food Bank
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**Annual Holiday Food Drive Started by Long Beach Food Bank to
Assist Needy Families**

LONG BEACH, CA – October 28, 2023– With the goal of giving individuals in need in the Greater Long Beach area essential help, the Long Beach Food Bank is preparing for its yearly Christmas food drive. Running from November 1 to December 23, the food drive aims to collect essential and critical donations to assist approximately 2,500 individuals, all year round.

Founded in 1984 as a nonprofit, the Long Beach Food Bank distributes food donations to a range of organizations in the community, such as homeless shelters and senior facilities. In addition, the food bank provides low-income homes directly once a week. "We see firsthand the impact that access to nutritious food can have on individuals and families," stated Steve Riley, Director of Operations at LBFB. "The generosity of our community during the holiday season enables us to continue our mission of combating food insecurity and supporting those facing hardship."

Local companies are encouraged to participate in the food drive by promoting it to employees or collecting donations onsite at their workplaces. All donations should be delivered to LBFB by December 23 to ensure timely distribution to those in need.

For people like Sarah Jones, a recovering heroin addict, John Robertson, a once homeless single father of two, and Betty Sinclair, a nutrition volunteer at the Willow Senior Center, the holiday food drive is very important. John Robertson declared, "I'm doing everything in my power to keep my family together." "Making sure my boys have food is a top priority."

"Life has been hard for me," shared Sarah Jones. "The food bank helps me out when my unemployment check runs out. I'm so grateful that others care about me and are willing to give me a second chance."

Betty Sinclair underlined the value of LBFB's assistance for older citizens, saying, "Every week, the Long Beach Food Bank provides assistance to around 100 seniors. A large number of seniors live on fixed incomes and cannot afford wholesome food. We are appreciative of the food bank for giving our community's senior citizens wholesome food."