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## **San Mateo Event Center Opens Food Distribution Site in Partnership with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley**



*Second Harvest will operate a drive-thru food bank every Thursday for those in need starting February 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**SAN MATEO** – The San Mateo Event Center & Fair is proud to sponsor a Second Harvest of Silicon Valley Food Distribution drive-thru in their East Parking Lot to benefit the San Mateo community.

The economic crisis and uncertainty created by the pandemic have pushed many families deeper into poverty and caused others to seek food assistance for the first time. The Second Harvest of Silicon Valley currently serves 400,000 people every month, a 60% increase over pre-pandemic levels.



“One of our most important commitments at the San Mateo Event Center is to support the people of the San Mateo County,” said Dana Stoehr, the San Mateo County Event Center and Fair CEO. “We are pleased to have the resources necessary to provide support and help feed the local community in partnership with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, which has done incredible work, particularly during these unprecedented times.”

The Second Harvest Drive-Thru will be located in the East Parking lot of the San Mateo Event Center (1346 Saratoga Dr, San Mateo – Gate 9) every Thursday from 8:30am to 10:30am starting tomorrow morning, and anyone needing assistance is welcome.

Founded in 1974, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is one of the largest food banks in the nation and a trusted nonprofit leader in ending local hunger. They are committed to providing free healthy food to anyone in need regardless of citizenship or immigration status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

In addition to sponsoring this food bank distribution drive-thru, the San Mateo Event Center & Fair is also a proud sponsor of many other community events such as Samaritan House Holiday Gift Drive, Seniors on the Move, community job fairs, and emergency services training.

#### **ABOUT THE SAN MATEO COUNTY EVENT CENTER:**

The San Mateo County Event Center welcomes over 500,000 attendees annually, hosting huge events such as the San Mateo County Fair and Maker Faire, as well as corporate events, consumer shows, festivals, and community events.

While the San Mateo County Event Center has been limited in hosting most events due to the pandemic, they have played a vital role in protecting our health care workers and vulnerable populations by serving as a COVID-19 testing site, operations hub, and supply center, 250-bed temporary overflow hospital, and vaccine distribution center for the San Francisco Bay Area. To date, the Event Center has hosted our community to receive over 250,000 COVID-19 tests and over 260,000 COVID-19 vaccinations.

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