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**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK STAFF HEAD
TO LAKE COUNTY TO ASSIST VALLEY FIRE VICTIMS WHO NEED FOOD**

President's official disaster declaration frees up federal funds for emergency food

- WHAT:** Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is sending two staff members to Lake County to help those devastated by the Valley fire apply for emergency CalFresh (food stamps) benefits. Last week, President Obama signed a disaster declaration, freeing up federal funds for emergency assistance, including food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or CalFresh in California). D-SNAP is available for those who need food in an emergency when an official disaster has been declared.
- WHY:** Nearly 1,300 homes have been destroyed in the devastating fire – one of the most destructive in California history – leaving many with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Second Harvest answered a call from the California Association of Food Banks for assistance in helping fire victims apply for CalFresh. Second Harvest has specially trained staff who work out in the community helping eligible families navigate the sometimes complex application process, so they have the critical expertise needed to help residents apply for the D-SNAP benefits now available.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, September 29, through Monday, October 5
- WHERE:** Food assistance staff will be based out of the Lake County Social Services Department, 15975 Anderson Ranch Parkway, Lower Lake, 95457
- WHO:** Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is the trusted leader dedicated to ending local hunger. Since its inception in 1974, Second Harvest has become one of the largest food banks in the nation, providing food to nearly 250,000 people every month. To ensure that anyone who needs a meal can get one, Second Harvest partners with nearly 330 nonprofit agencies to provide food at more than 700 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and schools. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 62 million pounds of food, the equivalent of nearly 142,500 meals a day. Visit www.SHFB.org to learn more.

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