



**Contact:**

Diane Baker Hayward  
408.921.4611 - Mobile  
dbakerhayward@shfb.org

## **SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK TAPS VETERAN FOOD BANK EXECUTIVE LESLIE BACHO AS NEW CEO**

Proven leader poised to build on Second Harvest's strong momentum in the community and explore innovative ways to end hunger in Silicon Valley

**SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 3, 2017** – Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties announced today that it has named Leslie Bacho as its new chief executive officer. Bacho, who garnered widespread respect in her role as chief operating officer at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank, will build on Second Harvest's strong momentum as a respected nonprofit leader in Silicon Valley and will guide the organization's efforts to expand its services and reach the estimated 1 in 4 residents who are at risk for hunger in Silicon Valley.

"We are excited to have Leslie join Second Harvest as our new CEO. Her experience and proven success in food-banking gives her the unique ability to hit the ground running as we continue to execute on our strategic plan, enhance our infrastructure, and make Second Harvest more effective and efficient than ever before," said Loren Mahon, board chair at Second Harvest Food Bank. "Second Harvest's strong operational foundation and management team allowed us to both take our time finding and attracting a leader of Leslie's caliber. With hunger in Silicon Valley at alarming levels, and with so much at stake, we knew this leadership role required the right combination of experience and passion. Leslie has proven over and over again that she has both."

In her 19 years as COO at San Francisco-Marin Food Bank, Bacho helped build the organization's infrastructure and team to more than quadruple the amount of food distributed to the community. Leading programs and operations for one of the largest food banks in the nation, with a budget of \$21M, her responsibilities included strategic planning and day-to-day operations of the warehouse, food acquisition and distribution, nutrition education and CalFresh outreach. She was also responsible for the support functions of finance, human resources, information systems and volunteers. Bacho led two of

the organization's most successful long-term strategic planning initiatives, which resulted in the expansion of its food pantry network from 10 to 250 weekly pantries and the merger of the San Francisco Food Bank with the Marin Food Bank, which resulted in tripling the amount of food distributed in Marin.

"Food insecurity is a problem we can and must solve," said Bacho. "Continuing to expand operations and improve efficiency is an important element, but we also need to go beyond traditional food-banking if we truly want to solve the hunger problem in Silicon Valley. We must carry on with Second Harvest's plan to innovate new ways to reach more people, advocate for resources that augment our impact on hunger and activate the community to play a deeper role. Food-banking has the power to scale up and meet the enormous need for nutritious food in our community, and in doing so, bring people together around a shared cause that makes our world better and stronger."

Over the past 10 years, Second Harvest has seen a 46-percent increase in the number of people it serves—from an average of 176,731 people a month to an average of 257,465—and a 93-percent increase in the pounds of food it distributes every day. The enormous number of people in need of food is ironically largely due to a robust Silicon Valley economy that is driving up the cost of living for everyone, including many whose incomes have not kept up with rising rents.

"It's an honor to join a team that is making such great strides confronting hunger in Silicon Valley," commented Bacho. "Having worked on the problem of food insecurity in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years, Second Harvest is an organization I have come to greatly admire and respect. I'm both impressed and energized by the initiatives already underway to connect more kids, families and seniors in need to nutritious food. I'm eager to get started on our goal to create a hunger-free community."

Prior to joining SF-Marin in 1998, Bacho worked in consumer marketing and served as a brand manager with the Clorox Company, where she was responsible for delivering volume and profit, setting strategic direction, developing and executing business plans, and developing new products. She earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and her bachelor's degree from Duke University. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two children. Bacho starts at Second Harvest on Oct. 30, 2017.

Based in Silicon Valley, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is one of the largest food banks in the nation. Currently providing food to more than one quarter of a million people every month, Second Harvest is a trusted community-based organization that was founded in 1974. Despite the immense wealth in Silicon Valley, and partly due to the high cost of living, hunger and malnutrition are pervasive. The Food Bank distributes nutritious food, including more fresh produce

than almost any other food bank in the country, through a network of 300 nonprofit partners at 905 sites. Second Harvest is pursuing innovative efforts to increase access to food resources as it seeks to feed an additional 100,000 hungry people each month. To reach more people, it connects those in need to federal nutrition programs and other food resources. To learn more about how Second Harvest is building a hunger-free community, visit [SHFB.org](http://SHFB.org).

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