

Food--Don't Waste It

Donate It!

Food Donation Opportunities in Santa Cruz County

Many people in Santa Cruz County are at risk of going hungry each month. With partnerships between food industry businesses and community groups, we can dramatically reduce food waste and hunger in Santa Cruz County.

Everyone can help—it's easy. Whether you have a few servings of a prepared dish or a large volume of surplus food, there is a community group near you that can use it. The non-profit organizations listed on this flyer help distribute the food safely and equitably to those in need.

Food donations help the County and its four cities meet state mandated recycling goals. In Santa Cruz County, food is the largest component of the waste stream for food stores and restaurants. For most food-related businesses, 40-60% of total waste is food scraps, much of which is still edible. Donating food not only helps feed hungry people, it helps your business and the environment.

- Help those in need
- Save on waste disposal costs
- Food donations are tax deductible

What about liability?

The California "Good Samaritan Law" lets you donate edible food to local charities and protects your business from liability that may arise from the use of donated food. Copies of the law are available on request by calling the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department at 831-454-3102.

Tips for Food Donations

- It is possible to make arrangements with some organizations to pick up food donations, especially if donations are available on a regular basis.
- There is a great need for protein foods like meat, cheese, etc.
- For donations of prepared and perishable food, it is a good idea to call first.
- For donations of prepared food, it is best to establish a relationship with one or two non-profits. Some prepared food can be transported in plastic bags and boxes. Containers can sometimes be emptied and washed at the donation site. As the level of trust grows, you may feel comfortable leaving food trays at the donation site for later retrieval.

Directory of Santa Cruz County Organizations Accepting Food Donations

MID COUNTY

Organization	Street Address	City	Phone	Services	Food accepted	Drop off location and hours
Calvary Chapel	8065 Valencia	Aptos	831-475-4353	Food pantry, distributes 6 bags per month	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	Flexible, call to arrange.
St. Joseph's Catholic Church	435 Monterey Ave.	Capitola	831-475-8211	Food pantry, distributes 10-15 bags per week.	Non-perishable grocery items.	435 Monterey Ave., 8-12 & 1-4 M-F. Call first.
Above the Line	9053 Soquel Dr. #203	Aptos	831-685-3964	Residential facility, provides 3 meals/day to 10-20 youth.	Grocery items, produce. Call first if food is perishable.	2714 Freedom Blvd., Corralitos, 7AM-9PM every day.
Grey Bears	2710 Chanticleer	Santa Cruz	831-479-1055	Distributes 2100 brown bags of food per week to seniors and the disabled. Feeds lunch to 40 volunteers M-F.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	Pick up by arrangement. Drop off at 2710 Chanticleer, 8AM-3PM, M-F.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY

Organization	Street Address	City	Phone	Services	Food accepted	Drop off location and hours
Valley Churches United	9430 Love Creek	Ben Lomond	831-336-5651	Food pantry, provides up to 70 families with groceries each week.	Grocery items, produce.	9430 Love Creek, Tu, Wed, Thurs 9-12, Sat 10-12

WATSONVILLE

Organization	Street Address	City	Phone	Services	Food accepted	Drop off location and hours
Salvation Army Loma Prieta Transitional Housing Complex	232 Union	Watsonville	831-763-0131	Food pantry, provide over 20 bags of food to hungry each day. Soup kitchen, serves breakfast and dinner to 75-130 clients daily.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	232 Union (weekdays 8AM-5PM M-F) 214 Union (Sa-Sun 4-8PM)
Loaves and Fishes	150 2 nd Street	Watsonville	831-722-4144	Soup kitchen, serves lunch to 40-60 M-F. Food pantry, distributes 50 bags of food per month.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	Pick up by arrangement. Drop off at 150 2 nd Street, 9AM-3PM M-F.
Green Valley Christian Center	376 South Green Valley	Watsonville	831-728-1424	Food pantry open 2 nd & 4 th Thursdays of month	Non-perishable grocery items.	376 South Green Valley, 9-5 M-F.
Si Se Puede	161 Niles Lane	Watsonville	831-761-5422	Residential facility, serves 3 meals daily to 24 clients.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	161 Niles Lane, 7AM-8PM every day.
Hermanas Recovery Home	640 Rodriguez Street	Watsonville	831-722-2471	Residential facility, serves 3 meals daily to 18 clients.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	640 Rodriguez Street, 8-4 M-F.
Second Harvest Food Bank	PO Box 990	Watsonville	831-662-0487	Distributes millions of pounds of food per year to over 100 human service agencies. Will refer to other organizations.	Grocery items and produce.	Pick up by arrangement, drop off 15 Errington Road, 8AM-4PM M-F
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services	Brennan Street	Watsonville	831-728-5649	Residential facility, provides food to up to 24 residents who prepare own meals	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	Drop off by pre-arrangement only.

SANTA CRUZ

Organization	Street Address	City	Phone	Services	Food accepted	Drop off location and hours
Food Not Bombs		Santa Cruz	831-425-3345	All volunteer organization, serves vegan soup, meals on Wednesday and Saturday.	Produce, grocery items. No meat.	Drop off and pick up (Friday, Saturday, Wednesday mornings) of donations by arrangement.
Community Support Services/Pioneer House	290 Pioneer Street	Santa Cruz	831-459-0444 ext. 216	Serves lunch to 20-30 people 7 days a week.	Lunch items, prepared food.	Drop off at 290 Pioneer Street, 8AM-3PM every day.
Battered Women's Task Force/Walnut Ave. Women's Center	303 Walnut	Santa Cruz	831-426-3062	Food pantry, Provides 50 bags of food to hungry on Thursdays and Fridays.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	Pick up by arrangement. Drop off 303 Walnut Wed-Fri 9-5.
Homeless Community Resource Center and Page Smith Community House	115 Coral Street	Santa Cruz	831-458-6020	Soup kitchen, serves 175 meals/week. Food pantry, prepared food and grocery items are distributed.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	115 Coral, Santa Cruz, 8-5:30, 7 days/week
Homeless Garden	127 Washington Street	Santa Cruz	831-426-3609	Soup kitchen, mainly vegetarian, serves breakfast and lunch to 25 workers M-F.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food. No refrigerator.	127 Washington (9-6 M-F) Garden, Shaffer between RR tracks and Delaware Ave. (9-1 M-F)
New Life Center	707 Fair Ave	Santa Cruz	831-427-1007	Soup kitchen, serves dinner 7 days/week to 40-50 clients. Food pantry, provides 15-20 bags of food weekly	Prepared food, grocery items, produce.	707 Fair Ave. (corner Delaware Ave.), Santa Cruz 8AM-8PM daily.
River Street Shelter	733 River Street	Santa Cruz	831-459-6645	Residential facility, serves breakfast and dinner to 30 clients 7 days a week.	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	733 River, but access is on Coral, 2:30-9 7 days a week.
Salvation Army	721 Laurel Street	Santa Cruz	831-426-8365	Food pantry, provides 15-20 bags per day.	Grocery items and produce.	721 Laurel, 9-12 & 1-4:30 M-F
St Francis	205 Mora Street	Santa Cruz	831-459-6712	Serves lunch to 120 people M-F	Grocery items, produce and prepared food.	205 Mora, 9-11AM M-F