



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Transforming Youth. Enhancing Communities.

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Food Waste Recovery Program Builds Nourishing Partnerships

Thanks to forward thinking funding from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through California Climate Investments, the LA Conservation Corps has been able to pilot an innovative program to tackle the issue of food insecurity for the last three years in partnership with San Fernando Valley food bank MEND - Meeting Each Need with Dignity. In a simple but elegant solution to feeding the hungry, the Corps connected the supply to the demand and has delivered 825,436 lbs. to date of donated food to MEND to be distributed to its constituents.

The Corps' Food Waste Recovery Program has relied on a set of dedicated Corpsmember drivers to make the rounds of grocery stores, restaurants, food and beverage suppliers and manufacturers, school cafeterias, and even a television production and pick up safe, healthy, edible food items that would otherwise be thrown away. Our two new refrigerated trucks delivered enough food each week to MEND where their dedicated volunteers have put it in the hands of more than 20,000 families in need.

MEND had developed a robust network of interested donors but lacked the infrastructure to get out and collect all of the food available. With this grant the Corps has been able to fill the gap in the supply chain and get the food where it needed to be which was especially impactful this last year as more and more Angelenos faced food insecurity due to the complex impacts of the pandemic.

Throughout the program additional funding has been provided by SoCal Gas.



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