

Feeding our Community, Protecting our Environment

Partnership with Food Finders donates surplus hospital food to area food pantries.

Kaiser Permanente has made food security a priority because healthy eating is foundational to good health. [Studies](#) show that people without consistent access to adequate food spend about 45% more money on medical care each year than those in food-secure households. Launched in October 2019, Kaiser Permanente's Food for Life initiative aims to improve access to affordable, healthy food.

Through a partnership with [Food Finders Inc.](#), excess food from Kaiser Permanente medical centers in Anaheim, Baldwin Park, Downey, Panorama City, Woodland Hills, and South Bay is donated to local food pantries. **The Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center in Harbor City donated 4,843 pounds of food in 2021 alone.** The food is safely transported by Food Finders to local non-profit agencies, such as [Harbor Interfaith Services](#) in San Pedro and [Christian Outreach in Action](#) in Long Beach.



“This partnership addresses two important needs for our community: improving access to healthy foods and preventing food waste,” said Margie Harrier, RN, senior vice president and area manager at Kaiser Permanente South Bay. “I would encourage every hospital, school, hotel – any institution or business with a large kitchen – to look at this as a simple way of reducing your carbon footprint and improving the health of our community.”

Food pantries that receive donations from Food Finders have found the support critical, particularly over the past two years. “Shortly after COVID started, we began to see a sharp increase in the number of families seeking food support. Some had relied on school breakfast and lunch programs that stopped due to the pandemic, while others had lost a job and were struggling to make ends meet” said Diana Lara, executive director of Food Finders. “The donations have been a lifeline for so many South Bay/Long Beach families. With so much need in our community, our partnerships with local hospitals are especially important.”

To learn more about food donation, please visit [FoodFinders.org](https://www.foodfinders.org). To learn more about Kaiser Permanente's commitment to community health, please visit [community.kp.org](https://www.kaiserpermanente.org/community).