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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Two Feeding America Affiliated Food Banks Win Big on
National Gameshow: America Says!**

(Riverside, CA – May 27, 2022) – Feeding America affiliated food banks - Food Share of Ventura County and Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino (FARSB) - competed on the Gameshow Networks' season five of *America Says!*

Gameshow contestants are divided into 4-player teams and play to guess how Americans answered popular questions with a chance to win a grand prize of \$15,000.

FARSB played as the FoodBankers against the Salsa Students on *America Says!* Episode 5014. The FoodBankers included Jocelyn Meza, Marketing Coordinator; Chris Valdez, Volunteer Services Supervisor; Evelen Ramirez, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator; and Jacqueline Arias, Programs Director. "Competing on *America Says!* was an incredible experience for our team. The entire process was fun- from the audition process to appearing on stage," said Jocelyn Meza. "Our team agreed to donate all prize money to FARSB so more Inland Empire families, seniors, and children could get the nourishment they need." The FoodBankers concluded the show with \$1000 in winnings - helping to secure 7,000 meals.

Food Share of Ventura County appeared as FoodShare Squad and competed against the In-Laws team on the *America Says!* Episode 5019. The FoodShare Squad which included Monica White, President & CEO; Jennifer Caldwell, Chief Development Officer; Pam Castro, Agency Relations Manager, and Ed Skains, Facilities Coordinator, brought home the grand prize of \$15,000. "We had an absolute blast," commented Monica White. "It was completely nerve-wracking but after a slow start we pulled through. What a fun way to be able to bring in funds to help serve our community!"

Both Feeding America affiliated food banks dedicated their proceeds back to their home communities. We invite the public to consider contributing funds to either food bank at their corresponding website at www.feedingie.org or www.foodshare.com/.

Watch the latest episodes of *America Says!* at www.gameshownetwork.com/america-says.

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About Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino

Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino (FARSB) is leading the fight against hunger in the Inland Empire by providing food access, emergency relief, education, and advocacy to families in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. FARSB opened in 1980 as Survive Food Bank in response to the increasing concern about the dual problems of hunger and food waste in the Inland Empire. Today, FARSB is the primary source of food to over 200 local nonprofit organizations, distributing over two million pounds of food monthly to emergency food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, high-need elementary schools, halfway houses, senior centers, residential treatment centers, shelters for the abused, after school programs and group homes. With the help of these charity partners, they make up the largest hunger-relief organization in the Inland Empire, making food security a reality for over 1.2 million people every year. Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino proudly holds the 2022 Guide Star Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of transparency achievable through Guide Star. For more information, visit www.FeedingIE.org.

About Food Share of Ventura County

Food Share's capacity to serve is dependent on three things: money, food, and volunteers. For all the latest information on where to [find food](#), how to [volunteer](#), and how you can support Food Share with a [monetary donation](#) visit: www.foodshare.com. Follow Food Share on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) and tag posts #WeFeedVC

Hunger in Ventura County

1. An estimated 1 in 6 people in Ventura County experiences food insecurity, meaning that they are without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.
2. Before the pandemic, many of the families Food Share served would need supplemental food perhaps two-three times a year. Most were low-income working families, many living paycheck-to-paycheck, who needed occasional help when there was some temporary squeeze on income. This trend continues but at higher numbers.
3. Food Share is serving approximately double the number of people being served pre-pandemic. The latest figure (total for 2021) is a little over 190,000 unduplicated people served in Ventura County.

Pandemic response

1. Since April 1, 2020, and the start of the pandemic, Food Share has held more than 680 emergency drive-thru food distributions, distributing 500,000+ food boxes. These distributions are a supplement to the ongoing work of Food Share's 190-strong pantry and agency partner network.
2. In 2021, Food Share distributed nearly 19 million pounds of food, providing just under 16 million meals to people in Ventura County.
3. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Food Share has distributed more than 42 million pounds of food, providing over 35 million meals.