



COMMUNITY THROUGH HOPE.ORG

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SUBJECT: CTH Role in Chula Vista/South Bay, COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response

Gary Halbert, City Manager
City of Chula Vista
City Hall
276 Fourth Ave.
Chula Vista, CA 91910

March 26, 2020

Dear Mr. Halbert:

We have received your response dated March 24, 2020 declining the request from Community Through Hope (CTH) for an emergency funding allocation from the City of Chula Vista to respond to the nutrition demands in Chula Vista and the South Bay during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis response.

CTH appreciates the existing partnership with the City of Chula Vista. While we are disappointed by your response to our emergency funding request, we appreciate your statement that the City commends CTH and will continue to support the work we do in fighting hunger during this challenging time for our community. The current rate of service by CTH is not sustainable, but we are exploring funding sources and leaning on our faith partners to fill the gaps during this time of crisis. We hope that we can count on the City's support in our applications for grant funding.

Based on some statements in your letter, I would like to clarify for the record the role that CTH plays in Chula Vista and the South Bay:

- CTH is the **centralized nutrition hub** for South Bay for the San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego. We are designated by the San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego as their main food distribution hub in South Bay covering the cities of Chula Vista, National City and Imperial Beach.
- Via the San Diego Food Bank, CTH also recently became a **federally designated Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provider** to distribute USDA commodities for vital nutrition support including protein-rich milk and eggs.
- Operating a 6,000-square-foot warehouse, CTH consolidates food supplies and is the central hub that **distributes food to many of the smaller food pantries**, including those on the Food

Distribution Sites list you sent to me, such as St. Rose of Lima and South Bay United Pentecostal Church.

I want to also respectfully point out that most of the Food Distribution Sites that you sent me are through the school nutrition program and available only to families with children. This is indeed a valuable and important resource for our community. It should be noted, however, that one of the goals of CTH is to serve our senior and unsheltered communities, and this is not achieved through the school food distribution.

The demand for nutrition is growing in this time of crisis and CTH will continue to work to fight hunger along with its 42 partner organizations. As mentioned in my letter, CTH is currently serving at a rate of 28,408 individuals per month – an over 500% increase. Again, CTH receives referrals from 2-1-1, the San Diego Food Bank, the City of Chula Vista and Chula Vista Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), the media, word-of-mouth and other service providers. CTH is routinely contacted directly by City of Chula Vista elected officials and city staff, including public safety personnel, seeking urgent assistance with community needs.

In addition, as a gentle reminder, some time has passed since CTH was contacted by the City of Chula Vista Emergency Management and invited to provide a list of needed items; a list was submitted including various items including gloves, masks, tarps and trash bags. To date, these items have not been received and would be greatly appreciated. Can we expect to receive these soon?

We look forward to continuing to work to meet our community's needs.

Sincerely,

Rosy Vasquez

Executive Director