

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Rescues Hundreds of Thousands of Pounds of Fruit from Wasteful Rot & Abuse

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is celebrating its 3rd annual “Backyard Bounty Day” by organizing a large community harvest—this time volunteers plan to ambitiously rescue 100,000 pounds of oranges from a local orchard in Montecito on Saturday, October 23 between 8am-3pm.

The Backyard Bounty Program is a countywide Foodbank program that harvests fruits and vegetables from local yards and orchards that would otherwise fall to the ground and rot. This organic and local source of food is instead harvested by hundreds of Backyard Bounty volunteers and is delivered to the Foodbank where it is distributed to low-income people, often with-in 24 hours of being harvested.

In the three years since this program has been operating, program volunteers, led by enthusiastic Foodbank board member, Jim Roehrig, have rescued and harvested over 350,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables from local yards. All this fresh, often organic and always local produce, contributes the Foodbank’s Produce Initiative Program, which puts special focus on distributing fresh produce to those in need for free.

If you would like to participate in this weekend’s harvest, the Foodbank needs 50-75 volunteers. For more information or to sign up, please contact the Backyard Bounty Manger, Doug Hagensen @ doug@foodbanksbc.org or 805.284.5407.