



Community Defines Us

As we continue to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of all San Diegans and build a stronger San Diego by giving back to our local community, we are so grateful for each one of our members, as they make this mission possible. Our Connections by Mission Fed newsletter captures some of the many community activities from the fourth quarter of 2021. We look forward to serving our community in 2022 and the opportunity to continue to help San Diegans reach their financial goals.

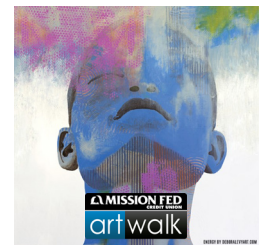
Connecting Creative Communities for 37 Years

As title sponsor of the 37th annual Mission Fed ArtWalk, we celebrated both visual and performing arts in the heart of Little Italy with our San Diego community. Mission Fed ArtWalk is the largest and longest running arts festival in Southern California where locals and visitors can purchase artwork from local, national, and international artists in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, glasswork, fine jewelry, photography, and more.

In addition to three stages of live music and interactive art, the festival also featured KidsWalk activities hosted by numerous San Diego organizations helping to bring hands-on art experiences to kids. Activities included drawing with Monart School of Art, photography with the Museum of Photographic Arts, and butterfly art craft with Audeo Charter School.

We believe art has the power to connect communities, cultivate new artistic talent and create a better quality of life for all through cultural enrichment.

Stay tuned for Mission Fed ArtWalk details as it returns in the Spring of 2022.



Fighting Hunger and Ending Homelessness

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is observed annually to raise awareness for the pervasiveness of hunger and homelessness and to encourage communities to take action to address these issues through direct action. According to the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness' 2020 We All Count report, more than 7,600 people experience homelessness on any given night countywide. Locally 1 in 3 San Diegans, or over 1 million people, are nutrition insecure with no guarantee where their next meal would come from.

We proudly joined Father Joe's Villages for this campaign to draw attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness through education, advocacy, participation in local events, donation, and activation through volunteering. Mission Fed was proud to contribute \$25,000 to the campaign as a matching donation. The outcome far exceeded our collective goal, generating over \$158,000 in support!

Together, we can change lives and give hope to our neighbors. Learn how you can help ensure that no one, no matter their age or income, will suffer from hunger or homelessness in our community by visiting my.neighbor.org.



Celebrando Dia de los Muertos

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is the annual celebration to honor and remember lost loved ones. Friends and families come together to offer hospitality to the spirits of loved ones as part of this Mexican tradition. We sponsored the 20th Annual Dia de los Muertos in Downtown Oceanside, and this vibrant event showcased over 25 altars built in memory of loved ones, traditional dancers, a classic car show, a shopping Mercado, live entertainment, and children activity areas.



Thank you to Friends of Oceanside Dia de los Muertos and all the volunteers that brought this event to life!

Building Resiliency in Our Communities

Since MAAC's beginnings in 1965, its focus has remained constant: to help individuals and families create the lives they want and deserve. In support of that mission, Mission Fed awarded \$25,000 in grant funding received from the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco's 2021 AHEAD Program. This important grant will help MAAC offer financial counseling and asset-building support to help young people understand how to manage money and turn their finances around. Mission Fed is honored to support MAAC and help build resiliency in our communities.



Holidays Made Brighter

San Diegans helped make the holidays brighter for families in our community by supporting La Maestra Community Health Center's Annual Toy and Gift Drive. Over the span of two weeks, Mission Fed's 33 local San Diego branches collected over 660 toys, books and gifts for the patients of La Maestra's Community Health Centers – a record-breaking endeavor. La Maestra Community Health Centers are agents of change in our community and a medical home to more than 45,000, most of whom are immigrants, refugees, homeless and low-income individuals with complex health and well-being needs. Let's continue to help La Maestra by giving at LaMaestra.org.



Cheerful Elves at the Center for Children

For the sixth year in a row, Mission Fed sponsored and delivered holiday trees to the children and families of the San Diego Center for Children's residential cottages, administration offices and program sites. The San Diego Center for Children serves children and families struggling with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges. Thank you, San Diego Center for Children, for your partnership, this wonderful opportunity and all you do for our region's youth! Visit centerforchildren.org to learn how you can support their efforts to restore health and well-being to our region's children.



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