Like many private nonprofits, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley (formerly Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties) provides transparency into the organization’s financials on our website. [https://www.shfb.org/about-us/governance-and-financial/](https://www.shfb.org/about-us/governance-and-financial/) On this page, you can access our annual reports, audited financials and 990s—you should be able to find answers to your specific questions about salaries and funding there. I will tell you that well over 90 percent of our annual funding sources comes from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations.

You should also know that 95 percent of all contributions to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley go to client programs—there is a quick breakdown of both funding and operational expenses in our most recent annual report.

From the link I provided, you can also access GuideStar and Charity Navigator sites. For the 13th year in a row, Second Harvest received Charity Navigator’s 4-star rating for financial stability, accountability and transparency — exceeding industry standards.

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is one of the largest food banks in the nation, serving all of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, one of the most expensive regions to live in the nation. Even before the pandemic, Second Harvest provided food assistance to over a quarter million people every month.

Since COVID, we are serving 100,000 more people. Our food assistance hotline went from receiving about 180 calls a day to over 1000 calls a day. We lost our critical volunteer workforce due to stay at home orders. We had to completely change our packaging and distribution processes in a matter of days to account for social distancing and safety, not to mention the increased demand.

I invite you and Adam to get out from behind your desks, put on a mask and come spend some time at one of the many private nonprofit food banks who have been on the front lines from the beginning of this crisis providing food assistance to millions of people who have lost their jobs. Let me know if you would like to visit us at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.
To whom it may concern,

My name is Craig Smith. I am a researcher working on behalf of Forbes Sr. Policy Contributor Adam Andrzejewski. We are working on a piece regarding salaries and compensations in USDA sub-agencies and private hunger relief organizations. The deadline for comment will be Monday, May 18th, at noon ET. If you miss our deadline, we will do our best to update the piece when you respond.

In these times of national crisis, please provide us with an on-the-record justification for your most highly compensated executives. Here is the relevant paragraph where your non-profit is mentioned:

**San Jose** - The Second Harvest of Silicon Valley took in $126,559,215 in revenues in 2018. Their five highest earners were former CEO Kathryn Jackson ($263,720), VP of Programs and Services Bruno Pillet ($185,389), VP of Operations Ralph Maltese ($182,118), VP of Development and Marketing Catherine Cvengros ($180,020), and VP of Community Engagement Cindy McCown ($169,659).

We are hoping to confirm that the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is the same food bank as the former Second Harvest of Santa Clara and San Mateo. Any context, feedback, or comment would be important to our readers at Forbes. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Craig Smith

On behalf of Forbes Sr. Policy Contributor Adam Andrzejewski