

Second Harvest Food Bank Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Food Banks

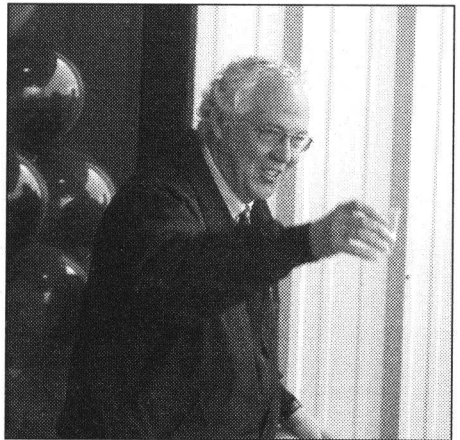
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Watsonville, CA—The ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase One of Second Harvest Food Bank's expansion project was held on March 13, 11 am - 1 pm at the 800 Ohlone Parkway warehouse in Watsonville. It marks a milestone towards the goal of feeding hope in the community. Anticipating a continued growth in the number of hungry and food insecure households served by the Second Harvest network, the expanded facility will handle 10 million pounds of food a year (almost double the current capacity).

Board member and Good Times Publisher, Ron Slack introduced major donors and key figures in the first \$3.3 million of the \$4.3 million expansion project. These included Mary Solari, Rowland and Pat Rebele, Jack and Peggy Baskin, and representatives from Plantronics, Driscoll's, Barry Swenson Builders, Granite Construction, SunRidge Farms, and many more. All joined with the Second Harvest staff, agency representatives and board members in a ribbon cutting ceremony and sparkling cider toast presented by Executive Director, Willy Elliott-McCrea.

Following the official ribbon cutting ceremony, Elliott-McCrea, who has led the Second Harvest operation for the past twenty years, provided the assembled with a tour of the expanded facilities.

These included a new refrigeration unit that doubles the facility's storage capacity an increased space for more efficient repacking of bulk deliveries into individual family provisions. A barbecue followed the walk-through.



^ Willy Elliott-McCrea leads crowd in Apple Juice toast to the new facilities.

The next phase will allow for a greater storage of fresh produce and more efficient loading and unloading of food because Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is part of a nationwide network of food banks that trade in packaged, frozen food products and fresh produce. ■