

Case Study:

Common Ground Church

Sacramento



8355 Arroyo Vista Dr.

Sacramento, CA 95823

Serves 4,000+ monthly

Distribution is open every
Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm

Program Highlights

Common Ground Church was able to greatly improve and increase their operational capacity over the grant period in order to increase their impact within the community. Common Ground Church purchased tables, wagons, and other equipment to expand distributions, while also both increasing storage capacity and reducing food waste with the purchase of new cold storage and fans. They also bettered food safety practices by purchasing trainings for food handler certificates and improved upon their record keeping by training and paying for personnel to accurately track data for their food recovery programs.

Needs & Recommendations

Common Ground Church has expressed a desire for an open network or conversation between food recovery organizations. They believe that an open conversation sharing tips or best practices would help benefit all in their mission. Common Ground Church additionally believes that sourcing opportunities for equipment should also be shared to help streamline purchasing projects.

Overview

Common Ground Church seeks to contribute positively to the wellness of the surrounding community in various ways, including the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial wellness of its neighbors. CGCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community-based organization in the Valley Hi neighborhood of South Sacramento. Common Ground Church has been running food and wellness programs in the community for over ten years, to meet expressed needs of the community. These programs include edible food recovery, a weekly food distribution, a community composting site, and an edible food garden and orchard. In conjunction with these programs, nutrition, exercise, and life skills classes are also offered, as well as job workforce training programs for youth and young adults. Common Ground Church partners with other churches, organizations and individuals to run these programs.

Challenges & Solutions

Challenge: Heavy carts not safe or accessible for all staff to use.

Solution: Purchased light weight carts that are easy and safe for everyone to use.

Challenge: Food received as a donation cannot always be distributed that same day.

Solution: Purchasing cold storage extends the life of donated food and allows it to be redistributed even if it cannot be put back into the community the same day.

With the grant funding, Pastor Benjamin Wickstorm has reported that the purchase of two circular floor fans has not only helped the organization improve their food safety guidelines but has also improved the wellbeing and sentiment of the staff. During the summer temperature can reach up to 110 degrees outside, but with the new fans staff is now able to work much more comfortable and cooler.

