

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS PARTNERS WITH SECOND
HARVEST FOOD BANK OFFERS FRESH FOOD TO LIVE OAK FAMILIES**

*FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION OCCURS TWICE A MONTH AT
EAST CLIFF FAMILY HEALTH CENTER*

SEPT. 29, 2014 — SANTA CRUZ, CA — Santa Cruz Community Health Centers (SCCHC), a leading nonprofit provider of high-quality, affordable and comprehensive health services to everyone regardless of their ability to pay, today announced it has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County to offer its patients and Live Oak community access to fresh food.

The new fresh food distribution began in April and occurs every first and third Wednesday from 4-5pm at the East Cliff Family Health Center, which opened in Spring 2014. Fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as some pantry and dry goods, are available,

As of August, at least 125 families had taken part in the program with more than 10,300 pounds of food shared with the community.

“A well-balanced diet is an important component of health,” said Leslie Conner, SCCHC Executive Director. “Providing fresh, nutritious food to families — some of whom are our patients — supports our mission of improving health and well-being in our community.”

The program is free and open to all with no income check required. Anyone who would like access to nutritious, fresh, healthy foods is welcome to participate. The use of reusable grocery bags is encouraged.

“Together we are helping to ensure that more families in our community have access to nutritious food and other resources that will help them live healthier lives,” said Willy Elliott-McCrea, CEO of Second Harvest.

To learn more about this program or to volunteer, please contact Enrollment Counselor, Jorge Chen Valle at (831) 427-3500 x168.

About Santa Cruz Community Health Centers

Through the Santa Cruz Women’s Health Center and the East Cliff Family Health Center, SCCHC (a Federally Qualified Health Center) provides comprehensive primary care services in English and Spanish to all ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities and sexual orientations, regardless of their ability to pay. Seeded by the Santa Cruz Women’s Health Center, SCCHC is driven by its originator’s 40-year commitment to social justice and access to health care as human right. Its mission remains constant: to provide quality health services and advocate the feminist goals of social, political, and

economic equality. SCCHC's health centers deliver high-quality care through compassionate, dedicated medical providers, health educators, and administrative staff. SCCHC's clinics offer primary care, pediatrics, prenatal care and education, mental health and substance abuse counseling, chronic disease management, health insurance enrollment, and more. Learn more at www.schealthcenters.org or www.facebook.com/schealthcenters.

About Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County

Founded in 1972, Second Harvest Food Bank was the first food bank in California and the second in the nation. Our mission is to end hunger and malnutrition by educating and involving the community. For every \$1 dollar donated, Second Harvest provides four meals. Second Harvest is honored to receive a four-star rating from Charity Navigator in recognition of our effective stewardship.

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