END HUNGER IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A guide to develop a "Waste Not" program to identify individuals in need, recover surplus food, and create a central map of food banks and pantries.

September 2015

A Publication of

WASTE NOT OC
COALITION

Feed the Need

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INTRODUCTION

Our vision of providing simple resources to address inadequate access to food can be applied not only Orange County, but also to any county, city, or state in the nation to end hunger anywhere. Currently, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties are looking to replicate Waste Not OC.

This toolkit serves as a feasible starting point for other counties to begin the fight against food insecurity. The following pages include information and key learnings from the Waste Not OC Coalition since its inception in 2012. It is a working publication for the Coalition and will periodically be updated. The toolkit is free and can be applied to any county.

Please feel free to use specific pages within this kit as marketing one-sheets to support your individual efforts. Additional resources can be found online.
WasteNotOC.org/Tools

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Getting Started: Bringing People Together

"Hunger is often perceived as a problem too big, too overwhelming for one community to handle. The solution to food insecurity lies in triaging responsibilities across programs in the county health department, private businesses, nonprofits, other organizations, and individuals."

-Dr. Eric G. Handler, MD, MPH, FAAP, Public Health Officer
Orange County Health Care Agency

INTERNAL CHAMPIONS

Get Started By Bringing People Together

Internal champions can help you meet your goal by getting their team members on board, facilitating important conversations, and encouraging involvement. This includes people from government agencies, public and private companies, as well as non-profit community organizations. Waste Not OC found that a top-down approach was needed to implement action among key stakeholder groups. Bringing people together and forming a task force serves to bridge the education gap between the health department and food producing facilities.

Public Health Officer/ Health Inspector
An opportunity to fill the education gap on food insecurity and proper food safety in order to donate based on current food laws.

Feeding America
Can provide resources to map the meal gap in your community. They maintain relationships with many retailers.

Food Pantries/Food Banks
Provide data and insights on the community they serve, and the number of meals needed. An important perspective to measure the success of your Coalition.

Restaurateurs/ Foodservice Operators
Want to understand food donation laws and how it impacts their bottom line. Education and support from the food inspector will help them become advocates that speak the language of the foodservice industry.

Community Organizations
Get a pulse on food rescue activities already happening in your community. Do some organizations specialize in transporting the food? How can they augment your efforts as a Coalition?

Food Policy Council
Does your county have a Food Policy Council? Working together towards the goal of ending hunger and reducing food waste will connect you with others for greater success.

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Execute Your Plan

Stay on Track and Garner Support

Project Manager

Another key requirement and reason for the Waste Not OC Coalition's success is to hire a dedicated project manager to keep your task force on track. A project manager delegates action items, keeps the coalition on task, organizes meetings, manages marketing and social media and is a key resource to connect the dots between activities.

Local Government

It is also strongly advised to garner support from local government, namely the Board of Supervisors – as was evidenced in the need for Board approval to begin food donations in local jails.

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Screening for Food Insecurity

"In my 30 years as a Pediatrician, I never asked any of my families if they were dealing with hunger and food insecurity. The reason being, if they answered 'yes', I had no resource to provide them with to address the issue. Now, the *American Academy of Pediatrics* has recommended that pediatricians ask the question. Waste Not OC has focused locally on identifying individuals in need, rescuing surplus food and redirecting it to pantries that can be found on our Google map for Orange County."

-Dr. Eric G. Handler, MD, MPH, FAAP, Public Health Officer
Orange County Health Care Agency

STANDARD PRACTICE

Screening for Food Insecurity

One in five children are food insecure. Screening individuals at risk for food insecurity is seldom standard practice in most medical offices. In Orange County prior to the Waste Not OC Coalition's formation, doctors were reluctant to screen for food insecurity because they did not have the proper tools at hand to help their patients. By creating a community pantry Google Map, clinicians can direct their patients to nearby pantries with ease.

**Standard Practice #1:
Screen Patients**
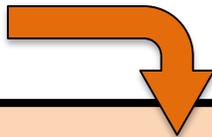
Please answer the following statements with "often true", "sometimes true" and "never true":

①"Within the past 12 months we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more."

②"Within the past 12 months the food we bought just didn't last and we didn't have money to get more."

**Standard Practice #2:
Connect Patients with Resources to Address Hunger**
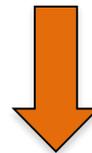
**Standard Practice #3:
Clinics with the capacity can provide food insecure patients with on-site emergency food.**

wastenotoc.org

As a result of WNOC's awareness campaign, AltaMed, a system of federally qualified community health centers and the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) have worked with the coalition to implement a food insecurity screening tool into their electronic health records and use WNOC's interactive pantry Google Map to provide food pantry information to those who struggle with hunger. Since implementing food insecurity screening questions, 16,703 patients have been screened and 555 were identified as food insecure and provided with resources between December 2014 to July 2015 at CHOC.

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Working with Foodservice Operators, Distributors and Retailers

"With support and a system that made it easy, starting a food donation program for Patina Restaurant Group made sense. We're helping the communities we serve and know that by working with Waste Not OC and FoodFinders the food will be handled properly until served."

Scott Kleckner, Vice President of Operations
Patina Restaurant Group

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Donate Surplus Food without Fear and $ave Money

If you are a foodservice operator, distributor or retailer, you can be a part of the solution to reduce food waste. The goal for food recovery is to work with restaurants, schools, jails, supermarkets & entertainment venues to rescue their surplus food before it's thrown in the trash. Perishable and non-perishable food can be distributed to local food pantries and food banks within 24 hours. Not only can food donation help you create an appreciation and understanding with employees that 'Food is Money', but also impact your bottom line.

Benefits to Donating Perishable & Non-Perishable Food

✓Donating food is as easy as a phone call or email to local food finder organizations.
✓Added value marketing for your business via cross-promotion with the Coalition
✓Positive PR via "Waste Not" Recognition Seals to display (community partner)
✓Employee & community engagement ('Adopt A Pantry')
✓Cost reductions associated with reduced food waste (CA AB1826 & CA AB341)
✓Tax deductions on donated food
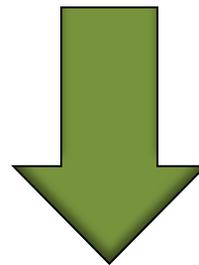
YOUR FOOD DONATIONS: Over time, your food donations will likely decrease because you've adjusted the amount of food you are ordering. That's okay!

INCREASE FOODSERVICE & RETAIL DONORS: With your continued support to educate your industry members, we can rescue food from more restaurants and grocery stores.

Recognition Seal

2014-2015 Partner
WASTE NOT OC
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www.wastenotoc.org
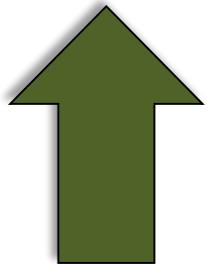
When food is lost, money is lost.

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LIABILITY WHEN DONATING FOOD

Pictured: Mike Haller with Orange County Environmental Health.
The Program Manager for the county's Food Protection Program in the Orange County Environmental Health Division came to understand that food establishments incorrectly believed that the health department discouraged food donations for safety and liability reasons. This inspired him to encourage the health inspectors to go beyond their normal duties and promote food donations.

Visit https://youtu.be/T8Un6Ft-YRM to hear what Mike has to say about food donations. Additional resources on food donation and liability are available at WasteNotOC.org/Liability-Information.

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Transportation & Logistics

Safely Transport Food

A Turnkey Solution for Easy Food Donations

By connecting with community organizations already working to rescue food, you can identify local food finder organizations.

In Orange County, we work with Food Finders. Their primary focus is to recover food from food producing facilities for delivery to local pantries (also referred to as "agencies") that are registered with Food Finders. Food Finders is neither a food bank nor a pantry. Food Finders depends on their widespread network of volunteers to pick up and deliver both perishable and nonperishable food. Once a food producing facility (such as a restaurant or grocery store) requests a pick up of a donation, Food Finders dispatches a designated volunteer to recover the food for delivery to the nearest agency available to receive it on the same day. These arrangements are often made ahead of time, or can be requested as needed via Food Finders' online donation availability form.

Waste Not OC partners are equipped to safely handle perishable food donations and train volunteer drivers. They coordinate the pick up and drop off of donations to local food banks and pantries.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
ORANGE COUNTY

A member of FEEDING AMERICA

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Working with Yellow Cab of Orange County

A unique problem presents itself when Food Finders receives a last minute request to pick up donated excess food in a location where volunteers are unavailable. Waste Not OC partnered with Yellow Cab of Orange County to serve as emergency transportation for recovered food. Food Finders can contact Yellow Cab and they will dispatch a driver a restaurant, the donor loads the food into the taxi (the taxi driver never touches the food), the driver transports the food to the designated recipient agency, at which point the recipient unloads the taxi.

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Creating A Google Map of Pantries & Food Banks

"Everyone knows someone who needs help and as a regional connector to community resources, partnering with the WasteNot OC Coalition allows us to link our neighbors to their next meal through our website (www.211oc.org) which is a natural extension of our work. We are proud to be a part of this innovative partnership."

-Kristin Jefferson, Senior Manager, Collaborative Engagement
211OC

HOW TO CREATE A PANTRY MAP

Help Communities Members Find Their Next Meal

The Waste Not OC Google Map of pantries was created by student volunteers, and it is currently updated on a rolling basis. A list of pantries categorized by city in Orange County is created quarterly, to share with clinicians for easy reference when referring patients.
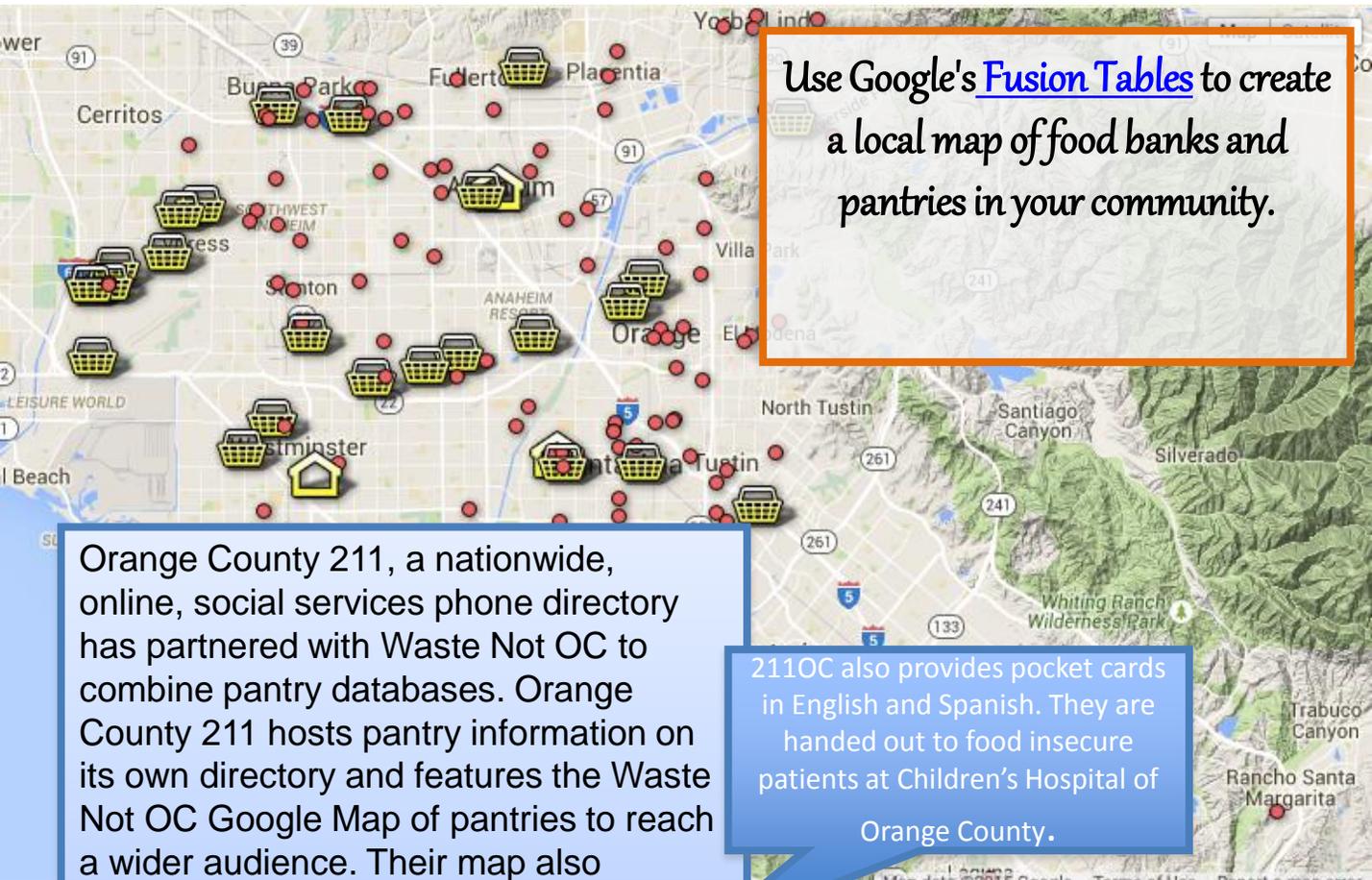
Use Google's Fusion Tables to create a local map of food banks and pantries in your community.

Orange County 211, a nationwide, online, social services phone directory has partnered with Waste Not OC to combine pantry databases. Orange County 211 hosts pantry information on its own directory and features the Waste Not OC Google Map of pantries to reach a wider audience. Their map also includes resources for employment, housing, and other basic needs that affect social determinants of health. This directory can be replicated in any US location with the local 211 chapter.

211OC also provides pocket cards in English and Spanish. They are handed out to food insecure patients at Children's Hospital of Orange County.

Orange County 2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Answers.

TOGETHER WE CAN END HUNGER

Please visit WasteNotOC.org for additional resources related to school donation programs, liability, tax benefits, videos and more. If you have questions, suggestions or best practices you would like to share, please email info@wastenotoc.org.

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