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District Attorney's CARE Center Distributing Food to 1,000s of San Diegans in Need

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan said today her office's CARE Center located in National City has adjusted its outreach to the community to include increased food distribution to families and individuals who may be food-insecure.

Before COVID-19, the DA's CARE Center had a monthly food distribution for the community but responding to the pandemic it has turned into a weekly food distribution, acknowledging an increase in the community's need for access to food. In 2019, the CARE Center's food distribution served 1,858 individuals and so far in 2020, it has served 6,886 individuals. The [CARE Center](#) is a community satellite office of the District Attorney's Office located in National City to provide crime prevention and intervention services for the community in the community.

"The goal of the CARE Center is to build safer communities through evidence-based prevention and intervention in collaboration with our valued community partners," said District Attorney Summer Stephan. "During this challenging time, we are seeing an increased need for all sorts of resources- especially food. Thanks to the big heart of San Diego philanthropists and volunteers, we've been able to provide food to thousands of

families through our DA CARE Center. It was important that we take action, so we rolled up our sleeves to distribute food along with other needed resources. We realize humane and effective crime prevention relies on people having food and shelter."



[\[WATCH: CARE Center Provides Food During COVID-19\]](#)

Before COVID-19, the food distribution was done in the style of a farmer's market, which is a trauma-informed way of doing

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business because the participants choose their own food rather than simply receiving a prepared bag of food as they stand in line. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, CARE Center staff now prepares all the bags while wearing masks and gloves and provide a contactless pick up with service providers who then drop off the food to their clients.

The food distribution has been made possible through a partnership with Feeding San Diego , Community Through Hope, and the San Diego Food Bank, which donated large amounts of food including canned-nonperishable food, rice bags, quinoa, pasta, chicken and egg boxes among other items. The community organizations served during this food distribution include: Family Health Centers of San Diego, Youth Empowerment, Mental Health Systems, Assertive Family Solutions, Interfaith Shelter Network, Interfaith Shelter Network - El Nido, Epiphany Women in Focus, Family Health Youth Counseling Center, Interfaith Shelter Network: DV safe, Gompers Preparatory Academy, San Diego Youth Services, ICARE Program, Vista Hill Teen Recovery Center, Vista Hill Homeless Outreach Team, Oasis Clubhouse, Hugs & Bags, Mundo Gardens, Harmonium, and RELINK.

The [CARE Center](#) is a product of community collaboration with the San Diego County District Attorney's office aimed at actively linking individuals in the community to community-based crime prevention and intervention services with the goal of building strong community relationships and reducing crime. Due to COVID-19, the CARE Center has adapted many of their services to telephone or virtual options.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.