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Food Recovery Network Recovers 30,000 Pounds of Food in One Day

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Feb. 4, 2019 - Food Recovery Network (FRN) made history by recovering 33,273 pounds of food in one afternoon - their largest, single-day food recovery to date!

The Winter Fancy Food Show, hosted by Specialty Food Association (SFA), is an annual event that brings specialty food retailers and distributors together for three days to network and discover the latest and greatest specialty food products available. Nearly 1,500 vendors line the aisles of this massive expo to showcase their food products and innovations with the intent to break into new markets. It’s a wonderful event that fosters connection and community within the specialty food space, but when the show breaks down, vendors are left with a wealth of surplus product to handle.

Since 2017, SFA has worked with FRN to ensure their events are Food Recovery Verified. Food Recovery Verified is a program through which FRN serves as a third party to confirm that surplus food is donated to a local hunger-fighting nonprofit by those food businesses or events. Last year, FRN completed its first food recovery from the Winter Fancy Food Show, rescuing an unprecedented 27,000 pounds of surplus food from vendors at the show. The overwhelming success of this event sparked further development and planning to recover even more food in 2019.

On January 15, the FRN team welcomed more than 100 volunteers to help collect and pack surplus food. Cassie Olovsson, Manager of External Partnerships at FRN, said, “It was inspiring to have such a diverse group of people come together for an afternoon of service. Our volunteers included student groups from three universities and more than 23 companies, further demonstrating how our mission speaks to people across different sectors and industries. This food recovery provided an opportunity for volunteers to make new connections which will lead to further growth, development and change in the food system.”

Partnerships also played a major role in facilitating the recovery, to which Olovsson comments, “I was truly moved by the support we received from partners like CLIF Bar and the Feedfeed. Their involvement made a world of difference on recovery day and I am so thankful for their continued friendship and commitment to our mission. As our Food Recovery Verified program grows, I’m excited to continue working with others to reach new heights.” With a total of 33,273 pounds of food recovered, the 2019 Winter Fancy Food Show officially became FRN National’s largest, one-day food recovery to date!
For the second year in a row, all of the food recovered from the Winter Fancy Food Show was donated to Delancey Street Foundation, a national nonprofit that offers residency and vocational training to people in the community who were formerly incarcerated or are recovering from substance and/or alcohol abuse. Their team uses the surplus food in their culinary training program, transforming ingredients and food products into meals for their campus residents and workers, as well as for others in the community.

Delancey Street Foundation delivery drivers arrived at the Moscone Center eager to accept the thousands of pounds of food and transport it back to their San Francisco site. Stephanie Muller, Director of Development, commented on the value of this donation, “Our crew was delighted to receive food from this event again this year. You have no idea how exciting this is for our team; to understand where foods come from, to taste new flavors, and then figure out how to incorporate it into our menus is really an interesting learning moment for everyone.”

With another successful recovery behind them, FRN is thrilled to continue working with SFA for the 2020 Winter Fancy Food Show. Regina Anderson, Executive Director at FRN, commented, “To recover more than 33,000 pounds of food in one afternoon is a testament to the people and partners that believe in the importance of our mission. The Winter Fancy Food Show offers a perfect example of how critical a food recovery program can be for the surrounding community, and we look forward to creating more opportunities like this in the future.” As FRN expands their Food Recovery Verified program, the organization has recovered nearly 3.5 million pounds of food to date through their active student chapters on university campuses across the country.

About Food Recovery Network
Food Recovery Network (FRN) unites and supports college student leaders in the fight against food waste and hunger in America. Since 2011, FRN students have recovered more than 3.4 million pounds of surplus food, that would otherwise go to waste, from their campus cafeterias and local restaurants to donate to hungry Americans. Food Recovery Network has more than 200 college campus chapters in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information about Food Recovery Network, visit www.foodrecoverynetwork.org. Follow us on Twitter @FoodRecovery and Instagram @FoodRecovery and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoodRecoveryNetwork.

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