Food Recovery Program

Volunteer Position Description

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT THE SF MARKET FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM

Are you looking for a hands-on volunteer opportunity that will address food insecurity in San Francisco, reduce food waste, and improve our food system? Are you interested in increasing access to healthy food and/or learning more about the produce wholesale and distribution world? Would you like to support culinary training programs at local public high schools? We would love to talk with you!

In August of this year, the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market (www.sfproduce.org) will celebrate the 3rd anniversary of our Food Recovery Program! Since we began, we have collected over 1.5 Million pounds of produce that would have gone into the waste stream from our Merchants and redistributed to organizations that are feeding people and offering culinary training, and with your help we can donate even more!

We are seeking volunteers to work collaboratively with our Food Recovery Coordinator to help us grow the impact of the program.

Responsibilities may include:
• Working with food recovery coordinator to sort and allocate donations. Properly label, organize and distribute produce.
• Moving boxes up to 50lbs each of produce from one Merchant location to another.
• Facilitating nonprofit partner donation pickups including: meeting partners at a designated location and time; confirming accurate donation amount; and/or assisting partners with loading produce into vehicles.
• Keeping records of what produce is donated, by whom and which partner organization received the produce.
• Representing The SF Market in a professional manner to nonprofit and Merchant Partners.
• Making deliveries to organizations in the Bayview and/or to high school culinary programs.

Qualifications
• Can lift & move produce boxes up to 50 lbs using a hand truck (training provided) or willing to deliver boxes of produce to schools or community organizations in the Bayview
• Highly reliable, accountable, receptive to feedback, and detail-oriented
• Safety-minded
• Ability to stay focused and responsive to changing plans in a fast-paced, noisy, and industrial environment
• Comfortable interacting with a wide diversity of people
• A good sense of humor
• Interest in the food system, addressing food security, food safety, food recovery, recycling, produce, and/or the wholesale produce business

Commitment
1-2 days a week from approximately 8am-10am (start and end times may be flexible by 1 hour). Or 1-2 days a week from approximately 10am-11am to make deliveries to groups in the Bayview or to high school culinary programs. Since we are just kicking off our volunteer program, we will start volunteers on a trial basis of 1 month and then evaluate. We would love to build connections with a dedicated group of volunteers who will be able to commit at least six months to supporting the program.

About the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market and the Food Recovery Program
The San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market (The SF Market) is San Francisco’s original and only wholesale produce market. First located in Downtown SF, The SF Market moved to our current location in Bayview in 1963. In 2013, we became a nonprofit organization and signed a 60-year ground lease with the City of San Francisco providing The SF Market and the 28 merchants who operate here a platform to grow their businesses. The SF Market plays an integral role in the City’s food culture and economy.

The SF Market Food Recovery Program reduces the amount of food entering the waste stream by redistributing produce that would otherwise be composted to partner organizations that use it to make healthy meals for vulnerable San Francisco populations. Many times when fruits and vegetables are no longer sellable wholesale, they are still perfectly edible, nutritious and great tasting food; The SF Market’s Food Recovery Program seeks to make sure this produce becomes food, not waste.

The Food Recovery Program works collaboratively with charitable organizations that serve many different vulnerable communities throughout San Francisco, including the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood, our local community. Our partner organizations are small, medium and large non-profits and religious organizations that provide meals and deliveries and supply food pantries. Our partner organizations feed seniors, homeless, disabled and people suffering from illness, low-income children, youth and families, representing many diverse segments of the SF population.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Janna Cordeiro at icordeiro@sfproduce.org or 415-550-4495.