

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING VINITA FERNANDES  
2025 HUNGER FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

WHEREAS, Vinita Fernandes will be honored as the 2025 Hunger Fighter of the Year by Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County on March 6, 2025, in recognition of her extraordinary and continued contributions to the nutrition and health of her community, and upon this occasion, she is deserving of special public commendations; and

WHEREAS, for over 11 years, Vinita has been a dedicated volunteer, serving her community through Grey Bears and St. Joseph's Church, and every Monday she prepares hot lunches for approximately 175 seniors at Grey Bears, ensuring they receive not just nourishment but also a sense of connection and belonging; and

WHEREAS, Vinita believes that food is more than sustenance, seeing it as a way to bring people together, offering comfort and care to those in need; and

WHEREAS, originally from India, Vinita has witnessed the devastating effects of hunger firsthand, an experience that fuels her passion for food rescue and waste reduction to ensure that as much food as possible reaches those who need it most; and

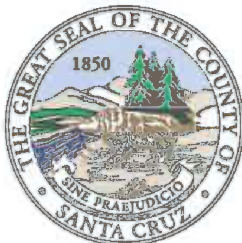
WHEREAS, at Grey Bears, Vinita plays a vital role in sorting grocery store donations, organizing emergency meals, and mobilizing food resources for seniors, the homeless, and evacuees during disasters; and

WHEREAS, Vinita's swift action was especially crucial during the severe weather events of 2023, helping to provide meals for displaced residents; and

WHEREAS, beyond her dedication to food security, Vinita's warmth and generosity shine through in the small moments, such as when she prepared a delicious chicken curry that provided a newly arrived Bangladeshi family with a comforting taste of home; and

WHEREAS, Vinita's impact extends far beyond the kitchen, as her volunteer work fosters a spirit of care, dignity, and inclusion in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, commend Vinita for her extraordinary service and dedication to combating hunger, and join with the community in honoring and congratulating Vinita Fernandes as Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County 2025 Hunger Fighter of the Year.



  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

March 6, 2025

Date