

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rotary Club of Long Beach Provides 4,500 meals for LBCC and CSULB Students

“Feeding the Future” Grab & Go event loads local college pantries with food and hygiene bags to assist food-insecure students

Long Beach, CA – On April 17, members of the Rotary Club of Long Beach (RCLB) gathered to create “Grab & Go” bags for Long Beach City College’s (LBCC) Viking Vault and the Beach Pantry at the University of California, Long Beach (CSULB).

As part of their “Feeding the Future” program, Rotarians purchased enough non-perishable food and hygiene supplies to fill 1500 bags, providing 4,500 meals for food-insecure students.

RCLB President, Matt Kinley said, “A couple of years ago, Rotarians became aware that one in four college students were food-insecure, so we began our “Feeding the Future” program to help local college students. Covid-19 has since caused the number of students in need to skyrocket, so this school year we collected 8,420 pounds of non-perishable food in an October food drive and we’ve added this recent spring event.”

“Feeding the Future” co-chairs, Rotarians Wendy Leggett and Leslie Wiberg, along with their teams, partnered with representatives of LBCC’s Viking Vault and CSULB’s Beach Pantry to identify items most needed. Co-chair Wendy Leggett said, “Knowing of specific needs, such as hygiene items, vegetarian meals, and toiletry products helped us to more effectively fulfill students’ requests.”

Co-chair Leslie Wiberg said, “We were able to stretch donor and grant funds with the help of discounts from community partners such as the Grocery Outlet on 7th street, Seal Beach Pavilions, and Dollar Tree. We are also grateful for donations of toiletry items from Doubletree Hotel in Torrance and condiment packets from two Chick-fil-A stores in Long Beach.

LBCC Basic Needs Program Manager Justin Mendez, expressing gratitude to everyone who participated said, “The support from the Rotary Club of Long Beach has had a huge impact on our campus community – the non-food items especially fill a gap and a great need for our students.”

CSULB Development Associate Christina Limon passed along one of many notes of gratitude from a student who said, “...as a single mother and student dealing with the sacrifices of attending grad school, this gift of food has been a blessing.”

Anyone wishing to donate to LBCC or CSULB Pantries can contact them directly:
LBCC Viking Vault: jmendez@lbcc
CSULB Beach Pantry: Christina.Limon@csulb.edu

The Rotary Club of Long Beach is the oldest service club in Long Beach, the largest Rotary Club in District 5320, and among the top 50 in the world. The Club is comprised of approximately 275 Long Beach business and community leaders.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Long Beach: www.rotarylongbeach.org

Photos:

1. (Labeled "Matt") Rotary Club of LB President Matt Kinley; Matt's daughter, Torrie Kinley; and Brian Stirling
- 2.(Labeled "Grab and Go – Leslie-Wendy) Feeding the Future Chairs Leslie Wiberg & Wendy Leggett
- 3.(Labeled "Grab and Go – Mollie) Rotary Past President Mollie Beck

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