

Shari Rightmer

Executive Director, Laborers of the Harvest

Specializing in SB1383 Edible Food Recovery

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Available for Speaking Engagements,
SB1383 Education & Compliance

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Bio

In 2015 I began serving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to hungry people. My efforts were recognized and in 2019 I became the Executive Director of the non-profit organization, Laborers of the Harvest (LOTH).

My previous medical and business development experience has served to help LOTH evolve into an Edible Fresh Food Recovery Program. Our programs have created a unique way of ensuring that healthy, nutritious recovered foods end up on families' tables rather than in landfills. By listening to the public and striving to meet the needs of the "Forgotten Working Hungry", LOTH established Open Harvest. For \$30 per month those who make too much income to qualify for other free food programs and food banks, those who are not yet able to prove citizen status, or those who work in agriculture fields are now able to access fresh, nutritious recovered food.

The Open Harvest Membership Program is designed for ALL to be welcome to shop for anything they select from our market, filling 3 bags (or more) each time they shop. Members can shop a minimum of 8x per month, no questions asked. No one is ever turned away if they cannot afford the membership as we have sponsorship programs and free offerings as well.

Food Recovery, the environment, and being a positive contribution to humanity and communities is my passion which has led me to learn, advocate, and implement the new California Law SB1383.

It has been a dedicated and committed effort to create infrastructures at LOTH from boots on the ground (gathering and gleaning Fresh Foods from Grocery Stores and other Large Generators), to logistics, sorting, cold storage, weighing/reporting/submitting, and distribution of these foods while properly meeting all Environmental Health Department Standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Created training programs and documents for organizations to comply with SB1383 Food Recovery Created training programs for Grocery Stores (EFG) to be compliant and fully prepared when SB1383 Food Recovery State/County/City inspections occur
- Established relationships with jurisdictions to know what to expect to comply with SB1383. Services offered: Training, Reporting, Logistics, Distribution, Consulting, Advising, and Educating.
- Created SB1383 Educational Videos for Grocery Stores (Funded by CalRecycle)
- Speaker and Consultant on SB1383 topics regarding understanding and compliance of SB1383 Edible Food Recovery to Jurisdictions, Grocery Stores (EFG), and Food Recovery Organizations.
- LOTH was awarded a highly competitive grant of \$250K from CalRecycle, the only organization in Kern County for 2022-24

LOTH has a presence in Kern County, Bakersfield, Taft, Arvin and PMC with a unique model of a Fresh Food Market through a \$30 per month membership program
www.laborersoftheharvest.org/open-harvest

LOTH also has many FREE programs for the homeless

SHARI IS A MEMBER OF: Bakersfield Blue Zone Food Policy Council Greater LA Food Recovery Collaborative Food Recovery Collaborative CA CalRecycle Edible Food Recovery California Food Bank Collaborative

LOTH IS PARTNERED WITH:

Kern County's Waste Hunger Not Foods
Vallarta Super Markets
Westside Waste Management
Golden Empire Gleaners