

## Pechanga and Temecula Creek Inn Chefs Step Up at Local Food Bank



Pechanga Chefs Franco Durate-Piza and Marlene Moore unload produce boxes during a volunteer shift at the Community Mission of Hope in Temecula, CA.

Guests are used to seeing Pechanga and Temecula Creek Inn chefs busy in the kitchen. But during August, seven chefs could be found many mornings sorting produce and food donations, and then giving the items to people in need at the Community Mission of Hope food pantry in Temecula.

Collectively, the chefs have spent more than one full day – 24 hours – volunteering at the Temecula food pantry. As millions of Americans told the Census Bureau recently they did not have enough to eat, the chefs say they felt the need to pitch in because it's simply the right thing to do.

“I think this has been going on so long that you can get a little numb to it,” said Matt Steffen, Executive Chef at Temecula Creek Inn & Cork Fire Kitchen, which is not currently open. “So coming down and helping out and seeing this, it energizes you to say, ‘hey this isn’t over, people still need the help, so let’s get out here and help them as much as we can.’”

“I’m doing our small part to make this world a better place so I’m very happy to be doing this,” said Pechanga Chef Marlene Moore. “It’s especially important knowing that the company I work for gives back to the community, especially with everything that’s going on now, it’s just so special, and a privilege.”

The chefs sorted and separated food donations from local grocery stores and the public. They even helped other volunteers spot what produce can be saved and what should go to compost. “We sort everything and build these boxes and drop them in people’s cars. They have a little bit of all the staples you’d need in your pantry – some dairy, bread, vegetables, meat, things like that, so a little bit of everything,” said Steffen.

The chefs are continuing their volunteer hours at the food bank, and Chef Steffen has pledged to make a chef’s lunch for their small army of volunteers.

Pechanga recently provided grants to three local Southwest Riverside County food pantries totaling \$20,000. The funds will help support the pantries as they work to meet the urgent

needs of local families. The beneficiaries include the Community Food Pantry of Murrieta, the HOPE Food Pantry, and the Community Mission of Hope.

## National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Presents Leadership Awards at 2020 Heroes Cup Invitational



Ernest Stevens Jr., Chairman and national spokesperson for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), had an ace up his sleeve at this year’s Heroes Cup, surprising two of the attendees with the coveted Chairman’s Award for Leadership.

Michael Schrader, CEO of Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos, and Jerry Danforth, former Tribal Chairman for the Oneida Nation, were both recognized for their outstanding contributions in the Indian gaming industry. They were joined at the podium with former Chairman Award winners in attendance at the event, including: Tribal Council Member Gayle Ruhl of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe; Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel General Manager Johnny Barrientoz; Gaming Regulator TJ McClellan; and Tribal Councilor Bob Kewaygoskum, all of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Stevens Jr., currently in his ninth two-year term as the NIGA elected leader during which tribal government gaming surpassed commercial gaming to become the largest segment in the United States, presented the awards personally at the charity check presentation and awards ceremony.

Over one hundred Native American golfers and key members of the gaming industry from throughout the country registered for this year’s Heroes Cup at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, raising \$5,000 for the Munson Healthcare COVID-19 Response Fund.

The charity check was presented to Kira Walkup, Event Specialist for the Munson Healthcare Foundation by Ernest Stevens, Jr., Schrader, and Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel General Manager Johnny Barrientoz. The funding will be used to support the emerging needs of Munson Healthcare hospitals and ensures the healthcare team can quickly respond to patient and clinical needs in this time of crisis.

## SciPlay Raises \$82,000 for Direct Relief Through In-App Incentives

SciPlay recently announced its \$82,000 donation to Direct Relief, a humanitarian aid organization active in all 50 states and more than 80 countries, after raising the funds through dynamic, in-app events.

Due to the lack of personal protective equipment available to medical teams during the COVID-19 pandemic, SciPlay launched special, in-app events within the majority of its core games. The intention was to leverage its user base of more than 7.5 million monthly gamers to drive critical donations. The promotions were tailored to gameplay, rewarding players' achievements with donations to Direct Relief. The more game objectives players completed, the more money SciPlay donated.

"Our games serve as a creative reprieve to millions of users around the world," said Josh Wilson, SciPlay's CEO. "I can't think of a better way for our gaming family to give back to the world's essential workers. I'm so proud of both our incredible users and the SciPlay team for working together to raise and donate critical funds to Direct Relief."

Direct Relief has delivered 9,000 shipments to more than 1,700 health care facilities throughout the world. Since January, the organization has delivered more than 12 million N95 and surgical masks, more than 4 million gloves, more than

1 million face shields, tens of thousands of protective suits, and other items to help safeguard health care workers.

## Viejas Casino & Resort Donates 100,000 Masks to Local Schools

Viejas Casino & Resort recently donated 100,000 face masks to the Alpine Union School District. The donation, conceived by the Viejas Tribal Council, is focused on protecting the community and its children. Viejas has a long-standing tradition of community and is proud to support the local schools.

"It's important to the Viejas Tribal membership and also to the Viejas Casino & Resort team that we understand and appreciate the importance of safety in the COVID-19 environment that we're in," Viejas Tribal Vice Chairman Victor Woods stated. "Safety and well-being of the students in class are of paramount importance to us."

Alpine Union School District Superintendent Rich Newman expressed, "The impact that these face masks will have on our school district is huge. This is a year's worth of supply for our students, staff, and our family members that are in need. It also is a huge cost savings to us, and as always, Viejas has been a fantastic partner with us through the years. This is one more example of how they step up for the community and support virtually every need that we have." ♣



**UNLOCK YOUR INNER**

**SUPERHERO**

**RED WAGON INSTITUTE**

At Red Wagon Institute, our leadership courses are designed to monumentally change people and businesses. We help managers transform into leaders with workshops that help create superheroes who can reach any target they set their eyes on. What are you waiting for? Let's build leaders throughout your business.

**START NOW AT [REDWAGONINSTITUTE.COM](http://REDWAGONINSTITUTE.COM)**