



PRESS RELEASE

See attached graphic.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hardy Diagnostics' Employees Donate Five Tons of Food to Feed the Hungry

The company has matched the employees' donations.



Hardy Diagnostics' Community Action Committee. L-R Chris Park, Butch Torres, Terri Djafroodi, Vanessa Robertson. Photo by Christine Casey

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, July 31 – Hardy Diagnostics' Community Action Committee ran a food drive this month to benefit people in Santa Maria who struggle with food insecurity.

Susanna Estrada, one of the Community Action Committee team members said, "Participating in the annual food drive is something that I always look forward to. It's important to remember and actively work to help those who are in need, and I'm proud to work for a company that understands this and encourages us to give back to our community."

The Community Action Committee gamified the drive by dividing the company into teams. The team with the most donations was entered into a drawing for prizes.

The Salvation Army provided bins that the Community Action Committee placed around the company with lists of the items that are most needed. Employees donated over 1,800 food items and over \$1,000 cash, these donations were matched dollar-for-dollar by the company. The monetary donations were used to

purchase an additional 7,500 pounds of rice and beans bringing the total amount of food donated to more than 5 tons!

Estrada went on to say, "This year's food drive was especially fun because I was able to take my daughter and three grandchildren around the neighborhood and collect food for the drive. I feel that it helped raise awareness in my neighborhood and the kids were able to learn the importance of giving. I'm looking forward to the next opportunity to team up with my coworkers at Hardy, my family, and the Salvation Army and give back to my community."

Hardy Diagnostics is 100% employee-owned. Through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan, or ESOP, employees are granted stock in their company every year at no cost to them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS - Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata after they completed their Medical Technology training in the laboratory at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Hardy Diagnostics manufactures over 2,700 different products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi. Among its offerings are products used to culture and detect pathogens commonly reported in the news, such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, *Listeria*, MRSA, and Influenza. In addition, the company manufactures reagents and media for use by molecular biology researchers. Over 9,000 laboratories throughout the nation rely on Hardy Diagnostics for their supplies.

Today, Hardy Diagnostics employs 400 workers and maintains nine distribution centers throughout the U.S. Manufacturing takes place both at its headquarters in Santa Maria, California and at a facility in Springboro, Ohio. The company also exports products through over 65 foreign distributors. The company's mission is to "partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease." For more information, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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