

Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest Representative

You guys are our most important corporate partner. There is no question about that.

You are our largest partner, and you have found ways to partner with us that are so creative, and so interesting, and in so many different ways we work together.

Well, financially, you have been a tremendous supporter of Second Harvest. This year, in the Holiday Food and Fund Drive you raised, I believe, about 1.2 million dollars. And that came from individual employees; it came through the Cisco Match.

You are our largest and, I will tell you, most reliable source of volunteers. 1,600 volunteers in the past year were Cisco volunteers at the Food Bank.

What are Cisco Partners and Volunteers like? Competitive. Oh, my gosh! Unbelievable. So, not only do you give a lot and give high quality when you give, there's this whole different dimension going on. And I had the opportunity to participate in a food sort this Fall, with Cisco employees, and with your senior management. We have Commander John Morgridge, and in the other line we have Commander John Chambers. Well, first of all, the catcalling and the friendly abuse back-and-forth between the lines was extraordinary. I think in an hour and 40 minutes, more than 20,000 pounds of food got boxed up. But, they also managed to re-engineer the boxes, while they were going down the line.

"Wouldn't it be better if we put the vegetables in here?" Slam, go in the vegetables.

"Uh, you're breaking the pasta."

So, the boxes got re-engineered. Actually, a few of the changes that got made got incorporated into how we actually build some of those boxes now.

So, I mean, unbelievable! The competition, the spirit, the energy, and just the ability to improve our processes, real-time, when you come in and are supposedly just learning them was really spectacular.

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