

Seeds of Hope  
keeps on  
growing

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## FOOD JUSTICE MINISTRY

# Seeds of Hope 'movement' inspires hope, vision, action

**a**s Seeds of Hope enters its sixth year, the diocesan food justice ministry just keeps on growing.

The ministry — and executive director Tim Alderson, a fifth-generation California farmer — feature prominently in *L.A. Foodways*, a documentary film that explores the Southland's agricultural legacy, current food waste challenges and opportunities to bring fresh foods to urban areas.

The documentary, which premiered Jan. 30 at the Beverly Hills Laemmle Fine Arts Theater, tells the story of Los Angeles County's shift from "the biggest farming community in the U.S." to one where millions regularly experience food insecurity. Following the screening, Alderson joined other experts for a panel discussion.

It aired Feb. 6 on KCET-TV, Southern California's public television station. "I'm excited," Alderson said of the project. "It's a really important documentary, and it will become a six-episode web series that will live on KCET's website" ([bit.ly/KCET\\_LAFoodways](http://bit.ly/KCET_LAFoodways)).

With blossoming partnerships, plans to train master gardeners and horticultural therapists, development of a "Seeds of Hope Toolkit" and the launch of a faith-based diabetes prevention program, Alderson has a lot to be excited about these days.

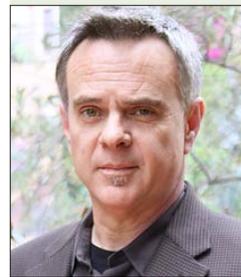
Seeds of Hope's five full-time and two part-time staffers — and throngs of volunteers — currently assist in urban gardening workshops and cooking, nutrition and health-related classes and food recovery efforts. About 80 percent of diocesan congregations and two-thirds of diocesan affiliated schools also participate in growing and/or distributing food.

Some of the results of their efforts:

- ◆ 350,000 pounds or 2.8 million servings of fresh produce per year;
- ◆ One million pounds or 8 million servings of fresh produce per year through food recovery partnerships;
- ◆ 30,000 households receive fresh produce through food pantries each month;
- ◆ 30,000 prepared meals at feeding programs.



SEEDS OF HOPE PHOTO



"We define 'food justice' as universal, affordable access to basic nutrition," said Alderson. "Our commitment to food justice has become an essential part of our identity in this diocese."

### **L.A. Foodways: from food insecurity to 'hope, vision, action'**

Aware that 2.5 million people in the metro area, including 1.5 million in Los Angeles county alone, are food insecure — meaning they do not know where they will get their next meal — actor-turned-film director Raphael Sbage wanted to make a film to move people to hope, vision and action.

He also hoped to inspire viewers "to understanding, so that we can bring compassion to an issue that is not going to go away. It has to be faced head-on, and we have to find solutions," he told *The Episcopal News*.

Then he met Tim Alderson at an orchard gleaning where volunteers were recovering oranges to be donated to food pantries.

"I had known the story of food waste, that 40 percent of our food is thrown away. It's horrifying," recalled Sbage, best known for his roles as Archie Hopper/Jiminy Cricket in the *Once Upon a Time* television series and Kaidan Alenko in the *Mass Effect* video game trilogy. Between 2014 and 2016, he portrayed Inspector David Molk in the TNT series *Murder in the First*.

"I had a picture of a story (continued next page)

Food justice  
ministry is  
featured  
in KCET  
documentary  
series

By Pat McCaughan

*At top:* Elyse Wegner of the Seeds of Hope staff (right) and a volunteer work in the Edendale Grove garden next to the Cathedral Center in Echo Park (Los Angeles). *Above left:* Tim Alderson, executive director of Seeds of Hope, is featured in a new KCET documentary on California food supplies directed by Raphael Sbage, *right*.