



## IMPERIAL COUNTY AREA EXECUTIVE OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Imperial County Board of Supervisors & Area Agency on Aging Recognize ARC, Brownie's Diner, and Rosa's Plane Food for Supporting the Senior Nutrition Program**

May 19, 2021 – Yesterday, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and the Imperial County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) recognized ARC-Imperial Valley, Brownie's Diner, and Rosa's Plane Food for their support of senior citizens of the Imperial County through their work with the Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the pandemic and local health orders, all local Senior Nutrition Congregate Sites were forced to close for in-person dining in order to protect our senior population and prevent the spread of the virus. Despite this obstacle and others, the AAA experienced no gap in services and worked extensively to feed seniors throughout the Imperial County while seeing the demand for the SNP tripling in size. Through a partnership with ARC-Imperial Valley, Brownie's Diner, and Rosa's Plane Food, 997 seniors were provided a hot, nutritious, home delivered meal five days a week while statewide and local stay-at-home orders were in place.

During the pandemic, ARC-Imperial Valley provided 36,473 meals to 304 seniors in El Centro, Imperial, Holtville, and Heber; Brownie's Diner provided 23,233 meals for 181 seniors in Brawley; and Rosa's Plane Food provided 41,906 meals to 512 seniors in Calexico.

Sarah Enz, Acting Imperial County Public Administrator/AAA Director, stated, "Nutrition plays a key part in our seniors' health and wellbeing. ARC-Imperial Valley, Brownie's Diner and Rosa's Plane Food stepped in to assist the AAA at a time when seniors were in their greatest need. Between the three restaurants, over 100,000 meals were delivered to Imperial County seniors in need. The restaurant staff provided much more than just meals. They provided a friendly face to seniors who were struggling with isolation and the stress of a global pandemic. They checked in on seniors whose family members were unable to. They showed care and compassion to our County's most vulnerable, and for that we are most grateful."

"The County of Imperial and our Board of Supervisors are grateful to ARC and these local restaurants, as well as all our local non-profits and business community for assisting those most in need, when they themselves were also struggling during this pandemic," added Chairman of the Board, Michael E. Kelley. "Once again, this shows that the communities across our County continue to be strong, united, and here for one another despite the circumstances."

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The Imperial County Area Agency on Aging offers a variety of services for seniors, age 60 or older, throughout the Imperial County. These services include home delivered meals, respite care, legal advice, and much more. For additional information regarding the SNP and any of the services provided by the AAA or additional information on what is being done to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, please call (442) 265-7033 or toll-free at 1-800-510-2020. You may also find additional information by visiting their website at [www.aaa24.org](http://www.aaa24.org).

[Attachments]



*(L-R) Chairman Mike Kelley; Art Santos, Executive Officer of ARC-Imperial Valley; Alex King, Director of Economic Development of ARC; Sarah Enz, Acting Public Administrator/AAA Director; Madeline Dessert, AAA Fiscal Manager*



*(L-R) Supervisors Jesus Escobar & Ryan Kelley; Chairman Mike Kelley; Juanita & Gabriel Rebollar, owners of Brownie's Diner; Sarah Enz, Acting Public Administrator/AAA Director; Madeline Dessert, AAA Fiscal Manager; Supervisor Luis Plancarte*

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