

# 2026 Woman of the Year

## Michele Bassi

Michele Bassi has been a longstanding member of the Santa Cruz County community for decades. After 32 years in banking, she followed her passion for serving others and is now the Chief Development Officer for Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County. She has led the development team in record-breaking fund-raising efforts and is excited about the future of Second Harvest. She spent 22 years at Wells Fargo Bank and was most recently a Senior Vice President at 1<sup>st</sup> Capital Bank. Michele's community involvement includes serving as Board President of Cabrillo College Foundation, Past President of Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Foundation, former Board Member of Nonprofit Connection Santa Cruz and a Past President and Board Member of Capitola Aptos Rotary. Michele has also served as President of both Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County and was a founding Board Member of Digital NEST. Michele's dedication to community service has earned her numerous awards, including the Woman of the Year Award from the Aptos Chamber of Commerce in 2018, Be The Difference Award from the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County in 2019 and 2023 as well as Community Champion Award in 2021 and Sweetheart Award in 2019 from Meals on Wheels. She has also been recognized as one of the 15 Women to know in Santa Cruz County in 2025. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from California State University, Fresno and a graduate degree in banking from Pacific Coast Banker School/University of Washington (2020).

