making the Costco run

AKIHABARA, TOKYO

IT’LL TAKE AROUND HALF AN HOUR TO GET TO COSTCO, SO YOU’VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO FINISH THAT COFFEE.

THOUGH YOU DIDN’T BRING ONE FOR ME, I SEE.
No one likes to throw away perfectly safe, edible food ... but they are entrusting us with their brand and identity.

Actually, we’ll stop off en route to pick up bread from another company.

Ah, so it’s not just Costco we’re picking up from?

No, we have a number of donors.

The challenge is creating trusting relationships so food companies feel comfortable donating.

Is it difficult to find food donors?

You sure they’re expecting us?!

Can’t see a thing. Window’s all fogged up.

... but they are entrusting us with their brand and identity.

You sure they’re expecting us?!
Frozen bread rolls?
Yes, European-style sandwich rolls. Quite good!

... and if you'd just sign there.
We'll stack these up here, and drive around the corner to pick up more bread from a different warehouse.

By the end of the morning, this truck will be full, so we've got to pack everything efficiently.

This place is huge.

Sure is!

I'd hate to work here though, in the frozen food business, it's always wintertime!
Second Harvest has several other freezer trucks, right? At this stop it looks as though we’re getting dinner rolls and pastries. Though I guess they must have a bakery somewhere that’s a bit warmer. Hang on, I’m just double-checking you’re getting the right stuff. We’ve got plenty of freezer storage, but most of this stuff will go straight back out to our partner distribution agencies. Yeah, we do. Four years ago Nu Skin Japan donated a refrigerator/freezer truck to us, and that’s allowed us to distribute ice cream, for example to tsunami victims in Tohoku. The kids must have loved that. Though I would have liked to have been up there giving it out. Me too. Great, thanks.
And finally, off to Costco... we pick up from them six mornings a week.

What sort of things do they donate?

What they give us varies from day to day. Basically, we just show up, and they bring out what they have.

So today I've got no idea at all what we'll get.

Looks like we've got more bread! Not frozen this time.

And plenty of fruit!
Wow, Sonoda-san, I see you were right about the truck being full when we leave! I've got one more pallet to bring out to you.

Lots of vegetables here! Green peppers, carrots and tomatoes. And melons and pears! This stuff looks great!

All this food is making me hungry for lunch!

Well, we're done, so we'll be back at the office soon. And lunch after that. I'll just sign out and we'll hit the road.
Yes, thanks. See you tomorrow!

Got everything loaded, Sonoda-san?

That's pretty much the routine every morning.

Now we head back to the office and split the stuff up to go out this afternoon to our distribution partners.

By donating to Second Harvest, companies save disposal and return costs. Last year our donors saved around ¥80 million.

They benefit from a corporate social responsibility standpoint as well. Last year our partners donated more than ¥480 million of food to us.

And finally, their employees feel better about not wasting food and helping others.

The phrase 'win-win' is overused, but the way I see it, food banking is win-win-win!
Second Harvest Japan provides a helping hand when people need one, and we all need one now and then. If you’d like to get involved, we’d love to have your help in supporting our community. Visit www.2hj.org to learn more, and to find out how you can help.

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