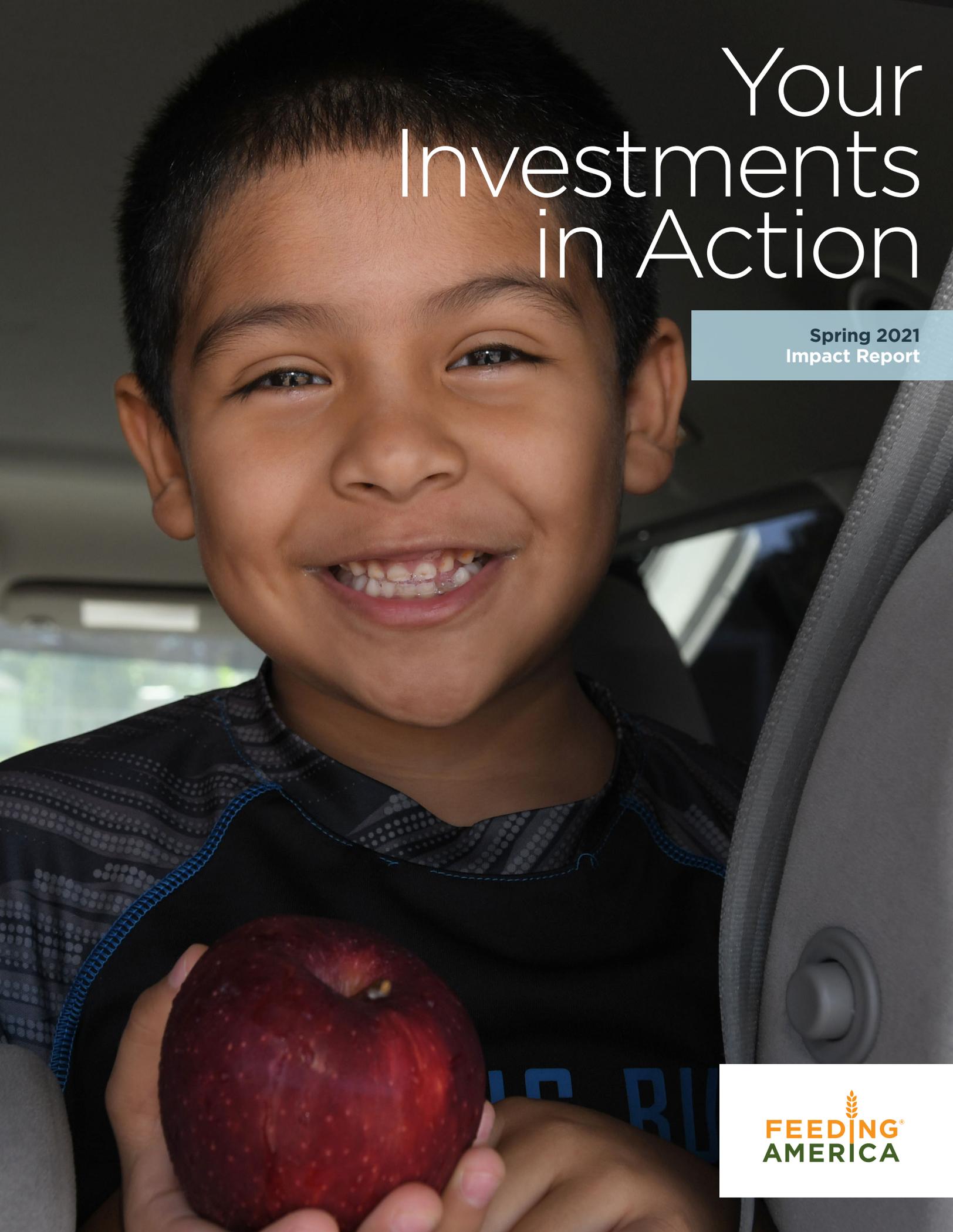


Your Investments in Action

Spring 2021
Impact Report

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark hair, smiling broadly. He is holding a large, ripe red apple with both hands. He is wearing a dark-colored shirt with a blue patterned collar. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be the interior of a vehicle.

FEEDING
AMERICA

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

ACCELERATING OUR HUNGER-RELIEF WORK

Our collective focus rests on serving our neighbors in vulnerable communities across the U.S.—with acute attention to reaching people facing greatest risk and deepest need. We estimate approximately 42 million people—one in eight individuals in America—could experience food insecurity in 2021 due to the ongoing economic fallout from COVID-19. As the vaccine rollout continues, we know it will be a long road for millions of people to recover economically from the pandemic. The unsettling truth is that many of the people most impacted by COVID-19 were food insecure or at risk before the crisis—and now face greater hardship.



Babineaux-Fontenot greets a fellow volunteer at a College of Lake County pop-up market, hosted by Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The only way forward is together, with a shared commitment and focus to end hunger in our country. We need only look at the past year to see the type of impact we can achieve when that very thing occurs: With your support, the Feeding America network provided more than 6 billion meals to neighbors facing hunger last year. The need continues to be great. That's why we're accelerating our efforts to address disparities and advance solutions that focus inordinately on people most impacted by food insecurity. We launched the [Food Security Equity Impact Fund](#) to help communities of color, known to be disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and the pandemic.

We at Feeding America deeply value your partnership. When we band together, tremendous change abounds for the people we serve—and we move closer to an America where no is hungry.

Your partner in fighting hunger,



Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HELP PEOPLE LIKE NANCY

Nancy is a mother and the lone provider for her family of five, including three children. She's a housekeeper and the family relies on her income to support them and provide for the essentials.

To help make sure her family has the nourishing meals they need, Nancy visits a food pantry, hosted by Long Island Cares, Inc. in New York, a member of the Feeding America network of food banks.

"I've been coming three months to get food here," Nancy said. "I can spend money to pay my bills, so this is helping a lot for my family."

Nancy's youngest child, Matthew, was set to return to school, but only for two days a week. The food pantry has been a saving grace for Nancy as she supports her family during the challenging times wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nancy said she's grateful for the food pantry volunteers, always welcoming whenever she visits. "They're nice people—they're here all the time," she said.

"This is helping out a lot. It's only me working [to support] three children."



Generous gifts from donors like you help ensure that people like Nancy and her family have the nourishing food they need.

DEMAND FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE
REMAINS ELEVATED, WITH FOOD BANKS
REPORTING AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF

55%

EVOLVING THE NEIGHBOR EXPERIENCE

Feeding America is committed to delivering an equitable and dignified experience to the people we serve. In January, we completed phase one of “Reimagining the Neighbor Experience,” an initiative to develop a multi-year roadmap of solutions to enhance the charitable food experience, in partnership with the people we serve, member food banks and agencies. We used a design-research approach, keeping neighbors’ voices and experiences at the center of this work through in-depth interviews and diary studies, with a focus on communities of color. The research explored our neighbors’ current journeys and experiences with food—both from charitable and other sources—to inspire and inform how the charitable food experience needs to evolve to meet their needs.

The first phase resulted in a portfolio of prioritized concepts that we will be further co-developing, testing and implementing in partnership with the network. One concept includes embedding benefit enrollment in existing digital neighbor touchpoints like OrderAhead—our first direct-to-neighbor digital platform—to make it a seamless experience for people seeking charitable food and enrolling in benefits.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Millions more people are turning to the Feeding America network to help put food on their tables. Your support makes it possible for network members to respond to the increased demand and helps chart a lasting path to an America where no one is hungry.



POWERING SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT NETWORK FOOD BANKS

In response to the heightened spotlight on food insecurity and unprecedented donor response, Feeding America launched CHARGE 2021, a six-month initiative to support food bank leadership teams as they make critical decisions about navigating the ongoing pandemic and plan for the future of their organizations. A team of consultants is leveraging internal and external expertise to generate webinars, toolkits and other resources on a variety of timely member-generated topics. Thus far, more than 600 participants have convened to improve stakeholder communication, learn about sourcing food in a rapidly evolving market and share strategies for building and sustaining resilient organizational cultures.



ADVOCATING FOR NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER

The Feeding America network advocated for Congress to prioritize people facing hunger during this difficult time. In March 2021, Congress passed a COVID-19 relief bill that includes vital nutrition investments that will help the people we serve: extension of the 15% Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits boost; \$3.6 billion for the Department of Agriculture to purchase and distribute food to people in need; extension of the Pandemic EBT program; and temporary increase of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, which could reduce child poverty by 50%.



DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 42 million people—one in eight individuals in America—could experience food insecurity in 2021 due to the ongoing economic fallout from COVID-19. This includes 13 million children in the U.S. You can learn more in the latest Feeding America research study, *[The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity in 2020 and 2021](#)*, which provides a snapshot of [food insecurity at the national level](#) leading up to the pandemic, what transpired in the first year, and what may happen in this next year and beyond.



LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

COVID-19 has exacerbated the need for timely data across all areas of our work—particularly data and insights about the people we serve. To maximize network resources and work toward meeting our collective need of having more timely neighbor insights now and into the future, a new no-cost Service Insights platform will be available to all network members in late 2021. The optional platform will allow more food banks and partner agencies to process neighbor intakes electronically and enhance our understanding of how to provide for the neighbors we serve.



LOCALIZING EFFORTS TO MEET NUTRITION NEEDS

In March, Feeding America published the *Nutrition in Food Banking Toolkit*, a resource to support food banks and food pantry programs' work to address food insecurity and the overlapping challenges posed by structural inequities often preventing the selection and consumption of nutritious foods. We are awarding \$1.2 million in grants to support three dozen network food banks' implementation of the toolkit which focuses on improving accuracy and understanding of nutritious food rankings, developing nutrition-related intercultural competence and achieving nutrition policies that support the nutritional needs of community members experiencing food insecurity.

DR. JANET VARGO: WHY I SUPPORT FEEDING AMERICA

For the last decade, Dr. Janet Vargo has been a champion in the fight to end hunger.

Dr. Vargo advises companies and negotiates with regulatory bodies on clinical trial designs and regulatory strategies for innovative, state-of-the-art devices, diagnostics, biomarkers, biologics and combination products.

Through Vargo Regulatory and Clinical Consulting, LLC, Dr. Vargo donates to Feeding America. Food waste is a major concern for Dr. Vargo, as an estimated 72 billion pounds of food are thrown away in the U.S. each year. After researching nonprofits, she came across Feeding America's work and was impressed by the sustainable approaches we take to utilize food that already exists and transport it to our neighbors in need. With the support of donors like Dr. Vargo, we connect with food industry partners to rescue food across all points of the supply chain, including farmers, agri-processors, manufacturers and distributors, retail grocers and restaurants, convenience stores and cafés.

"I can trust Feeding America to best turn my dollars into food going to the people who really need it," Dr. Vargo said. To date, Dr. Vargo has provided the equivalent of more than 725,000 meals to help people in communities nationwide.



FROM THE FRONT LINES

Thanks to your support, the Feeding America network has been able to innovate and build new relationships—which has been crucial during the pandemic to meet the increased need—to make sure neighbors, including seniors, receive nourishing meals. Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County (Sharon, PA) implemented a new program to create and deliver fresh, frozen meals to populations at high risk of hunger, including seniors and individuals who are homebound, experiencing disabilities or are affected

by the isolation due to pandemic restraints; many of the people live alone in rural areas. Across the country, FIND Food Bank (Indio, CA) paired with a limousine and transportation company to launch a home delivery program that, after initially targeting seniors, people with disabilities and people who are homebound, has expanded to reach remote, isolated, food-insecure locations, low-income housing facilities, mobile home parks and other areas experiencing need and access barriers.



AT OUR CORE

EXAMINING THE INTERSECTION OF HUNGER, HEALTH AND EQUITY

Food insecurity impacts every community in the U.S., yet communities of color experience significantly higher rates and negative health outcomes compared to their white peers. Feeding America's Health Equity Action League (HEAL) developed resources to highlight the intersection of hunger, health and equity in marginalized communities. The first set of foundational briefs in the "At First Glance" series describes food and health disparities within [Black](#), [Latino](#) and [Native American](#) communities, and offers suggestions on actions that organizations can take to advance health equity.



YOUR GIFT FIGHTS HUNGER WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

When back-to-back winter storms Uri and Viola caused record snowfall and frigid temperatures that left millions of people in the southern U.S. without heat, electricity and drinking water, donors like you helped the Feeding America network respond. Your support helped Feeding America



Staff and volunteers at Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana staff and volunteers distributed 1,300 meals to people facing hunger during the winter storm

move 108 truckloads of relief supplies to network members in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Kentucky—representing nearly 3.5 million pounds of much-needed food and water for people in affected communities. Partner state association Feeding Texas and member food banks in Texas accessed over 118 truckloads of water and ready-to-eat meals to distribute to neighbors with support from county and state governments.

VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU ADVANCE OUR MISSION

Feeding America depends on the generosity and commitment of volunteers. As April is National Volunteer Month, we celebrate everyone who shares their time to help make sure our neighbors have the nourishing meals they need. Before the pandemic, the food bank network relied on 2 million volunteers each month. Due to COVID-19-related safety and health concerns, 60% of member food banks are accepting and in need of volunteers.



WITH GRATITUDE

Together, with your support, the Feeding America network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs continues to work each day to provide nourishing meals to neighbors in need. We've accomplished a tremendous amount, especially since the onset of the pandemic, but the need remains great. That's why we're accelerating our work to address inequities and advance solutions to bring us closer to an America where no one is hungry. Thank you for joining us in our fight to end hunger.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

1 Consider continuing your commitment to hunger relief with a gift to Feeding America in your estate plan. For more information, contact Jessica Noe at plannedgiving@feedingamerica.org or 312-641-5593.

2 It's easy to support hunger relief right in your own community. To find your local food bank, visit feedingamerica.org, click on "Find a Food Bank" and type in your ZIP code.

3 It's been an historic year in hunger relief, and you are an important partner in the fight to end hunger. This 2-minute video and 45-minute recorded webinar featuring Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot and food bank leadership highlight Feeding America's COVID-19 Response: Where We Stand One Year Later.

Video: <https://bit.ly/32bWdpJ>

Recorded Webinar: <https://bit.ly/3dNjS5d>

Password: oneyear



161 North Clark Street
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601

1627 I Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006

800.771.2303
www.feedingamerica.org

Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks that feeds more than 40 million people through food pantries and meal programs in communities across America and leads the nation in the fight against hunger.

**Support Feeding America and help solve hunger.
Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate.**