

Your Investments in Action

Spring 2022
Impact Report




**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Babineaux-Fontenot volunteers at Philabundance (Philadelphia, PA), a Feeding America network food bank.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

In my travels to communities across the country, I have seen and felt the power of what supporters like you help the Feeding America network achieve. Together, we help millions of neighbors who experience food insecurity receive the food they need, from people who live many miles from a grocery store to neighbors whose closest market is unattainable due to lack of transportation and other challenges. In addition to generous donations of food and funds and using your voice to lift our advocacy efforts, many of you take time to provide meals at a mobile market or stock shelves at a food pantry. **As April is National Volunteer Month, this is a time to pause and celebrate our volunteers nationwide—a critical lifeline of the Feeding America network.**

Some volunteers visit occasionally whenever they can steal a minute away from a crowded schedule; others are as consistent as staff members and provide essential coverage that allows the network to channel the savings directly into vital local food needs. Unfortunately, food banks in the U.S. have experienced volunteer shortages since the pandemic began and the Omicron surge dealt another blow—about 80% of network members report a need* for more help.

We know the reality of hunger persists for tens of millions of people in the U.S., but we also know that by working together with a relentless focus, we can improve equitable food access for people, especially neighbors in disproportionately impacted communities. We are thankful for the collective support that hunger-relief donors and partners like you provide year-round and we celebrate the hours, days and, in many cases, years that our volunteers have dedicated to our mission.

Your partner in fighting hunger,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
Chief Executive Officer, Feeding America

*Find your [local food bank](#) to learn about volunteer opportunities, as well as the most pressing hunger-relief needs in your area.

THE FEEDING AMERICA NETWORK HELPS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, LIKE SARAH

Like tens of millions of people across the United States, Sarah had never experienced food insecurity or visited a food pantry before the pandemic.

“I never even had to worry about it,” she said.

That changed when Sarah was laid off from her job as a restaurant manager in the wake of the pandemic. While her husband still works in landscaping, he hasn’t received a paycheck in a while. To help make sure they had the food they needed, Sarah visited a food pantry for the first time—she was one of many people in America who had never sought charitable food assistance.

“This food is a miracle for me, honestly,” Sarah said.

The food Sarah receives from a partner food pantry of **Forgotten Harvest** (Oak Park, Michigan), a member of the Feeding America network, is helping her focus on finding a new job and not worry about how her family will put meals on the table.

“The extra food is a big relief,” she said. “We haven’t seen this much food in a long time. It makes a difference.”

“This food is a miracle for me, honestly.”



Sarah is able to put meals on the table with food she receives from her local pantry, thanks to caring supporters like you.

NEW NATIONAL PSAs URGE PUBLIC TO HELP END HUNGER

Feeding America launched its latest public service announcements (PSAs) in March to raise awareness about hunger in the United States. **“The Truth About Hunger”** features **Feeding America Entertainment Council member, actress and activist Shanola Hampton**, who volunteered her time and talent to encourage people to help the tens of millions of neighbors experiencing food insecurity and support the Feeding America network. **Three versions** of the PSA (15-second, 30-second and 60-second clips) are available.

The PSAs feature handwritten letters inspired by real-life stories of people served by the Feeding America network to illustrate the difficult choices that neighbors who experience food insecurity often have to make, including skipping meals to ensure their children have food to eat. This is the second PSA in a series that launched in 2021; the first PSA featured actress Connie Britton.

You can view the PSAs [here](#).



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Every year, the Feeding America network helps provide meals to millions of neighbors in the U.S. Along with supporters like you who are committed to helping end hunger, member food banks are able to chart a lasting path to an America where no one is hungry.

EXECUTING A STRATEGIC MULTI-DONOR APPROACH TO GRANTMAKING THAT CENTERS NEIGHBORS AND FOOD BANKS

As Feeding America's work has evolved, we are prioritizing providing nutritious food to people experiencing the highest rates of food insecurity, with a focus on communities of color and/or people living in rural areas. Thanks to multi-donor support, 30 network food banks were awarded Equitable Food Access grants.

By pooling multiple donor grant opportunities with a similar goal of improving equitable access to food, we can more efficiently execute donor investments and increase impact for people disproportionately affected by hunger through integrated approaches. Moving forward, we will collaborate with 10 grantees to help shape the future of this opportunity.

Special thanks to General Mills, Morgan Stanley and an anonymous donor for supporting this grant opportunity.

The issue of hunger is especially challenging for millions of seniors in the U.S. given the unique health, economic and nutritional challenges that can come with aging. Thanks to multi-donor support for senior hunger, Feeding America can support existing or new network senior hunger programs that emphasize equity and food access. In February, 46 network food banks gathered virtually to share highlights and successes following a 15-month multi-donor senior hunger grant period. Members discussed accessible and creative initiatives to better serve seniors, including partnering with meal delivery services, building on-site pantries at senior housing communities and offering virtual cooking and nutrition education classes.

Special thanks to Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation and an anonymous donor for supporting this work.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the U.S., nearly 12 million children do not know where their next meal will come from. For children who live in rural counties, child hunger is more pervasive: 86% of counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity are rural. In addition, Black children are nearly three times as likely, and Latino children are more than two times as likely to face hunger than their white classmates. Child nutrition waivers help schools and community providers make sure kids, including children whose families are disproportionately impacted by hunger, receive the food they need. However, without Congressional action, child nutrition waivers are set to expire June 30, 2022.

Take 2 minutes to urge Congress to take action and extend child nutrition waivers:
<https://bit.ly/3LMiboS>

STRENGTHENING HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS THE NETWORK

Reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes are integral components of Feeding America's health equity strategy. In January 2022, our Health Systems Innovation team launched cohort two of its **Health Equity in Food Banking training, a six-month series designed to embed equity as a core function for food bank-health care partnerships** and support continued learning and development around the intersections of hunger, health and equity. Thanks to donor generosity, 40 network food banks and members of Feeding America's national office staff are collaborating to advance health equity in the charitable food sector to meet neighbors where they are.

Special thanks to Bank of America and CVS Health for supporting this work.

ENHANCING OUR TEAM TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER

With the support of donors like you, food banks are able to purchase staple pantry items that aren't donated regularly, like cereal, peanut butter and vegetables—and they're able to do so at lower-than-retail prices. To best position the Feeding America network to **increase food access at low cost and yield more meals for families facing hunger**, our Grocery Purchasing Program is now wholly executed by an in-house team. This new model, which went into effect March 1, strengthens our support of cross-functional strategic goals to improve outcomes for the neighbors served by the network.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ELISABETH AND RICHARD WAUGAMAN: WHY WE SUPPORT FEEDING AMERICA

Elisabeth and Richard Waugaman had been longtime hunger-relief champions, supporting local food banks near their home in Potomac, Maryland. Driven to amplify their impact, the Waugamans sought ways to help people experiencing food insecurity beyond their region. That's when Elisabeth and Richard turned their focus to supporting Feeding America.

"We have long been impressed by the stellar work done by Feeding America," Richard said. "We have donated to local food banks for decades, but we wanted to help people facing hunger nationwide."

Members of our **van Hengel Society**, the Waugamans said there are several reasons they choose to support Feeding America, including the strategic and efficient programs that serve people experiencing food insecurity and our strong partnerships with



Photo credit: Garrett Waugaman

corporations and organizations committed to ending hunger in our country.

"It is a way to help support the millions of people in America experiencing food insecurity who turn to the Feeding America network for the meals they need," said Richard, of the Waugamans' charitable gift annuities with Feeding America.

FROM THE FRONT LINES

Grocery Store on Wheels Drives Hunger Relief for Neighbors



Feeding South Florida developed the Mobile FARMacy to help eliminate the issue of transportation so that more neighbors facing hunger have access to produce and other healthy foods.

One of the largest barriers that neighbors face when it comes to accessing fresh, nutritious food is transportation. It's a particular issue for populations like children and seniors, as children rely on adults to drive them and seniors face mobility, health and income issues that make driving difficult.

Feeding South Florida (Pembroke Park, FL) is addressing neighbors' transportation challenges head on with its **Mobile FARMacy**, a mini grocery store housed inside a trailer that is pulled by a pickup truck. **The Mobile FARMacy visits South Florida neighborhoods four days a week and provides an air-conditioned grocery store experience, filled with fresh produce, protein, dairy and healthy items for neighbors.** It operates as part of the food bank's "Food is Medicine" initiatives.

The Mobile FARMacy reduces geographical and affordability barriers, embraces diversity with cultural food selections, and addresses social isolation by providing a mobile alternative. The FARMacy makes regular stops at health care clinics, where providers can screen patients for food security and prescribe nutritious food as medicine.

The Mobile FARMacy also brings communities' farmers' market produce for purchase; the unit accepts Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, debit cards and cash. While clinics are currently the primary locations, the FARMacy's mobility allows for travel to community events, health fairs, senior sites and college campuses.



NUTRITIOUS FOOD "PRESCRIPTIONS" FOR HEALTHY LIVES

A neighbor named Jerry visited his physician for a post-surgery checkup and received a "prescription" to the Mobile FARMacy. Mindful of his dietary restrictions, Jerry focused on fresh foods like peppers and sweet potatoes as well as non-perishables. "[My roommate] had to get most of the food lately, but I can add to it after this," said Jerry, as he left with food that could support his recovery.

AT OUR CORE

Investing to Fight Food Insecurity at the Local Level

Feeding America is committed to addressing the social, structural and system inequities that are significant contributors to hunger and poverty within our country. We are acutely focused on helping populations inordinately impacted by hunger through the distribution of grants to Feeding America network food banks and other capacity-building programs that advance equity at the local level.

We established the **Food Security Equity Impact Fund** with \$20 million in seed funding in March 2021 to drive investments to communities of color known to be disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and the pandemic. **The first round of equity grants—totaling \$5 million to at least 10 communities—will be deployed in June 2022.** A potential grant proposal idea could include building or expanding local food system infrastructure via access to land, equipment, technology and facilities for persons of color-led food producers and distributors.

During the past year, we've spent time meeting with and hearing from leaders of color who are at the helm of community-based organizations to learn from their perspectives the challenges and opportunities related to systems, resources, and reach and influence. Similar conversations were held with Feeding America network CEOs and our Ending Hunger Community of Practice, focused on identifying and replicating solutions that

increase the financial well-being of families facing hunger. Based on our collective learnings, we believe that if flexible resources are made available to organizations led by and centered for people of color to address the root causes of food insecurity, and trusted relationships are facilitated, we can improve food security at the local level.

We know we cannot end hunger alone and we are dedicated to convening more people to join us to create an America where no one is hungry. Beginning in July 2022, Feeding America will co-create a learning-and-reporting protocol with each grantee that is mutually beneficial and emphasizes reflection, insight sharing, accountability and growth. We'll also continue relationship building with people of color-led and centered-for networks that are focused on food justice and food sovereignty.

Feeding America's equity strategy is designed to identify and act on racial and geographic disparities to ensure that all people, at all times, have access to the fundamental resources they need to reach their full potential.



A SEASON FOR CHANGE

As spring is here, many people will take this time to start planning a garden. Did you know that 80% of home gardeners grow more fresh food than they can use? For gardeners who find themselves with a plentiful bounty, one solution to avoid food waste is to donate the extra produce to a local food pantry. We're grateful to people who choose this simple and efficient alternative, helping families round out healthy meals at home. Please only **donate food** that is high enough quality that you would eat. **[Learn how you can grow a garden that fights hunger.](#)**

WAYS TO ENGAGE

- ▶ **Feeding America's "Elevating Voices, Ending Hunger" podcast has new episodes, including the March conversation** between podcast host and Feeding America Chief Equity Officer Ami McReynolds and leaders from WANDA, an organization building a movement of women and girls of African descent who educate, advocate and innovate to change the trajectory of their communities.
- ▶ **Hitting Reset | Turning the Table on Hunger in America, released in March 2022, highlights the lessons learned the past two years** since the onset of the pandemic and how Feeding America has accelerated our priority work to help ensure the needs of neighbors facing hunger are equitably met by partner food banks in their communities.
- ▶ **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.

Photo credit: Shoey Sindel Photography



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 helps provide meals to tens of millions of 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.