



Your Investments in Action

Winter 2022-2023
Impact Report

**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Above: Babineaux-Fontenot speaks at the 2022 Milken Institute Future of Health Summit in Washington, D.C.

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

As the hunger crisis persists amid economic uncertainty, we are beginning to see signs that the nation is no longer willing to accept a country where people go hungry. Your continued support is one of those signs. As we finalize our 2022 data, initial numbers show that the Feeding America Network provided 5.2 billion meals to neighbors facing hunger last year, which would not be possible without donors like you. You propel a current of optimism that is crucial as we continue to galvanize a movement to end hunger in America and ensure that every community and each person within it has the resources that they say they need and desire to thrive.

In December, Congress passed a spending package that included provisions to expand federal nutrition programs that will significantly increase school children's access to summer meals, particularly in rural communities. This is an important victory, but our most important legislative priority this year is the farm bill. It will dictate government spending on hunger and nutrition assistance programs and who can access them. This bill will have an enormous impact on people facing hunger who are at the center of everything we do.

We continue to lean into the knowledge gained from [Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together](#) as we chart a path toward ensuring equitable access to nutritious food. Stories and learnings from recipients of the [Food Security Equity Impact Fund](#) grants are powerful examples of what we can accomplish through community-driven action. And we're just getting started.

There are challenges ahead, but with your support, we will look back on 2023 as a year of palpable progress. Thank *you*, most sincerely.

Your partner in fighting hunger,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
Chief Executive Officer, Feeding America

TOGETHER, WE HELP MILLIONS OF NEIGHBORS, LIKE ILKA



People know Ilka as “the grandma of the world” because she loves everybody as though they were her own grandchildren.

“The women of my family taught me that community is everything,” she said. “I am sure that they would be proud of me because I have carried on the tradition of loving people through food.”

Ilka always invites neighbors to join in family meals.

“It lets them know that they’re not forgotten about, that somebody is thinking about them, and that somebody really cares about them,” she said.

Ilka lives with her daughter and four grandchildren. Though she and her daughter both work, their income isn’t always enough to secure healthy, reliable food for their household. To help provide food for her family, Ilka visits Open Arms Outreach Ministries (Topeka, Kansas), a partner agency of [Harvesters - The Community Food Network](#) (Kansas City, Missouri). During the recent holiday season, her family received a turkey, macaroni, greens, and cornbread, among other fixings.

“Holidays are important to me because they are all about family and laughter ... I wasn’t always able to provide a turkey, have all of the fixings and the trimmings,” Ilka said. “I can remember wondering where we were going to get a holiday meal.”

“I have carried on the tradition of loving people through food.”

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES DURING DISASTER RECOVERY

From October through December 2022, network members mobilized to provide food and resources to people devastated by several disasters, including Hurricanes Ian (Florida) and Fiona (Puerto Rico), Typhoon Merbok (Alaska), tornadoes in Texas and Louisiana, a California earthquake, a North Carolina power outage, and a South Dakota snowstorm.

At the national level, your support helped Feeding America deploy 100 truckloads—totaling 3 million pounds of emergency food boxes, water, ready-to-eat meals and personal care items—to help supplement responding food banks and provide relief to neighbors as they work to rebuild.

Learn more about Feeding America's [disaster-relief partners](#).



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Every year, the Feeding America network helps provide meals to millions of neighbors in the U.S. As neighbors are faced with the rising cost of groceries, gas and housing, network members are working to meet the need amid the pain of inflation, which is worsening hunger across the country.

LEARNING IN ACTION

Last year, we launched the Network Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Approach, a common approach to evaluation that empowers stakeholders to identify and understand the needs of neighbors, improve programs, and scale learning across the Feeding America network. Several initiatives demonstrating these goals in action were completed at the end of 2022, including an evaluation of the Workforce Development Partnership Pilot, where eight food banks partnered with high-impact workforce development providers to support neighbors experiencing food insecurity through access to skills training and critical supports, like food and public benefits. Best practices will be made available to food banks who want to engage in similar partnerships.

Additional evaluations resulting from the MEL Approach include the first round of the Equitable Food Access Grants, a multi-year opportunity that aims to improve access to nutritious food among people experiencing the highest rates of food insecurity by supporting food bank interventions that address common barriers to access. By combining multiple donor gifts into one grant opportunity with a shared goal, we can more efficiently execute donor investments and increase impact for people disproportionately affected by hunger.

There also was an evaluation of OrderAhead, an initiative for neighbors to order charitable food through an online platform, as part of a member grant for 20 food banks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Service Insights on MealConnect, Feeding America's no-cost Service Insights platform, celebrated the one-year anniversary of its pilot launch Nov. 15, 2022; the platform launched network-wide in February 2022. By the end of 2022, 35 food banks and 760 agencies across 21 states were using the platform—facilitating intake, streamlining reporting, and capturing critical insights from nearly one million neighbor visits. As of Dec. 31, 2022, the tool has recorded over one million visits from 350,000 unduplicated neighbors and 130,000 unduplicated households.



PRIORITIZING NEIGHBORS' POWER OF CHOICE

When neighbors facing hunger are afforded full choice—the power to select their own nutritious and culturally preferred foods—food banks report less food waste and improved neighbor relationships. The Choice Visual Library (CVL) is a new resource created for network members and their partners to showcase how sites—regardless of the distribution model, size or type—can offer neighbors more choice when accessing food. The CVL is a collection of videos featuring choice distribution models from school pantries, partner agencies, mobile distributions, and food bank-operated sites across the network.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Freight costs to move donated food have increased over 20% versus this time last year. The network is able to better serve neighbors facing hunger thanks to a produce freight subsidy, which supports network members. From October through December 2022, more than 111 million pounds of fresh produce moved to the network through MealConnect's Produce Matchmaker feature—reaching over 100 food banks, partner state associations and cooperatives in 42 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Compared to the same time period in 2021—without a subsidy—42 million pounds were moved.

DUNKIN' JOY IN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION: PARTNERING TO AMPLIFY GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday (celebrated the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving) has come to be known as the day of global generosity. In a season otherwise known for consumerism, this is when the focus is on giving back to your community and acts of social good are celebrated.

In November 2022, Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation provided a generous match for Feeding America's Giving Tuesday efforts. Their match, along with support from over 10,500 donors on Giving Tuesday, raised more than \$2.4 million—securing 24 million additional meals for people facing hunger.

Matches are a win/win for both Feeding America and our partners, as the match partner receives significant visibility across our channels and with our audience. For example, with the FeedingAmerica.org homepage takeover for the 2022 Giving Tuesday promotion, our site saw a 4.6% conversion rate (normally this rate hovers at around 1-2%).



FROM THE FRONT LINES

COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS TO END HUNGER

Feeding America believes communities thrive when they work together toward a common goal. This is true for the small, rural city of Opelousas, located in southwest Louisiana.

Chenier Farms, owned and operated by John and Betty Chenier, has been part of the local community for five generations. **Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana**, a member of the Feeding America network, understood how vital Chenier Farms is to the local food system.

A grant from Feeding America's **Food Security Equity Impact Fund** helped the Cheniers supply farm-fresh fruits and vegetables directly to neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity in their community.

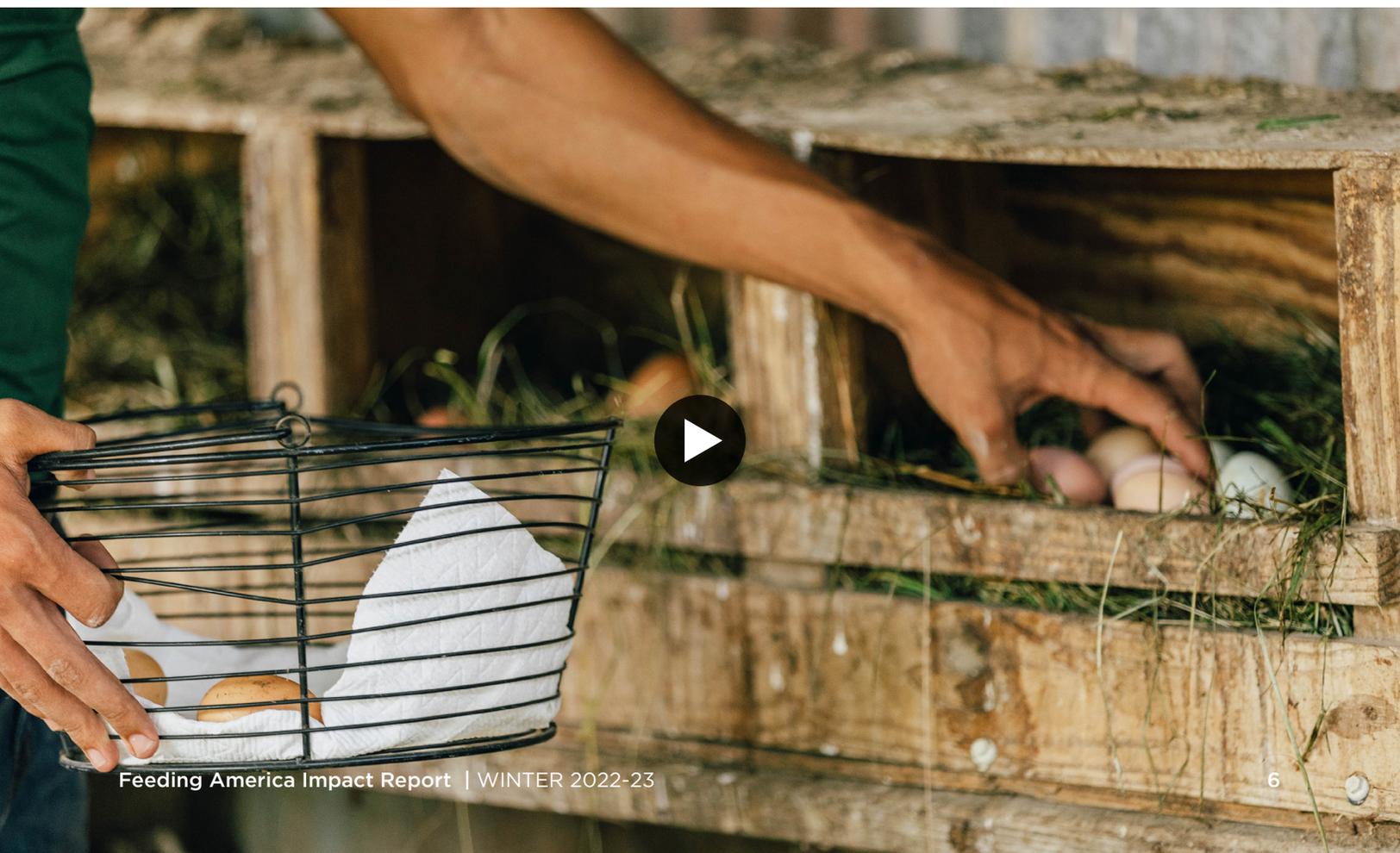
Watch this video to learn more about how the Feeding America network and Black farmers are working together to achieve deeper impacts on communities working toward achieving food security.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOOD SECURITY EQUITY IMPACT FUND >>>

Above: On their Black-owned, multi-generational family farm, Betty and John Chenier, with help from their grandson, Seth, grow fresh produce that is distributed locally throughout six parishes.

Below: As high egg prices continue, farmers are seeing more people turn to them for fresh local eggs.



AT OUR CORE

TRANSFORMATIVE PROVISIONS TO HELP END CHILD SUMMER HUNGER INCLUDED IN 2023 OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL

Thanks to the dedicated advocacy efforts of hunger-relief supporters like you, we achieved a historic victory that will help the more than 20 million children who rely on school meals as they will now be able to access nutritious food even when their school cafeterias are closed during the summer.

In December 2022, a bipartisan bill creating the most significant new nationwide anti-hunger program in nearly 50 years—the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program—was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden.

Establishing a nationwide Summer EBT grocery card program is a critical step forward to help ensure every child in the U.S.—no matter their race, background or ZIP code—can access the food they need to thrive during the summer months. In the U.S., 1 in 8 kids face hunger, with the number for Black and Latino children persistently higher. In 2021, Black and Latino children were more than twice as likely to face hunger as their white classmates.

Additionally, the bill grants summer meal providers the flexibility to use non-congregate program models, such as grab-and-go meals, in rural areas without congregate meal sites.

The child nutrition provisions of the bill are the most extensive, permanent policy changes to help end child summer hunger in more than a generation.

The omnibus spending bill also includes important annual funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other anti-hunger programs.

While this is a significant victory to address summer child hunger, we know much more advocacy remains ahead to keep all federal nutrition programs strong for the neighbors we serve. We will continue to work alongside communities, Congress and the administration to create solutions to help end hunger in America.

To learn more about the fiscal year 2023 omnibus spending bill, [explore Feeding America's bill summary](#). If you have questions, please email: policy@feedingamerica.org.

Recent insights from people who have faced challenges accessing food make it clear that policies to end hunger must increase access and prioritize the dignity and agency of the people they impact. The summer nutrition provisions are examples of centering these values in policymaking.



WAYS TO ENGAGE

2023 FARM BILL: WHY IT MATTERS

The farm bill is the centerpiece federal legislation for food and farming, and it impacts access to nutritious food for the millions of people in America facing hunger. Feeding America works every day to support the protection and expansion of federal nutrition programs, like The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to ensure families do not go hungry.

The farm bill typically is renewed about every five years, but the process often takes over a year. We must help legislators understand the need so that they support a strong farm bill. **Tell your members of Congress to visit a food bank in your community and see the impact of these critical programs.**

- ▶ **For the first ever time**, we created an **annual report digital executive summary**. Browse this new resource to see how your support helped the network provide 5.2 billion meals in fiscal year 2022.
- ▶ **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.



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.

