



Your Investments in Action

Summer 2023
Impact Report

**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Above: Babineaux-Fontenot visits a newly planted garden at SUSU CommUNITY Farm (Vermont), a Food Security Equity Impact Fund grantee.

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Let me paint a picture for you of something that happened recently in the Feeding America network. People were lined up two hours before a school pantry in Queens, New York opened its doors. The line extended through the gate, around the corner and halfway down the block. The pantry managers were prepared with food for 500 people, including three carrots or two tomatoes per person, but the carrots were gone quickly. Not long after, the pantry was entirely out of food—forced to close two hours earlier than planned. I wish I could say this was a rare occurrence, but it is not.

Your continued support helps ensure that pantries and meal programs nationwide have what they need to serve their neighbors. Together, we are seeing progress. **In 2022, the percentage of people facing food insecurity went down, as did the number of people accessing charitable food assistance.** While data is critically important to achieving our vision of an America where no one is hungry, behind each number is a person who is working hard to thrive, and we will continue this mission until each person has access to the nutritious food they need.

There are three critical ways we can build momentum on the progress of this year’s statistics: 1. Advocate for a strong farm bill that adequately supports farmers, food banks, and most importantly, people facing hunger. 2. Listen to the people and communities experiencing hunger to co-create the best long-term solutions. 3. Continue to support neighbors by sharing food and funds—and by being a friend of the movement to end hunger at your local level, national level or both.

Your partner in building a hunger-free America,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America

TOGETHER, WE HELP MILLIONS OF FAMILIES, LIKE JANICE AND JAIDA



In the summer of 2022, the Feeding America network served more than 24 million meals, including nearly 5 million meals through Summer Meal Programs. The network operates more than 9,000 free summer meal sites.

When asked what it means to provide healthy food to her family, Janice simply says it’s “everything.”

After picking up her 7-year-old daughter, Jaida, from elementary school, Janice often visits a local meal program provided at the school by The Atlanta Community Food Bank. With the high cost of living in their community, Janice, who works hard as an at-home customer service representative, said the additional food support “really helps. I love it.” There are times, she added, when she isn’t able to purchase the nourishing groceries her family of four needs, so having access to fresh vegetables and protein at the meal distribution makes it possible to prepare healthy meals at home.

Jaida is a first grader who loves math. During the school year, she receives breakfast and lunch at the school through the National School Lunch Program.

When school is out of session, **summer can mean up to 90 days without school meals for families and children facing hunger**, like Jaida, and too often, that can mean worrying about where their next meal is coming from. An estimated 32 million meals are needed to help neighbors facing hunger during the summer months.

Your support can help provide more meals to neighbors in need. Visit feedingamerica.org/summer to learn more.

HELPING TO MEET THE NEED TO END HUNGER

PROVIDING IMMEDIATE HUNGER-RELIEF SUPPORT IN TIMES OF DISASTER

Feeding America regularly pre-positions supplies with partner food banks near areas that are most vulnerable to disasters. These staged supplies allow us to provide immediate support to food banks that are serving impacted communities while additional support is mobilized in the form of financial and in-kind donations. In advance of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1 through November 30, a few of our dedicated disaster-relief partners have been pitching in to help ensure the network is prepared to respond. Abbott and Aldi make annual in-kind donations of first-run products and engage their employees to pack the supplies into disaster-relief kits. Abbott holds annual packing events in Dallas, New Orleans, Orlando and San Juan, building 1,000 disaster-relief boxes at each location. At Aldi's headquarters, more than 800 employees built 6,000 disaster boxes, while staffers at six Aldi division offices built additional disaster boxes for staging.



Above: Abbott has donated adult and pediatric nutritional products since 2007.



Above: Aldi has built disaster food boxes since 2017.



Above: The Dairy Nourishes America: Feeding America's Western Symposium was hosted in partnership with the California Association of Food Banks and Feeding San Diego.

COLLABORATING TO INCREASE NEIGHBORS' ACCESS TO NOURISHING FOOD

Bold solutions to hunger relief require broad support and inclusive approaches that amplify the nationwide movement to end hunger. Designed to create partnerships and break barriers to positively impact communities through dairy nutrition, the Dairy Nourishes America: Feeding America's Western Symposium was held in June in San Diego, CA. The event was a momentum-building opportunity for approximately 100 champions and partners to **build relationships and create solutions that will increase neighbors' access to dairy products.** On average, neighbors facing hunger receive the equivalent of one gallon of milk per person per year, making it difficult to get all the protein and nutrients dairy provides. Symposium sponsors included Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, California Milk Advisory Board, Land O'Lakes, Dairy Farmers of America, Diversified Foods, and Cooler Management.

In May, Feeding America was recognized as the Member of the Year by National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). National VOAD is a coalition of more than 70 national non-profits, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity, and 56 State/Territorial VOADs that work jointly to serve disaster survivors.

PARTNERING WITH YOU TO CREATE AN AMERICA WHERE NO ONE IS HUNGRY

AMPLIFYING OUR WORK THROUGH RESEARCH

As a leader in hunger research, Feeding America produces critical studies that help improve our shared understanding of food insecurity, as well as the families served by partner food banks across the country, so we can better meet their needs. Check out some of our latest research releases:

THE STATE OF SENIOR HUNGER - APRIL 2023

Documenting the prevalence of food insecurity among the senior population ages 60 and older, as well as adults ages 50-59, at the national, state and metro-area levels.

Data shows that **5.5 million seniors in America faced hunger in 2021, according to [The State of Senior Hunger in America in 2021](#)**. Given the expected growth of the senior population, more than 7 million seniors may face hunger by 2050 if the current rate of senior food insecurity does not improve. The 2023 report marks the seventh consecutive year for this research. With increased investment in senior hunger programs, like home delivery, the Feeding America network is addressing seniors' special dietary needs and barriers to accessing food. In addition to food pantry service, the network provides nearly **203 million additional meals through highly focused senior programs each year** in communities nationwide.

MAP THE MEAL GAP - MAY 2023

Our annual study to improve our understanding of food insecurity and food costs at the local level.

[Map the Meal Gap](#) focuses on the extent and variation in local food insecurity levels in the United States in 2021. Many of the robust public and private response efforts that began during the COVID-19 crisis continued at heightened levels in 2021—resulting in a decline in food insecurity in 2021, at the national level, for both the overall population and for children. Yet, this year's study shows that food insecurity did not improve everywhere—and significant disparities continue to exist both within and across geographies. This is the 13th consecutive year that Feeding America has produced *Map the Meal Gap*. To learn more, [view the full report](#) or browse our [interactive map](#).

IDENTIFYING RACISM IN THE DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY - MAY 2023

A dashboard that examines how systemic racism drives disparities in five economic indicators, impacting a family's ability to access food.

The updated **[Feeding America: Identifying Racism in the Drivers of Food Insecurity](#)** is a dashboard that visualizes local data for the drivers of food insecurity used in the *Map the Meal Gap* model by race and ethnicity. The 2023 dashboard includes the food insecurity estimates disaggregated by race/ethnicity that come from the *Map the Meal Gap* map. The previous version of the dashboard was released in 2021 and reflected 2019 data.

CHARITABLE FOOD ASSISTANCE PARTICIPATION IN 2022 - JUNE 2023

Our study that estimates the number of individuals who received charitable food assistance last year.

Feeding America estimates approximately 49 million people—1 in 6 individuals—turned to charitable food assistance for extra food support in 2022. This year's estimate is higher than pre-pandemic (40 million in 2019), and lower compared to 2020 (60 million) and 2021 (53 million). Supporters like you who stand with us in the nationwide movement to end hunger make up the collective efforts that helped to mitigate a national hunger crisis brought on by the pandemic. However, the reality is tens of millions of people who are working hard to provide for themselves and their families look to food banks and pantries to access the meals they need. We need revitalized commitment from the public and private sectors to continue to make substantial progress toward ending hunger, particularly in the passage of a strong, bipartisan **[2023 Farm Bill](#)** (learn more on the back cover).

BUILDING FOR LONG-TERM GROWTH AND IMPACT

With partner food banks continuing to face increased food purchase costs, supply chain disruptions and waning food donations, we work to ensure **the network builds capacity to meet the local needs of neighbors facing hunger** and achieves sustained future growth. In May, 33 network leaders came together for a three-day food sourcing strategic planning institute, hosted by our Strategic Capacity Development team. Through in-depth data analysis and workshops, the institute is a critical step for food banks in developing a strategic food-sourcing plan to best meet the needs of people in their communities.

CATALYZING A MOVEMENT THROUGH DIGITAL ADVOCACY

Whether sending an email to Congress, signing an online petition, sharing a message through social media and much more, digital advocacy is a key way that donors and partners like you help mobilize the nationwide movement to end hunger. As of June 2023, just shy of our fiscal-year end, digital advocates had taken nearly **550,000 actions to help ensure families gain access to the food they need**—exceeding our fiscal year 2022 total of 522,593 actions. A large portion of our fiscal year 2023 total is thanks to the many neighbors with lived experience of food insecurity who shared their stories with us, helping inform our policy recommendations for the **2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health** and the *Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together: Community-Driven Solutions to Address America's Hunger Crisis* report.



BETH O'CONNOR WHY I GIVE TO FEEDING AMERICA

Beth O'Connor said it was “a humbling experience” when she personally faced food insecurity while attending college—that lived experience made her determined to help others in similar situations. She recalls later reading about the extent of hunger in the United States—1 in 10 people faced food insecurity in 2021—and once again feeling compelled to help.

“The need is huge, and no one can function well when they are hungry,” she said.

After giving for a decade, Beth and her husband, Bill, chose to include Feeding America as a beneficiary in their estate plan, recognizing the importance of supporting an organization that can immediately help people in need. Beth expressed admiration for our bold investments to achieve equitable food access for all, leveraging the power of the Feeding America network to secure and distribute nourishing food to tens of millions of neighbors each year.

“We want to ensure that Feeding America can continue their good work after we are gone,” Beth said.

Beth and Bill's passionate commitment to end hunger goes beyond their financial support—they also volunteer at the Keystone Community Services Midway Food Shelf (St. Paul, Minnesota), a network partner of **Second Harvest Heartland**. Bill, a retired teacher, began volunteering with Keystone's Meals on Wheels program over 30 years ago. When Beth retired 10 years ago, she was inspired to volunteer, too, stocking shelves, packing groceries and assisting neighbors during food distributions. The couple also delivers meals weekly to community members unable to visit the food shelf.



FROM THE FRONT LINES

DRIVING INVESTMENTS TO COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY HUNGER

People facing hunger are at the center of all we do and instrumental in that commitment are the investments we make through our Food Security Equity Impact Fund. The fund supports community-led solutions to address systemic inequities by awarding multi-year grants to organizations and partner food banks engaged in food justice and equitable access initiatives.

In June, we announced the second round of Food Security Equity Impact Fund grants—awarding more than \$4 million to benefit 10 network members and 15 community-partner organizations, with grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$500,000. Here are a few examples of the inspiring ways community partners intend to work alongside food banks:

- **Capital Area Food Bank** (Washington, D.C.) will work alongside its community partner, OurSpace World, to support the work of Black and other underrepresented farmers in Southern Maryland. Funds will be used to begin or expand farming operations, hire labor, upgrade equipment, purchase fuel, and to build refrigerated storage facilities to help farmers of color better compete with large, corporate farming operations in the area.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina** (Winston-Salem, N.C.) will focus its efforts to address the root causes of food insecurity in the oldest, historically Black neighborhood in Greensboro. Working

alongside two Black-led community organizations, the collaboration hopes to affect long-term positive change by implementing three programs to address longstanding barriers to food security, including a paid apprentice and mentorship program for youth.

In total, the fund will support up to 35 network members and more than 75 community-partner organizations in fiscal year 2024, as we continue to drive investments to communities of color and support actions for equitable access to healthy food and opportunity for all.

In July, we will hold the first Food Security Equity Impact Fund Grantee Convening at the Houston Food Bank, bringing together grantees, industry experts, thought leaders, Feeding America network members and community-based partners to celebrate impacts and share lessons learned throughout this grant period to help inform future progress and identify new opportunities.

Established in 2021, the Food Security Equity Impact Fund uses a trust-based philanthropy model that is grounded in equity and social justice. Together, with your support of unrestricted, multi-year gifts to the fund, we are transforming the charitable food experience, advancing equity in communities of color, driving meaningful policy change to benefit all people, and building capacity in communities.

Learn more about the **Food Security Equity Impact Fund** on our website.



AT OUR CORE

TACKLING FOOD WASTE AND HUNGER NATIONWIDE

Feeding America is the largest food-rescue organization in the country, and we continuously innovate and work to recover as much high-quality food as possible so neighbors facing hunger can receive the food they need to thrive. By leveraging technology, the network distributes billions of pounds of food each year to people in every county in the U.S.

In June, we announced that **MealConnect®**, our food donation platform, has facilitated **5 billion pounds of rescued food** since its launch in 2014. In 2022, MealConnect—the only food-rescue and sourcing technology available nationwide—helped millions of people gain access to more than 1 billion meals. This is just one example of the hunger-relief impact that is made possible through the dedicated work of the network, with support from donors and partners like you.

MealConnect allows partner food banks to coordinate and receive donations from their local food businesses and grocers. Any restaurant, caterer, local grocery chain, hotel, independent food distribution company, ag producer, and other community food business can use the **no-cost platform to donate surplus meals.**

MealConnect supports more than 90% of Feeding America’s partners, which benefit from the program’s rescued food.



We want to expand equitable access to food and ensure everyone who faces hunger—no matter their race, background or ZIP code—is treated with dignity and respect.

MAKING NEIGHBORS FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME USING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

To achieve our vision of an America where no one is hungry, it is vital to increase access to nutritious food for all neighbors experiencing food insecurity and improve their experience when they receive charitable food assistance. We know that people face systemic geographic, racial and economic barriers to accessing the healthy, culturally preferred foods they say they need to thrive.

To overcome these challenges, we have scaled network-wide strategies like our Service Insights initiative to help collect more information on the needs and barriers that neighbors face. **Service Insights on MealConnect**, our free, web-based application, has achieved its own milestone: more than **500,000 neighbors served over 2.5 million times** through the platform, to date. *Service Insights on MealConnect* allows partner food banks and agency partners to collect basic information from neighbors in real time, enabling us to have a more complete and accurate understanding of the people we are helping and providing neighbors with a dignified method to easily access resources and inform improvements to the charitable food experience. Insights collected network-wide help improve program delivery, drive national and local policy change, and achieve shared outcomes. As of May 2023, 39 food banks are using *Service Insights on MealConnect*.

CELEBRATING WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN PEOPLE ARE NOURISHED

“The Full Effect,” Feeding America’s new, fully integrated public service announcement (PSA) campaign launched in June. Developed in partnership with the Ad Council and fluent360, the campaign highlights the impact of food on people’s lives and how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies. When people are fed, futures are nourished, and individuals go from just living to truly thriving. Watch the PSA now: Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

WAYS TO ENGAGE

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[September is Hunger Action Month](#)
Feeding America’s nationwide awareness campaign. The 2023 campaign will echo The Full Effect PSA (see above), designed to inspire conversation and drive passion for the issue of hunger by highlighting the impact of food on people’s lives, and showing how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies.

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As many COVID-era governmental programs have sunset, the charitable food sector remains a critical support for families who are working to overcome challenges with accessing food, despite budgeting and saving. Join the nationwide movement to end hunger and advocate to pass a strong farm bill that helps everyone keep food on the table at [FeedingAmerica.org/FarmBill](https://www.feedingamerica.org/farmbill).



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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.

