



Your Investments in Action

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Even as tens of millions of people continue to seek resources at food banks and pantries across the country, there is reason for hope. A hunger-free America is within our grasp if we seek guidance directly from communities facing hunger—indispensable partners in this work. In the [2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#), which shares firsthand experiences from neighbors across the country (see page 4), an important theme emerged: Despite reports of economic rebounds, 1 in 8 neighbors say inflation and food prices have exacerbated hunger in the U.S. These neighbors also shared new insights about what it will take to end hunger. To provide support with dignity today and to end food insecurity—for good—tomorrow, we must address root causes and systemic issues, including housing, health care and public transportation, and we must do so with an equity lens.

Our deepened commitment to center our work with the voices of people with lived and living experience is foundational to our approach, and we are seeing real progress. At a recent convening—the first of its kind—grant recipients of the [Food Security Equity Impact Fund](#) gathered and shared their learnings from their work to address root causes of food insecurity in communities of color nationwide (see page 4). The pioneering initiatives created in partnership with food banks and community organizations are cause for hope and celebration, as this body of work continues to inspire partners like you and build support for the people we serve.

It is regrettable that we must also continue to prepare for a potential government shutdown. Millions of hard-working people across the country will need support if Congress fails to pass funding legislation, and the Feeding America network will be ready to stand by their sides.

Proudly standing with you in the movement to end hunger,



Claire Babineaux-Fontenot

Chief Executive Officer
Feeding America

TOGETHER, WE HELP MILLIONS OF FAMILIES WHEN DISASTER STRIKES



Above: Food bank staff and volunteers support disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Idalia hit the Big Bend in Florida.

Feeding America's [disaster-relief partners](#) allow partner food banks to provide needed food assistance and emergency supplies to affected areas in the immediate aftermath and throughout the recovery process. During the summer, network members mobilized to provide food and resources to people devastated by several disasters, including the deadly Maui wildfires and Hurricane Idalia.

The [Maui Food Bank](#), to date, has distributed more than 548,000 pounds of food and 111,000 pounds of produce. At the national level, Feeding America facilitated 24 truckloads of food and grocery items to support the island's relief efforts. Feeding America is supporting the Maui Food Bank to manage its new volume of inventory, thanks in part to supporters like you. The teams at both the Maui Food Bank and the [Hawai'i Foodbank](#) continue to determine ongoing needs.

In response to Hurricane Idalia—described as the worst storm to hit Florida's Big Bend area in 100 years—Feeding America provided 27 truckloads of food and commodities from staged disaster supplies and donors, including more than 96,000 MREs (meals ready to eat), nearly 498,000 bottles of water and more than 298,000 food boxes. To date, [Second Harvest of the Big Bend](#) and [Second Harvest of South Georgia](#) continue targeted food distributions in the most impacted areas.

Additionally, network members responded to other recent disasters, including flooding in California and Nevada, and wildfires in Louisiana and Washington.

THE FEEDING
AMERICA
NETWORK
PROVIDED
MORE THAN

1.4B  MEALS

FOR PEOPLE
FACING
HUNGER

APRIL THROUGH
JUNE 2023

FRESH
PRODUCE
204M

PURCHASED
FOOD
265M

SNAP
MEALS
59M

MANUFACTURING
DONATIONS
196M

FEDERAL
COMMODITIES
242M

RETAIL
DONATIONS
437M

MEALS BY
SOURCE

A meal from Feeding America is 1.2 pounds of product, based on USDA guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact your Feeding America relationship manager or productsourcing@feedingamerica.org

GENERAL MILLS

MORE THAN FOUR DECADES OF COMMITTED HUNGER-RELIEF PARTNERSHIP

The movement to end hunger calls for all of us to play a role, big or small, to ensure every individual and family has access to a nourishing meal. We are grateful for hunger-relief partners like **General Mills**, one of Feeding America's founding partners more than 40 years ago.

Throughout its longstanding partnership, General Mills has engaged its employees in our mission, including implementing standard operating procedures to educate staff on how to donate. The manufacturer also created **robust use-by-date extensions to ensure more safe, nourishing and consumable food reaches families** through food bank distributions, rather than the food being destroyed. Since our partnership began, General Mills has contributed over \$37 million and has helped hardworking neighbors nationwide facing



hunger gain access to more than **431 million meals** to help them thrive.

General Mills has been a **catalyst in the growth of MealConnect**, our food-donation platform that has, to date, facilitated over **5 billion pounds of rescued food**. Co-created with General Mills, MealConnect's Logistics function links perfectly safe products, rejected by retail warehouses, to its truck drivers while en route, enabling them to deliver donations to partner food banks across the country.

CENTERING PEOPLE FACING HUNGER

We are committed to placing the voices of people with lived and living experience of hunger at the center of our work. The guidance from neighbors that we receive is not only informative—but imperative—in shaping our work, as we co-create solutions in partnership with them to end hunger.

On Hunger Action Day (Sept. 15), Feeding America released the [2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#), which presents the firsthand experiences, concerns and ideas of more than 1,000 people and 12 Native American communities across the country who received charitable food assistance and/or who have experienced food insecurity in the last two years. The report's four key areas of focus were informed by neighbor insights and provide Feeding America's policy recommendations for a hunger-free America. Among the findings in the report, nearly 9 in 10 (88%) people facing hunger agree that federal and local governments should address food insecurity as an urgent national crisis, despite headlines that highlight an improving economy and lower unemployment rates.

The report also contains firsthand context about the daily experiences from neighbors who have faced hunger, collected during our inaugural [Elevating Voices: Power Summit](#) in July in Washington, D.C. Nearly 100 neighbors from across the country attended the two-day forum, co-created with people with lived experience of food insecurity for them to hear from,



“The experience of living with food insecurity, it’s embarrassing, it’s hurtful, it makes you feel less than a mom when you can’t feed your children. It takes a lot out of you to have to go and ask for help to be able to feed your children, and, another thing about food insecurity is that people may not always look like you’d think they would look if they’re food insecure. They might be well-dressed, they might be well-spoken, they may even be educated, but they can still be experiencing food insecurity.”

— Keisha Williams, Oklahoma

learn from and forge community with each other and to share their informed views directly with federal policymakers. To learn more about the impact of the summit, you can read this [Hunger Blog post](#) by Barbie Izquierdo, Feeding America's director of neighbor community engagement.



ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY DISPARITIES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Before the month of July wrapped, we hosted a second summit—this time in Houston—where we welcomed more than 150 attendees to the first [Food Security Equity Impact Fund \(FSEIF\) Summit](#). Attendees at the three-day event included FSEIF inaugural grantees, who were able to share knowledge and insights with each other, and uplift community initiatives. We also held a [LinkedIn Live fireside chat](#), moderated by our CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, who was joined by leaders from our partners Comic Relief US and Shipt.

In June, Feeding America awarded more than [\\$4 million in the second round of FSEIF grants](#). Since its inception, the FSEIF has supported 35 food banks and over 75 community partners.

IMPROVING NEIGHBOR EXPERIENCE THROUGH NEW COLLABORATIVE

Unrestricted funding provides greater latitude in the collaborations and projects we invest in, allowing neighbors and communities to be best served. In August, with the support of unrestricted gifts and in collaboration with [Leah's Pantry](#) (San Francisco, CA), we launched the first cohort of the Trauma-Informed Learning Collaborative. The cohort includes 10 partner food banks; 10 more will start in January 2024. The goal is to improve the neighbor experience in rural communities and/or communities of color by applying a trauma-sensitive approach to our work. The program translates trauma and resilience science into action by leveraging organizational strengths, building relationships among collaborative members, and creating a foundation of trauma-informed care at their program/agency sites.

HELPING NEIGHBORS BOOST HEALTH OUTCOMES

The first quarterly results from the Food as Medicine (FAM) program were released, with several highlights from participating partner food banks, including more than 64,000 neighbors screened for food insecurity; over 10,000 people referred to FAM3 (the third phase of the program); and more than 90% of neighbors who were referred to FAM3 received food. In addition, more than 1,400 neighbors were referred to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the most effective anti-hunger program in the United States. FAM supports food banks as they collaborate with local health care partners to screen patients for food insecurity during health care visits. FAM3 runs through 2025 and will help over 20 partner food banks and health care partners implement enhanced data collection, sharing and analysis to better understand the needs of people facing hunger and deliver effective solutions.

Special thanks to Elevance Health Foundation for supporting this work.

STARBUCKS

IMPROVING EQUITABLE FOOD ACCESS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Feeding America is making network-wide efforts to ensure neighbors everywhere have access to the food they say they need to thrive. Multi-year funding has provided participating partner food banks with capacity-building services, along with data and evaluation tools to develop and implement localized plans to improve food access and the neighbor experience of charitable food assistance. We are grateful for the commitment of partners like Starbucks, whose support helps increase access to nutritious food among households with individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color residing in communities experiencing high food insecurity rates.

In support of its annual [equitable food access grants](#), which launched in 2021 to support communities disproportionately affected by hunger, Starbucks is



donating \$1.7 million—bringing their total investment, to date, to **\$5 million to support 16 partner food banks**. Year-two results, thus far, include more than 7 million pounds of food distributed to neighbors facing hunger; more than 1 million individuals served, including over 280,000 children; and elevated community voices by engaging over 3,000 neighbors and more than 400 community partners. Member grantees are located in areas with [Starbucks Community Stores](#), which are committed to economic development and opportunity in historically under-resourced communities.

THE NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER IS GROWING

Our corporate partners launch engaging campaigns to motivate people nationwide to take action in the movement to end hunger. For every home they built this year, **United Built Homes** donated \$350 to local partner food banks. The “Home Sales” campaign raised funds for 14 food banks across four states.



In the U.S., 1 in 9 working-age veterans and 1 in 4 active-duty service members face hunger. **USAA's** latest gift to our mission expands on its longstanding history of helping past and present military members gain access to food through the Feeding America network.



Celebrating September's Hunger Action Month, **The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation** provided shoppers in the Kroger family of stores the opportunity to make a hunger-relief donation at the register, with 100% of funds supporting the local food bank.

In the wake of the deadly Maui wildfires, our payments partner **Adyen** hosted an emergency appeal using their donations product, “Giving,” allowing customers to raise funds for Feeding America and Hawai'i Foodbank at checkout.

We're building a reliable food supply system that meets communities' needs and addresses racial and economic disparities. With its recent gift, **LKQ Corp** is partnering with us to help hardworking neighbors facing hunger gain access to the nourishing food they say they need.



Food donations of any size make a difference. Thanks to **Instacart's** Community Carts, a feature that lets people donate groceries directly to food banks, more than 76,000 most-needed items have been donated to over 100 food banks across the country since November 2022.

HELPING TO MEET THE NEED TO END HUNGER



Above: Choice Capacity Institute in Chicago

ENSURING NEIGHBORS HAVE FULL CHOICE OF FOOD

Partner food banks are working to make sure neighbors facing hunger in their communities have access to the nourishing and culturally preferred foods they say they need. Network members that offer full choice of items report less food waste and strengthened relationships with the people they serve. In July, staff members representing 11 partner food banks convened for a Choice Capacity Institute in Chicago, which included preparing food bank staff to train and empower community partners and

school-based sites to offer more choice in their food distributions with children, teens and their families. Attendees also visited a community partner of the Greater Chicago Food Depository to learn about their work in offering more choice and how they've transformed their facility to create a more welcoming environment for neighbors.

Special thanks to the Morgan Stanley Foundation for supporting this work.



GROWING THE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER

Across the country, members of Feeding America's Entertainment Council and other influential hunger-relief advocates mobilize year-round to volunteer and support network members serving people facing hunger in their communities. From July through September, 10 volunteer events were held in several cities, including Los Angeles, Atlanta, Nashville and New York City, with volunteers taking time to work in repack centers, distribute produce and personal care items, and kick off backpack programs, among other ways, to help kids and families who turn to partner food banks receive the meals and resources they need.

Left: (From left to right) Isis King, Grant Hall, Emily Tosta and Nick Creegan volunteered at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica on July 19, helping to serve smoothies and distribute produce from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to local kids.

FROM THE FRONT LINES

PROVIDING FOOD ACCESS TO KIDS FACING HUNGER

“Being able to take the food to the kids so that they have access to it, no matter what, is very important and makes this very special.”

Under the sweltering heat of a typical summer, triple-digit day in Las Vegas, Nevada, smiling children and eager chatter abound. Kids happily greet the staff and volunteers, who have arrived in the children’s backyard in a van filled with food ready for distribution. This is part of [Three Square Food Bank’s Meet Up and Eat Up program](#), which sets up at designated locations, including apartment complexes, mobile home communities, Boys & Girls Clubs, and libraries, so children can access meals more easily, without their families needing to travel to a food site.

“Instead of a site that kids come to, we go to the kids,” says Alejandro, a program driver for the past two summers. Meet Up and Eat Up, offered at more than 100 locations across the valley, is done in collaboration with the food bank’s community partners and is in addition to its regular mission of providing food to



Above: Under the sweltering heat of a typical summer day in Las Vegas, Nevada, Alejandro loads his van with meals destined for kids in various communities as part of Three Square Food Bank’s “Meet Up and Eat Up” program.

children who eat free and reduced-price lunch during the school year.

“Kids sometimes can’t provide their own transportation,” Alejandro notes. “Some of our sites are very far from these apartment complexes, and the parents can’t sometimes take the kids because of work ... Being able to take the food to the kids so that they have access to it, no matter what, is very important and makes this very special.”



AT OUR CORE

THANK YOU FOR RAISING AWARENESS DURING HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Throughout September during [Hunger Action Month](#), supporters like you took actions—big and small—to help move us closer to an America where no one is hungry. Your voice, your actions and your commitment are critical in the movement to end hunger year-round and Hunger Action Month is our annual nationwide campaign each September, where we come together to raise awareness about hunger in our country and inspire action. This year, we emphasized that **when people are fed, futures are nourished**, and that with access to nutritious foods, we can all reach our full potential.

On the eve of Hunger Action Day (Sept. 15), Feeding America's Claire Babineaux-Fontenot held the first-ever [State of Hunger address](#), where she shared with donors insights on food insecurity in today's landscape of rising prices and supply chain disruptions, what we have learned during our continued work of listening to the perspectives and expertise of people with lived and living experience of hunger, and she shared progress and priorities regarding the work Feeding America is doing with supporters like you and partnerships and coalitions across the country. She also provided a preview of our recently released [2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#) (see page 4).

Also during Hunger Action Month, more than 125 people—including network staff members, neighbors with lived and living experience of food insecurity and board members—traveled to Washington, D.C. to hold meetings with Congressional members as part of our two-day, advocacy fly-in events. Attendees represented 37 states and, for the first time, Puerto Rico. Join the movement to end hunger. Volunteer, donate and advocate for a strong, bipartisan [2023 Farm Bill](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

During Hunger Action Month, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot appeared in studio on [GMA3](#) (Sept. 15) and [Good Morning America](#) (Sept. 16) and to discuss the ongoing hunger crisis—1 in 6 people turned to charitable food services in 2022—and how lasting change starts with awareness. “Hunger looks like you, it looks like me, it looks like America,” she said during the Sept. 16 interview. “Hunger is often silent and, way too often, invisible.”

An [OpEd](#) appeared in [USA Today](#) on Sept. 26, co-signed by Claire and Scarlett Johansson.



Above: On Hunger Action Day, Sept. 15, multiple volunteer events were held across the country, with celebrities and other influential supporters sharing their time to give back. (From left to right) Bridget Moynahan, Lauren Bush Lauren, Phoebe Robinson, Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Ellie Krieger, and Liev Schreiber volunteered at Food Bank For New York City's Harlem Community Kitchen.



FOOD BANKS PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The Feeding America network continues to operationally plan for a potential federal government shutdown, following Congress' action in late September to approve a temporary measure to fund the government through mid-November. Funding for our priority programs, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) remains at current levels, but a shutdown threat persists. Should Congress fail to pass legislation to fund the federal government—either full-year appropriation legislation or another continuing resolution—by Nov. 17, the government will shut down on Nov. 18. If a shutdown occurs and is prolonged, millions of people across the country may need to turn to partner food banks for support. As a reminder, the current farm bill expired on Sept. 30, affecting some agriculture programs, but having no immediate impact on nutrition programs like TEFAP and SNAP.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

Participate in #GivingTuesday on Nov. 28 to join a global movement that unites people around generosity and kindness.

Consider supporting Feeding America before Dec. 31 to maximize your tax benefits or minimize year-end product inventories. Want to **double your impact** with your employer? Learn how by using our new search tool on [our matching gifts page](#).



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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.**

