



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 3), 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 3). 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.

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.

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.

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.





THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ending hunger in the United States can't be accomplished by just one organization—it takes a complex network of institutions, partners, and supporters like you. With this year's tough economy, we are especially grateful for your generosity. Because you might have a lot going on in the final weeks of 2023, we wanted to provide you with **eight important to-dos** before New Year's to help you stay organized—and potentially have an incredible impact on the neighbors we serve.

1. Will or living trust. Review your will or trust for any life change that may affect your plans such as a birth, death, marriage or move to a different state.

2. Durable powers of attorney. Make sure these documents for financial matters and health care are current. A copy of the financial power of attorney should be given to your family members, while a copy of your health care power of attorney should be provided to both family members and health care providers.

3. Retirement plan beneficiaries. Review these and remove any beneficiary on your life insurance or retirement plans who is deceased or is a former spouse and consider adding a charitable organization like ours.

4. Life insurance policy. If you have a policy that is no longer a significant piece of your estate plan, consider making a gift to us by naming us as the beneficiary.

5. Bank or brokerage accounts. Name designated heirs or Feeding America as a recipient of bank or brokerage account proceeds at your death.*

6. Charitable contributions. If you've included a gift to Feeding America in your estate plan, review the details of your gift and let us—and your loved ones—know of your intentions. This will guarantee that your wishes are carried out after your lifetime.

7. Safe-deposit box. Catalog the contents of your safe-deposit box. Give a written copy to a trusted family member and note any items you are holding for someone else.

8. Digital estate. Your online accounts' usernames and up-to-date passwords, along with your smartphone and tablet passcodes, home security code and similar data, should either be recorded in password-management software or on paper in a fireproof lockbox. Tell someone you trust how to access either of these.

We're happy to help ensure that you can support our mission and get the most benefit. Please feel free to contact Jessica Noe at (800) 771-2303, Ext. 5593 or plannedgiving@feedingamerica.org for free resources.

**State laws govern payable-on-death accounts and transfer-on-death accounts. Please consult with your bank representative or investment advisor if you are considering these gifts.*

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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 3).

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.

Continue 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.

Consider supporting Feeding America before Dec. 31 to maximize your tax benefits. 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.**

