



Your Investments in Action



Winter 2023-2024
Impact Report



Above: Babineaux-Fontenot joined leaders from the American Farm Bureau Federation and FMI-The Food Industry Association on Nov. 8 at the National Press Club to emphasize their joint support for farm bill passage.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

In October 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its 2022 [food security data](#)—data which, if you have been [listening as we have to people facing hunger](#) or to food bankers across the nation, was sobering but far from surprising. We have long been hearing reports of increased economic pressures on families and high demand at food banks. These numbers prove those reports to be true. One in 7 people in the U.S., including 1 in 5 children, experienced food insecurity in 2022. That represents 13.5% of the population—44 million people—who face uncertainty about when and how they will have their next nutritious meal, a stark increase of nearly 31% over 2021.

I hope this reality ignites a fire among our supporters and partners and within communities across the country. **We are as determined as ever to achieve our bold aspiration for the nation that every community and each person within it has access to the food and resources they say they desire and need to thrive.**

Working together with you, alongside people facing hunger, we are striving for a food insecurity rate of 5% by 2030, and to reduce disparities by race and place in half.

The good news—the hopeful news—is that we now have evidence of solutions that are truly impactful, notably achieved when hunger relief is a priority across sectors, geographies and politics, as demonstrated through successful, though temporary, pandemic-era benefits. Our network and our partners continue working together to bring more food to neighbors facing hunger and to address root causes at the systems level through innovative initiatives. There has never been a more important time for this work.

Proudly standing with you in the movement to end hunger,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot
Chief Executive Officer, Feeding America

TOGETHER, WE HELP MILLIONS OF NEIGHBORS, LIKE EGBERT



Egbert has come a long way in less than two years—his eyes are on the future and his heart is full of optimism. He’s achieved educational success—graduating with a Commercial Driver’s License—he’s working on finding stable housing, and he knows he can be a light for others who are battling drug addiction, something he’s overcome in recent years.

“I hope to be that example of how there is a way out, to show people what’s possible—so they know there’s hope,” he said.

Egbert knows firsthand it takes a community of support to help achieve many goals in life and he recalled what he did when he “decided it was time to get help.” Homeless at the time, Egbert sought assistance from a local social service agency in Newark, New Jersey. They connected him with addiction services—and the [St. James Social Service Corp. Food Pantry](#), which hosts a weekly meal program.


“The pantry folks never gave up on me,” he said. “They made sure I had a meal every day.”

These days, Egbert makes return visits to the St. James meal program—not for food, but to be a positive influence on other visitors who may need some encouragement.

“Unless people see that there’s a way out, they can stay stagnant,” he said.

“I hope to be that example of how there is a way out, to show people what’s possible.”

NEIGHBORS
FACING HUNGER
GAINED ACCESS
TO MORE THAN

1.3B  MEALS

SUPPORTED BY
THE FEEDING
AMERICA
NETWORK
OCTOBER THROUGH
DECEMBER 2023.

FRESH
PRODUCE
201M

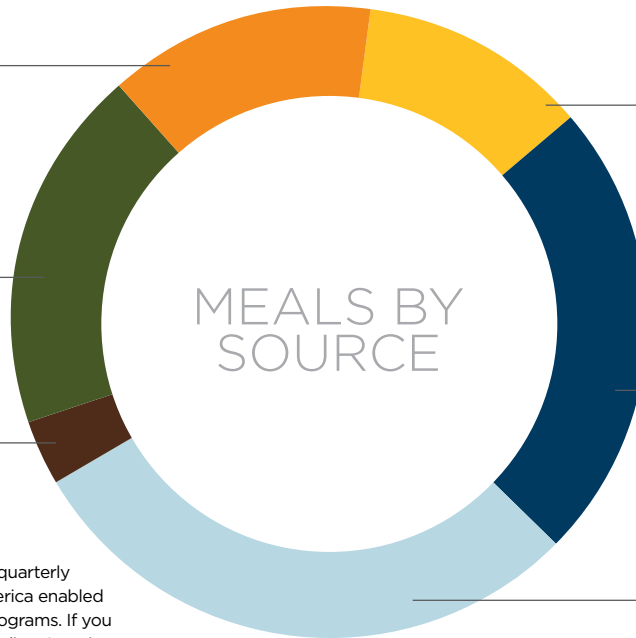
MANUFACTURING
DONATIONS
170M

PURCHASED
FOOD
277M

SNAP
MEALS
47M

FEDERAL
COMMODITIES
346M

RETAIL
DONATIONS
437M



*A meal from Feeding America is 1.2 pounds of product, based on USDA guidelines. The quarterly estimate includes SNAP meals Feeding America enabled through our SNAP application assistance programs. If you have any questions, please contact your Feeding America relationship manager or productsourcing@feedingamerica.org

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, PENSKE TRUCK LEASING AND LINEAGE FOUNDATION FOR GOOD

REMOVING BARRIERS TO HELP PEOPLE ACCESS MEALS

Around 90% of responding Feeding America partner food banks report seeing demand for food assistance increase or stay the same in October 2023 compared to the prior month, according to the latest network survey data. As hunger-relief partners across the country learn of the elevated need, they seek innovative, collaborative ways to help us achieve food security in America. This includes partners like the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation, which has provided 10 partner food banks each with a 26-foot refrigerated truck that can transport up to 12,000 pounds of food. The new vehicles will help expand the ability of each food bank to deliver free, nutritious food where it's needed most, removing the barrier for



neighbors unable to travel to traditional pantry sites. The donation was made possible by a \$2.2 million grant from Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation and support from Lineage Foundation for Good and Penske. Since January 2021, Darden and its partners have helped 35 partner food banks in 18 states receive 35 trucks, along with funds for operating expenses.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS LARGE INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY

The number of people living in food-insecure households in the United States in 2022 increased to 44 million (1 in 7), including 13 million children (1 in 5), according to *Household Food Security in the United States in 2022*, an annual report released Oct. 25, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). **This is an increase of 31% for all individuals and 44% for children from the previous year**—the highest rate and number of individuals and children since 2014 and the largest one-year increase in food insecurity since 2008.

The USDA report confirms what Feeding America heard from people facing hunger in our *2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report*, where people surveyed agreed that federal and local governments should treat food insecurity as an urgent crisis despite headlines asserting an improving economy and lower unemployment rates. We need to continue and expand bipartisan efforts to strengthen federal programs to help ensure everyone has access to the food and resources they say they need. As our CEO, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, said in a [statement](#), Feeding America calls for Congress to pass a strong farm bill that “invests in nutrition programs—especially TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) that moves healthy food from farms to food banks—and strengthens SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) so people experiencing food insecurity have greater purchasing power at their local grocery store.”

ACCORDING TO THE USDA REPORT ON FOOD SECURITY IN THE U.S. IN 2022:

44 MILLION

individuals—1 in 7—lived in food-insecure households.

13 MILLION

children—1 in 5—lived in food-insecure households.

15% INCREASE

in food insecurity among Black individuals, who were **2.4 times** as likely to face hunger as white individuals.

29% INCREASE

in food insecurity among Latino individuals, who were **2.2 times** as likely to face hunger as white individuals.

43% INCREASE

in food insecurity among white individuals.

PROVIDING PEOPLE A DIGNIFIED METHOD TO ACCESS CHARITABLE FOOD RESOURCES

On Dec. 7, 2023, *Service Insights on MealConnect* (SIMC), Feeding America’s free, web-based application, marked its second anniversary. Like so many innovations across the network, this invention originated from a food bank wanting to center people facing hunger and increase their impact via data-driven decisions. **Since the launch, 57 partner food banks and 1,200 agency partners who use the platform have recorded nearly 5 million visits from 1.1 million individual neighbors and 400,000 households.**

SIMC’s capabilities have expanded to meet the network’s critical technology needs, including neighbor data dashboards and reports; approval for electronic TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) intake in 20 states; and an offline intake capability for food distribution sites where Wi-Fi is not available. In the months ahead, **we plan to release features for enrolled programs like the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and workforce development programs; Food As Medicine referrals; data imports and more.**

Special thanks to Tableau for supporting this work.

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

EXPANDING THE FOOD BANK NETWORK'S CAPACITY

Sixteen active Boundless Collaborations— joint ventures between two or more food banks that transcend historical service-area boundaries—are developing the network's ability to collaborate and unlock equitable opportunities for people facing hunger. In October 2023, Feeding America launched a series of case studies of three Boundless Collaborations: the [Kitchen Coalition](#) expansion from [Second Harvest Heartland](#) to [Channel One Regional Food Bank](#); the [merger](#) of Connecticut's two largest nonprofit anti-hunger organizations to create [Connecticut Foodshare](#); and the [collective work of four food banks](#) in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming to improve equitable food access in partnership with Tribal communities. Among the goals of the case studies, to be completed in February, is to translate learnings into actionable best practices for existing and future collaborations.

HELPING NATIVE/TRIBAL NATIONS BUILD FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

We continue to deepen engagement with Tribal leaders and local community food practitioners to better understand how Native American and tribal communities are experiencing food insecurity and to support local initiatives that advance access to healthier, culturally preferred food. In December 2023, the five Native/Tribal Nations in our [Natives Prepared](#) program—promoting Tribal sovereignty and equity in Native communities—completed disaster preparedness/food sovereignty plans, customized so they can provide food to their citizens who are impacted by a disaster. In January 2024, each partner food bank participating in the project will receive a \$200,000 grant for the tribes to begin the implementation phase of their plans.

BOXLUNCH

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO END HUNGER NATIONWIDE

Everyone needs access to nutritious food to thrive. Feeding America is the nation's largest hunger-relief organization—but our mission extends beyond providing food. **The movement to end hunger needs all of us to work together** to do what we can to help drive innovative policies and programs that increase access, prioritize dignity, expand opportunity and improve health for all.

In November, the second annual [BoxLunch Holiday Gala](#) was held in Los Angeles to raise awareness for the [44 million people](#) experiencing food insecurity in the U.S. and to honor our [partnership](#): For every \$10 spent in-store or online, pop culture retailer BoxLunch helps provide meals to people facing hunger. With more than 245 stores nationwide, each location contributes to its community food bank, impacting hunger-relief efforts locally. In 2023, **BoxLunch celebrated a milestone of 175 million meals donated to Feeding America.**



Above: Feeding America's Chief Marketing & Digital Experience Officer Jennifer Polk (left) accepts a gift from actor and BoxLunch Giving Ambassador [David Harbour](#) (right), who matched BoxLunch's gift and donated an additional \$100,000 to our mission. (Credit: Vivien Killilea/Getty Images for BoxLunch)

At the gala, BoxLunch donated an additional \$100,000 to Feeding America, as well as \$25,000 to each attending network member: [Feeding San Diego](#); [Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano](#); [Central Texas Food Bank](#); and [Feeding South Florida](#). The evening also celebrated [Erika](#), a single mother of three who works full time and is able to access nutritious meals for her family from Feeding San Diego. "As any mom would experience, you want the best for your kids ... you want to do everything you can for them," she says in the [video](#) that played for the star-filled audience.

THE NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER IS GROWING

Thanks to Feeding America's nationwide network of food banks, the generosity of retailers and farmers, the determination of people facing hunger and dedicated hunger-relief partners like you, more neighbors in the U.S. have access to the food they say they need.



To grow the movement to end hunger, corporate partners launch campaigns to inspire people to give back. During the holidays, **Monro, Inc.** held its Drive to Give campaign, where customers visiting one of Monro's family of brands stores could donate to our mission at the register.

Milo's Tea Company is helping us achieve what we know is possible: a food-secure future for everyone in America. The family-owned business teamed with chef and [Feeding America Entertainment Council](#) member Katie Lee Biegel for its [Share the Joy](#) holiday campaign, donating up to **1 million meals** for families facing hunger. Additionally, nearly 100 Milo's associates volunteered at five food banks, processing almost 60,000 pounds of food.



To help people experiencing food insecurity, **The GIANT Company** helped provide **over 4 million meals** in 2023 through in-store campaigns. The regional grocery chain is one of our [Leadership Partners](#) and works with food banks, pantries and public school districts to end hunger in the communities they serve.



People facing hunger are working hard to provide their families the nutritious food they need. **Over 28 million meals** are possible thanks to **The TJX Foundation**, and customer donations made at the register, through its annual **Help Stop Hunger campaign**.



Jersey Mike's Subs and its customers partner with us to help provide nutritious food to people facing hunger. In November 2023, they raised \$4 million for our mission. Since 2020, they have donated more than \$15 million to Feeding America—**providing over 150 million meals**.

Increasing access to fresh, nutritious food is essential to helping neighbors facing hunger live a full and thriving life. **Salad and Go** partners with us to donate fresh salads and raise funds to support people experiencing food insecurity.



HELPING TO MEET THE NEED TO END HUNGER

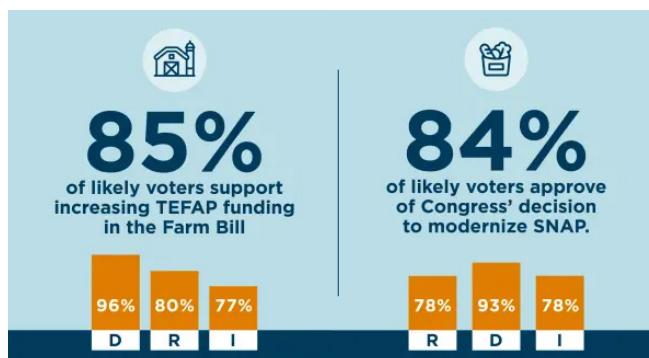
LIKELY VOTERS WANT GOVERNMENT TO DO MORE TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY

Nearly 70% of likely voters in the United States want the government to do more to address food insecurity, according to a [poll](#) released in November 2023 by Feeding America.

The national polling data includes results from more than 1,200 likely voters and showed that families in the U.S. continue to feel the strain of higher grocery bills. **As grocery prices rise, lawmakers must come together to pass a strong farm bill that helps tens of millions of people facing hunger put nutritious food on the table.** The poll results revealed:

- 82% of likely voters say they are concerned about high food prices right now.
- 87% are concerned that hunger is on the rise in America.

The current farm bill has been extended for another year, but congressional leaders are actively working on updating it before the next deadline. Congress only reauthorizes the farm bill about once every five years, and this legislation impacts nearly every federal nutrition program that helps ease the strain and stress of hunger in communities across the country. This includes The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)—which, through the help of food banks, ensures that food from U.S. farms and producers makes its way to the homes of families facing hunger—and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—which helps families afford groceries. According to our poll, likely voters support an increase in funding for programs like TEFAP and SNAP to help more people in America and food banks. You can [learn more about the poll results](#) on our website.



NEW FEEDING AMERICA PSA FEATURES SCARLETT JOHANSSON



[Feeding America's new public service announcement](#) (PSA) was released Nov. 8, in partnership with the Ad Council, and features [Feeding America Entertainment Council](#) member, actress and activist Scarlett Johansson, who volunteered her time and talent to raise awareness about hunger in America and encourage people to support the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks. In the PSAs—there are 15- and 30-second versions, as well as radio options—Johansson shares how food fueled growth in her life and fostered her love for acting. The new PSA builds upon [The Full Effect](#), a PSA we launched in June 2023. [You can watch and listen to the PSAs here.](#)

BUILDING AWARENESS



Above: We're grateful for volunteer support year-round, and especially during the holiday season. From October through December, 17 volunteer events nationwide engaged influential hunger-relief advocates, including Tayshia Adams, Bridget Moynahan and Emma Roberts, who volunteered Nov. 17 at Urban Outreach Center, an agency partner of City Harvest and Food Bank For New York City.

FROM THE FRONT LINES

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS TO HELP MORE PEOPLE FACING HUNGER

In November 2023, [Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York](#) (Latham, New York) launched an innovative collaboration with Tech Valley Shuttle to transform the food bank's [Retail Store Donation Program](#), designed to rescue food from participating retailers that would otherwise go to waste. In 2022, 12.4 million pounds of food—the equivalent of more than 10 million meals for neighbors facing hunger—were rescued through the program.

This new partnership is expected to rescue up to 1 million additional pounds of food, including meat, dairy and produce—items that are typically expensive and difficult to obtain—and deliver them to local pantries. Five days a week, Tech Valley Shuttle drivers collect food from participating retailers, including Price Chopper/Market 32, Hannaford, Walmart, Target, and Aldi, and deliver the groceries to Rev. Phil Food Pantry run by Schenectady Community Ministries, AMEN Food Pantry and Catholic Charities of Montgomery County.

“These retail routes are so dense with food. But we can’t possibly serve every single retail store—it’s just such a massive operation to go and rescue food. It’s a scale issue,” says Tom Nardacci, the food bank’s CEO. “The more drivers, the more trucks we have, the more food we can rescue.”



Above: A Tech Valley Shuttle driver delivers food to AMEN Food Pantry (Amsterdam, NY), part of a new collaboration with Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

Founded in 2016, [Tech Valley Shuttle](#) has 32 employees and all of them are from underserved populations and 80% has been justice-impacted; the food bank partnership helps people with records achieve successful pathways to meaningful work. The company’s founder has said his mission is to combat poverty through transportation solutions. He wants to improve second chance hiring practices and offer opportunities to individuals as they re-enter the workforce, removing barriers to employment.



Above: From left to right: Schenectady Community Ministries CEO Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos*; Tech Valley Shuttle CEO Trent Griffin-Braaf; Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York CEO Tom Nardacci; Jesse Fetcho* from Walmart Distribution Center; Mona Golub from Price Chopper/Market 32 (* denotes Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York Board Member)

FOOD RESCUE: ACHIEVING MORE, TOGETHER

On Dec. 1, 2023, Feeding America held the **Food Rescue Thought Leadership Convening**, a **first-of-its-kind event**, attended by executives representing nearly 40 major retailers, food manufacturers, foodservice and agriculture companies. The convening provided thought leaders the opportunity to listen and learn from each other in a non-competitive space so we can achieve shared goals: rescue more food, provide meals to people facing hunger, and keep food out of landfills. Among the key takeaways from the group is that **rescuing 1 billion more pounds of food by 2025 is achievable** through food transformation and repackaging, expanding regional sharing/mixing, adding transportation capacity, and enabling pickups by agency partners five times per week.

AT OUR CORE

FOSTERING CONNECTION AND BUILDING TRUST IN COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS

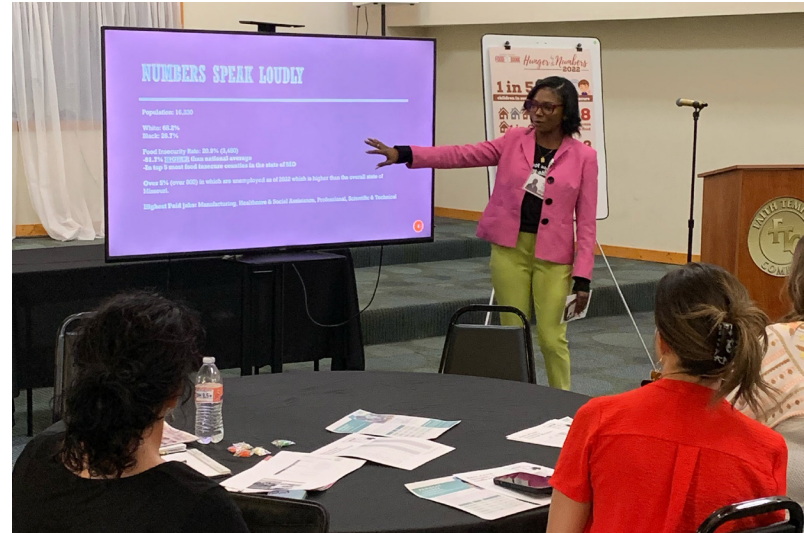
An important impact of Community Accelerator, our multi-year, community-focused initiative, has been the ability to create spaces for people to gather and build community, yielding deepened connections and trusted relationships. During the fall of 2023, Feeding America staff visited all five Community Accelerator grantees—located in the Delta region with some of the highest rates of food insecurity and racial disparities in access to food and resources—to provide support and coaching as they convened local organizations and community members to build strategies to help achieve local food security.

While each visit was designed to support local needs, shared themes surfaced across all five locations, including the importance of relationships to support a healthy and thriving community, how storytelling and sharing local history help create a shared connection, and how quantitative and qualitative data creates conversations and shared learning. **With food banks and their partners creating a space for community members to have open and honest conversations about history, race, their personal experiences and the current reality of their community**, participants are co-creating the approaches for what’s needed in the future.

Since 2020, teams made up of food bank staff and local leaders have been working together to create meaningful change in their communities by addressing racial equity and the root causes of food insecurity and we are seeing results. Food access has increased in all five communities, with teams reporting new pantries, mobile distributions, food delivery programs, and increased distributions at existing sites. Using the energy and momentum created in their community meetings, teams are continuing their food access work and collaborating on strategies to overcome barriers like transportation, childcare access, economic mobility, and access to health and mental health services.

Special thanks to CVS Health and its customers for supporting this work.

Below: (Top) Brittany Price of Southeast Missouri Food Bank shared local data and work done thus far to help generate ideas and opportunities to improve local health and economic well-being during a community partners meeting in September 2023 in Pemiscot County, Missouri.. (Bottom) During a November 2023 meeting in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, Community Accelerator grantees and community partners reviewed local data to help inform their strategies around food access, transportation, child care and elder care.



LOOKING AHEAD

Given the progress made through Community Accelerator, Feeding America will conduct a second cohort of the initiative for qualifying partner food banks. The new cohort is slated to launch in August. Work is underway to engage eligible food banks, including an in-person workshop in February, so they can determine if they want to apply.

GIVING BACK ON #GIVINGTUESDAY

During November's #GivingTuesday, a global movement that unites people through generosity and kindness, more than 9,400 hunger-relief supporters like you took action to support our mission. We raised \$1.58 million on #GivingTuesday—which means **over 15 million additional meals**, supported by the Feeding America network, will be provided to families facing hunger across the country. We are grateful for the generosity and care received online that day and we are optimistic that we will inspire more people in 2024 to join the movement to end hunger. **Together, we can achieve food security in America.**

WAYS TO ENGAGE

[Feeding America's 2023 annual report](#) highlights progress made in the movement to end hunger in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023).

Learn how supporters are taking action in the movement to end hunger in the new [Why I Partner section of our website](#).

Plan early for how you will spend April—National Volunteer Month. Food banks rely on volunteers year-round to ensure more families can access nutritious food. [Contact your local food bank](#) to get involved with the movement to end hunger.



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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.

