**SUMMER 2025** 

# Impact Report

Your Investments in Action





Above: Miriam, director at Gladiolus Food Pantry, leads hurricane relief efforts—distributing food, water, and supplies in her Florida community.

# THE NEED FOR COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY PERSISTS

While the <u>passage of the budget reconciliation bill</u> is not the outcome we hoped for, we are undeterred in our mission. We are grateful for the extraordinary support of partners and donors like you who show up in countless ways, from financial and food investments, to volunteering, to grassroots advocacy and more.

Your efforts, along with the food bank network's advocacy—including agency and grassroots community partners—helped affect an outcome that is measurably less harmful than original proposals. The provisions that originally passed in the House cut around \$300 billion in benefits (or around 9 billion meals lost per year), while the version that passed in the Senate cut less than \$200 billion based on preliminary estimates (or around 6 billion meals lost per year). Your voice and action made a difference—and they will remain critical as we move forward.

### Donate to the Community Response Fund

This urgent response fund supports Feeding America and the food bank network as we work to address the growing and evolving challenges of hunger across the country. Please reach out to your Feeding America Relationship Manager or Account Manager to discuss a gift to the fund.



### **NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT:**

# ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Annette's commitment to community service is not just a duty but a testament to her spirit.

A turning point for Annette, who is a disabled veteran, came when she reached out to the <u>San Antonio</u> <u>Food Bank</u>. Overcoming pride and embracing the support offered, she discovered a community that went beyond sustenance.

"They really were caring and just helpful and they were not judgmental ... they just really were happy to give," she said.

Annette's relationship with the San Antonio Food Bank has evolved, and she's now an advocate. To dismantle stigma around seeking help, she shares her story at events like Feeding America's Elevating Voices: Power Summit in Washington, D.C.

"My story is my way to help, to give back to the community," she said.

In her pursuit of service, Annette envisions supporting fellow veterans transitioning into civilian life, recognizing the unique challenges they face.



Above: Babineaux-Fontenot volunteered with Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee's Mobile Market, which eliminates transportation barriers by bringing food directly to communities. To date, the Mobile Market has delivered more than 41,000 nutritious meals to communities facing hunger. Photo credit: Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee

## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As I write, summer is in full swing. For many of us, that represents beaches and barbeques, but for some, the picture isn't quite as rosy. Child hunger peaks across the country during the summer months because kids can no longer count on school meals to support them through the day. Your investment in Feeding America helps ensure that children have the nutritious meals they need to maximize their potential, even when school is out of session.

Take Tyleeq, for instance, who lives with his grandmother and two brothers. He is an active boy who loves to play sports and spend time with his family. During summer break, he has breakfast and lunch at the local Boys and Girls Club through a collaboration with the Feeding America network. "Eating food at the Boys and Girls Club is great," Tyleeq said. "It means when I get home, I'm not hungry. And when I'm not hungry, I can go outside and play and have fun."

The need is critical: Nearly 14 million children—1 in 5 kids—face hunger in the U.S. By working together with communities, lawmakers, partners, and supporters like you, we can see that kids get consistent access to meals year-round—especially during the summer—and work to end child hunger for good. Your help fills me with gratitude and hope.

Partnering with you to end hunger,

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot

CEO, Feeding America

## FOOD AS MEDICINE: COLLABORATING WITH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO MAKE NUTRITIOUS FOOD MORE ACCESSIBLE

Access to healthy, nutritious food has shown to improve physical and mental health for neighbors experiencing food insecurity, according to a report on Feeding America's Food as Medicine initiative. The report shares key activities and learnings from the second year of the three-year initiative. Notable program outcomes include the creation of food pantries and pre-packaged food pick-up boxes at hospitals and clinics, new produce prescription programs, nutrition courses and home delivery services.

## FOOD AS MEDICINE FOLLOWS A SCREEN/REFER/NOURISH MODEL:



### >30

Health care providers that partnered with food banks.



### >860,000

Patients screened for food insecurity during a health care visit.



### >100,000

Screened patients found to be food insecure and provided with a nutritious food referral redeemed at a participating food bank.

Special thanks to Elevance Health Foundation for supporting this work.

"As part of this program, Elevance Health Foundation and Feeding America are collaborating on a first-of-its-kind nationwide study integrating neighbors' survey answers, interview responses, health records, and insurance claims data to assess the impact of the 'Food as Medicine' partnerships between food banks and health care providers. This comprehensive research approach will provide actionable knowledge about how these partnerships—and 'Food is Medicine' programs more generally—positively impact neighbors' health, quality of life, diet quality, food security, health care utilization, and more."

Dr. Chris Long, Principal Research Scientist at The Center for Nutrition & Health Impact

# FOOD RESCUE CHALLENGE: PROGRESS UPDATES

To help catalyze the <u>Food Rescue Challenge</u>, Feeding America established the Food Rescue Fund, with a goal to raise \$50 million annually to scale and establish new and deeper partnerships between food manufacturers, retailers, farmers, other strategic partners and network members. We've raised \$23 million, to date, through the Food Rescue Fund, which also aims to rescue an additional 1 billion pounds of food annually, increasing from 3.96 billion pounds in fiscal year 2023 to 5 billion pounds annually by fiscal year 2028. Initial estimates, as of July 18, indicate that network members rescued approximately 4.3 billion pounds of food in fiscal year 2025, which ended June 30.

## FOOD RESCUE PARTNER CONVENING HIGHLIGHTS

Feeding America hosted the second Food Rescue Partner Convening on May 13, which gathered 55 attendees, including food bank CEOs and food rescue partners from across the country. Guest speakers from Kroger, Tyson Foods, and COX Enterprises shared their company's respective food rescue work and best practices. Common themes from breakout groups included:

- Need for on-site assessments and education on opportunities for food donations
- Education on the food bank network's ability to receive donated food
- Ability to address pick-up and drop-off barriers between food banks and retailers

We hope future convenings will generate the same strong connections, inspire new ideas, and raise important questions—ultimately helping to increase capacity awareness and strengthen local and national networks to expand access to surplus, nutritious food for people facing hunger.



Pictured in the center above: Robert, executive chef at an agency partner of Feeding San Diego, and fellow team members receive a local fresh food donation, made possible through MealConnect\*, Feeding America's online food rescue platform.

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Above: Kaeden, age 10, and his family access fresh fruits and vegetables at an agency partner of All Faiths Food Bank.

## EARTH MONTH CAMPAIGN AMPLIFIES FOOD RESCUE EFFORTS

On April 1—marking Earth Month—we launched a public campaign to amplify the Food Rescue Challenge, aiming to introduce a broader audience to Feeding America's food rescue work. The campaign, anchored by a \$500,000 match, raised \$2.3 million. Early indications show that the campaign resonated with our audience, with over 50,000 site visits and 38,000 social engagements—outperforming year-over-year benchmarks—across the campaign period (which ended May 14).

## PARTNERING IN THE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER



Achieving food security in America requires strong partnerships and Ollie's Bargain Outlet, Inc. is a great example. Ollie's register campaign (March 9-April 12) in more than 500 stores helped provide 8.3 million meals\* for people facing hunger, benefiting 138 food banks across 31 states.



In 2025, Casey's General Stores' annual register campaign marked the fifth consecutive year-over-year increase, helping to provide over 8.6 million meals\* to nearly 60 food banks in Casey's communities. Its partner, Celsius, also donated \$25,000 to the campaign.



Over the past few years, AT&T customers have donated over \$1 million worth of their reward cards to Feeding America and other charities. When eligible, a person can choose to donate all or part of their reward amount when signing up for AT&T Fiber®.

Support from Nationwide Foundation is making inroads to address food insecurity disparities. Grants to 18 food banks have helped distribute 3.4 million meals to over 668,000 neighbors, while Nationwide leaders lend time and expertise by serving on food bank boards across the country.



In April 2025, **Veritiv Operating Company** announced a new corporate social impact commitment to support our mission to end hunger. Veritiv will deploy volunteers to support food distribution efforts, collaborate on food rescue programs, donate supplies, and provide support for workforce readiness initiatives.

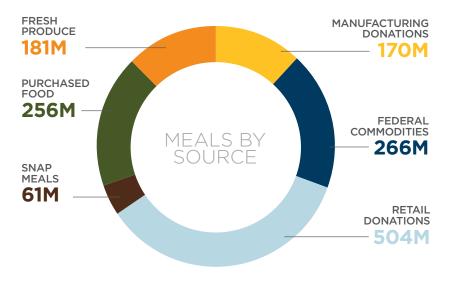


In the U.S., 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity, and partners like **Cuddle+Kind** are committed to changing that. Kicking off its new partnership with us, Cuddle+Kind has committed to helping to provide 1.5 million meals\* for kids facing hunger, supported by its Tiny Doll product line.



Visit the Why I Partner page to learn how our national partners are taking action in the movement to end hunger.

\*\$1 helps provide at least 10 meals secured by Feeding America on behalf of partner food banks. NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER GAINED ACCESS TO 1.4 BILLION MEALS\*, SUPPORTED BY THE FEEDING AMERICA NETWORK JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2025.



The chart conveys the meals received by the network.

\*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.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT TYSON FOODS

Since 2022, Tyson Foods, a Feeding America <u>Visionary Partner</u>, has **donated more than 43 million pounds of protein**, valued at approximately \$50 million, directly to the food bank network. Through a recent grant, supported by Tyson Foods, 10 food banks were each awarded \$50,000 to launch or augment home delivery programs in rural areas. The program is designed to provide a dignified neighbor experience for people in rural communities, expand their choices, and remove traditional food access barriers, including limited transportation.

Tyson Foods also invests food and funds to advance innovative approaches, including supporting the network's 13 protein pack rooms, which enable members to fulfill the food safety and temperature requirements for storing, repacking in family-size quantities, and shipping





fresh and frozen products to ensure people facing hunger have the nourishment they need.

In April 2025, the third Protein Pack Room Convening, supported by Tyson Foods, was hosted by Northwest Arkansas Food Bank. During the two-day event, leaders from 19 food banks shared ideas and best practices to increase protein for hunger relief and heard from 20 network and industry speakers, including from Tyson Foods, on several topics, including food safety, supply chain capacity and planning, production efficiency and workforce development.

Tyson Foods also hosted a tour of its campus in Springdale, Arkansas, providing attendees with a behind-the-scenes look at the major food company.

## FROM HUNGER RELIEF TO HOLISTIC SUPPORT

### CONNECTING NEIGHBORS TO JOBS, STABILITY AND A PATH FORWARD

force development initiatives that are helping food banks across the country increase access to dignity-centered, holistic to integrate food security with long-term opportunity.

- Good Jobs Challenge Grant: Thirteen food banks focused on expanding targeted support for program participants, particularly through enhanced case management and 247 participants graduated, 211 earned certifications,
- Workforce Development Models Grant: This initiative helped

an 84% completion rate for accredited training programs. framework to evaluate the impact of workforce development wide evidence for effective, dignity-centered solutions.

coordinated, network-wide strategy that aligns goals across for broader, long-term impact—connecting food access with job readiness, skills training and career pathways.

### 2025 HALO AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Each year, the Halo Awards, presented by Engage for Good, honors corporate and nonprofit partnerships that skillfully intertwine their resources to have a measurable impact on the cause and the business. In 2025, Feeding America was a winner and four-time finalist along with our outstanding partners:

### Starbucks Coffee Company: Best of the Best Award and Gold Award

Starbucks and Feeding America were recognized for Best Food Insecurity Initiative and Best of the Best initiative between for-profit and nonprofit organizations for our innovative FoodShare food donation program. Since its inception, FoodShare has provided more than 63 million meals to local communities across the U.S., diverting 75 million pounds of food from waste streams.

### **Food Lion: Silver Award**

Food Lion's work with Feeding America on Holidays Without Hunger was honored with the Silver Award in the Best Consumer Donation Initiative category. Since launching in 2014, Holidays Without Hunger has helped provide more than 73 million meals.

#### **Additional Recognition**

We celebrate the following partnerships, recognized as Halo Award finalists:

- John Deere (Best Food Security Initiative)
- Partnership With Native Americans: Natives **Prepared Project**

(Best Emergency/Disaster Response Initiative)



est Food Insecurity Initiativ

The Halo Awards are the top honor for corporate social impact, recognizing innovative and effective partnerships between companies and nonprofits for 23 years. The 2025 Halo Awards were announced in April at a gala in Palm Springs, CA.

### "THE BEAR" CAST MEMBERS RAISE AWARENESS FOR SUMMER HUNGER



To mark the new season of FX's "The Bear," Disney and "Good Morning America" (GMA) joined forces on June 24 to help raise awareness of summer hunger. During a live GMA segment, Disney donated the equivalent of 450,000 meals to be split evenly among three food banks: Food Bank For New York City, the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

Left: Alongside Food Bank For New York City team members, "The Bear" actress Abby Elliott (third from left) and Leslie Gordon (fourth from left ), the food bank's CEO, were among those featured June 24 on GMA, led by hosts Joelle Gargiulo and Sam Champion. Photo credit: PictureGroup/FX

## INCREASING RETAIL RESCUE THROUGH AGENCY CAPACITY BUILDING

Retail Agency Capacity (RAC) grant funding helps the agency partners of network food banks pick up donations from retail stores for a hyper-local connection and impact, meaning nutritious food reaches neighbors facing hunger within the same community faster and allows food banks to reallocate their resources to other food rescue strategies. In April 2025, Feeding America hosted the third RAC convening, in Chicago. The three-day event was attended by 48 people, including staff leaders representing 20 partner food banks. Grantees had the opportunity to learn and share best practices and develop resources for future grantees. Since 2022, more than \$50 million in RAC grants have been awarded to 64 food banks. Results to date include an 18.5% increase in donated pounds of food, compared to a 13% increase for non-RAC grantees.

The latest round of RAC grants, supported by a \$9.75 million investment from Walmart, were awarded to 20 food banks in Spring 2025. The funding will enable members to purchase equipment, such as refrigerated vehicles, scales, coolers and forklifts, to boost services and to invest in staffing, technology and training to accommodate increased capacity to rescue more food.



Retail donations are the largest food stream for the food bank network. In fiscal year 2024, we sourced **2.3 billion pounds** of food through retail donations.



### LEAVING A LEGACY: POLLY CHANDLER

For Polly Chandler, ensuring everyone has access to food has always been a top priority. She gives back in many ways, including volunteerism, advocacy and supporting her local food bank, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank.

Inspired by Feeding America's holistic approach to ending hunger, Polly chooses to provide direct support to the national organization and our mission and is now a Feeding America van Hengel Society member (see sidebar). She notes that in every city, town and neighborhood, the food bank network aims to not only distribute food, but to address the root causes of hunger.

"Leaving a legacy gift is a way to have a lasting impact on your community and the world. I dream of a day where the root causes of hunger will be resolved, and this kind of donation and services won't be needed," Polly said. "Until then, I'll keep trying to do my part."

Click <u>here</u> to visit our **Why I Give page** to read more about Polly and other hunger-relief supporters.

The van Hengel Society is named for John van Hengel, the founder of the modern food bank movement, and honors individuals who make legacy gifts, including bequests and charitable gift annuities, in support of Feeding America. To learn more about making a planned gift, joining the van Hengel Society, or if you've already included Feeding America in your estate plans, please contact Jessica Noe, Director of Development and Planned Giving, at 312-641-5593 or plannedgiving@feedingamerica.org.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 20% of children across the country are experiencing food insecurity and, in some rural counties, child food insecurity rates are estimated to be as high as 50%, according to Feeding America's annual *Map the Meal Gap* study, released in May. While most children in the U.S. live in urban metropolitan areas, over 80% of U.S. counties with the highest estimated rates of child food insecurity (in the top 10% of all counties) are rural. Now in its 15th year, *Map the Meal Gap* is the only study that provides local-level estimates of food insecurity and food costs for every county and congressional district in the U.S.



Each September, the Feeding America network celebrates <u>Hunger</u> <u>Action Month</u> to encourage collective action to end hunger in our country. Dedicated hunger-relief supporters and advocates like you can engage in several ways, including wearing orange, hosting a fundraiser, making a food or financial donation, volunteering at your <u>local food bank</u>, or engaging on social platforms, among other ideas.

### **Key Dates:**

- ► Hunger Action Month: September 1-30
- ► Hunger Action Day: September 9
- ▶ *Elevating Voices: Insights Report:* September 9: The <u>report</u> is our annual, nationally representative survey of the experiences, concerns and policy views of people facing hunger in the U.S.







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Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. As part of a network of more than 200 food banks, 21 statewide food bank associations, and over 60,000 agency partners, food pantries and meal programs, we helped provide 5.9 billion meals to tens of millions of people in need last year.

### Join the movement to end hunger.

Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate.