

SUMMER 2026



Impact Report



Landmark Evaluation Shows the Power of 'Food as Medicine'

In partnership for the last three years with [Elevance Health Foundation](#), Feeding America released (July 8) the **nation's largest Food as Medicine evaluation of food banks**, finding that consistent access to nutritious food reduces self-reported hospitalizations and emergency department visits and strengthens food security among people facing hunger.

The [Food as Medicine 3.0 \(FAM3\) Cumulative Evaluation Report](#) showcases findings from the three-year, national initiative, funded by Elevance Health Foundation. The program, evaluated by the [Center for Nutrition & Health Impact](#), **screened more than 1.45 million patients** for food insecurity and connected over **161,000 households across 13 states** to nutritious food, demonstrating that nutrition and health care support improve health.

The FAM3 report, which includes 21 partner food banks and over 50 U.S. health care sites, presents **measurable health improvements** among participants, including that hospitalization rates fell by 14% and emergency department visits dropped by 11%. Check out the full findings from the [FAM3 report](#) to learn more.

Elevance Health Foundation's visionary \$14.1 million investment is fueling a national movement, redefining how America connects food, dignity and health so that more neighbors can access nutritious food and health care resources.

2026 Halo Award Winner

Feeding America is proud to be named alongside Elevance Health Foundation as a Gold Winner at the 2026 Halo Awards for Food as Medicine 3.0, which was honored as Best Food Insecurity Initiative by Engage for Good. This recognition reflects that a Food as Medicine approach is a powerful tool for better health.



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

Johnny and Jessica

Jessica works full-time at a doctor's office and Johnny does part-time contract work, such as tiling, and yet affording food during the summer for their family of four can be difficult.

During the school year, **more than 21 million children in the U.S.**—including Johnny and Jessica's kids, Gage and Leila—eat free meals at school. When school is out of session and those meals are no longer available, the Feeding America network helps ensure kids and families have the food they need to thrive.

To help fill the summer gap, Jessica, Johnny and their kids visit the [Central California Food Bank's](#) First Fruits Market every two weeks to access free, fresh produce, protein and shelf-stable food.

"Before the Market, there was some worry that we weren't going to have milk or we weren't going to have breakfast or be able to cook dinner," said Jessica, who added that the Market has been "comforting and life changing."



McDonough met with network leaders during a recent visit to the [Food Bank of South Jersey](#).

A Letter from Our CEO

This summer, we are celebrating the USA's 250th anniversary and the millions of people who invest their time and talent into furthering our founders' intentions of forming a more perfect union. We have a rich history of imagining what is possible when engaged community members work toward progress, then work to make it happen.

The road to progress can be bumpy, in part because we, people from all corners of this nation, are paving it together. We don't always agree, but we always persevere. One thing I believe we do agree on is that no one in this great nation should go hungry, and now is the time to persevere.

In June, food bankers reported that visits to their food bank were as high as they were during the height of the SNAP disruption last fall. Things are tough. But I know neighbors facing hunger are tougher, especially when supporters like you stand with them.

Thanks to remarkable investments, Feeding America continues to increase capabilities and partnerships to rescue billions of pounds of nutritious food each year, especially fresh produce and protein frequently requested by neighbors. We distributed more than \$18 million in Neighbor Access and Experience grants to ensure neighbors' needs are addressed holistically. And network leaders are banding together across the country to invest in new nutrition programming, like Illinois' new program to support neighbors who lose access to SNAP and Minnesota's new measure to help distribute more eggs. [Your voice can help](#). Let's make sure everyone has access to the food they need to thrive.

Thanks for all you do to create a more perfect union.

DENIS MCDONOUGH
CEO, FEEDING AMERICA

Advancing Our Work Through Leading Research

New data from Feeding America's [Map the Meal Gap \(MMG\)](#) study provides a clearer picture of food insecurity in 2024, including that more than 8 out of 10 counties with the highest estimated rates of food insecurity are rural or located in the South.

The MMG study also revealed that approximately 25 million people—nearly half of all people experiencing food insecurity—had incomes too high to qualify for federal nutrition assistance, leaving them ineligible to access the food they need to thrive.

As in years past, the study found that **100% of counties and congressional districts** are home to people experiencing food insecurity at some point during the year. Yet, levels of food insecurity vary by population and

place. To learn full findings, including local percentages of food insecurity for the overall population, be sure to check out the [2026 MMG study](#).

For over 15 years*, MMG is the only study that has provided local-level estimates of food insecurity and food costs for every U.S. county and congressional district.

Special thanks to [Conagra Brands Foundation](#), [NielsenIQ/NIQ](#) and [Enterprise Mobility Foundation](#) for supporting this work.

**The 2026 MMG study is the last release of the series that relies on data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement as an input, as the USDA announced in September 2025 it has sunset the survey. Feeding America is collaborating networkwide, along with diverse partners, to explore alternative data sources, in 2027 and beyond, from which to estimate local food insecurity.*

Latest Campaign Results: Food & Health and Food Rescue

During National Nutrition Month (March), Feeding America launched the **Food & Health campaign**, grounded in our new [Led by Neighbors](#) brand platform. Centered around the tagline “Health Starts with What’s On Your Plate,” the campaign was activated across all digital platforms and raised \$209,000 from approximately 2,000 donations. Special thanks to **Keith Monda and Veronica Brady** for a generous \$150,000 challenge match. To amplify the Food & Health narrative, we partnered with Entertainment Council member and actor **Ryan Eggold** across iHeart Media podcasts, generating 870,000 impressions.

In April, Feeding America’s **Food Rescue campaign** mobilized supporters to strengthen our food rescue operational powerhouse. The campaign raised \$2.6 million, a 7% increase over the 2025 campaign. Special thanks to **Sheryl Sandberg and Tom Bernthal** for a generous \$550,000 challenge match.

Our Entertainment Council activation featured an email from **Rachael Ray** to donors, generating more than \$38,000 in donations and achieving the highest open rate across campaign emails.

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness & Resilience

Feeding America continues to invest in [disaster preparedness and readiness](#) through training, planning exercises and direct member support—strengthening local response capabilities, enhancing network-wide coordination and helping ensure food banks are equipped to effectively respond.

In **April through June 2026**, we coordinated the deployment of critical resources to help neighbors access essential support during times of disruption:



7 States Supported

(California, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, Texas and Wisconsin)

as network members activated disaster responses for flooding, wildfires, tornadoes and more



8 Truckloads Delivered

including water, food boxes, and senior and infant nutrition products

Special thanks to [Ford Philanthropy](#) and [Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies](#) for supporting this work.



Taylor and Liam, Virginia

Driving a Nationally Coordinated SNAP Activation

The Feeding America network has launched a nationally coordinated SNAP Activation to strengthen federal nutrition programs as a cornerstone of food assistance in the U.S. **The first priority is delaying the planned SNAP cost shift to states**, allowing time for thoughtful implementation and helping ensure people do not lose access to benefits. To support this effort, Feeding America is building a national story bank to demonstrate what SNAP means for people and communities. These stories, along with data, messaging and other tools, are supporting network member conversations with policymakers on the importance of delaying the shift and protecting access to food.

Learn More: SNAP donor webinar video

In July, we hosted a donor webinar about SNAP, grounded in policy context, advocacy strategy and network mobilization. [Click here](#) to watch the webinar recording and learn more.

Partnering in the Movement to End Hunger

IHOP launched its 2026 giving campaign on National Pancake Day (March 3), inviting customers to make a donation at checkout to help neighbors facing hunger. The effort raised over \$50,000, which will help provide at least 500,000 meals* for local communities.



In 2026, **Casey's General Stores'** annual register campaign marked the sixth consecutive year-over-year increase, exceeding over 10 million meals* provided to over 60 food banks in Casey's communities. Its partner, DoorDash, also donated nearly \$30,000 to the campaign.



In 2026, we celebrate 20 years of outstanding partnership with **Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation**. Throughout its partnership, the Foundation has invested over \$8 million toward our mission, supporting local child hunger programs operated by network members.



BoxLunch, named for its mission to help provide meals, turns fandom shopping into support for neighbors. For every \$10 spent, BoxLunch will donate a meal* to help families thrive, making generosity an easy action for its patrons.



As more neighbors face challenges to put food on the table, **Ollie's** and its customers demonstrated tremendous generosity, raising over \$834,000 during spring 2026, exceeding last year's total and helping provide critical support for families and children facing hunger.



Protein—among the most requested items by neighbors—often is difficult for members to secure. In 2026, **Vital Farms** has contributed high-quality, pasture-raised eggs to help us address the protein needs of the communities we serve.

**\$1 helps provide at least 10 meals secured by Feeding America on behalf of partner food banks.*

Visit the [Why I Partner](#) page to learn how our national partners are active in the movement to end hunger.

Meals by Source

Neighbors facing hunger gained access to **1.4 BILLION MEALS***, supported by the Feeding America network January through March 2026. The listing below conveys the meals received by the network.

SNAP Meals

56M

Purchased Food

305M

Fresh Produce Donations

190M

Manufacturing Donations

160M

Federal Commodities

182M

Retail Donations

520M

**A meal from Feeding America is 1.2 pounds of product, based on USDA guidelines. The 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.



Davis, New York

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Costco Wholesale

Ensuring everyone has access to food and a thriving future requires strong, coordinated partnerships that operate on a national scale while remaining grounded in community-informed solutions. As a Feeding America [Visionary Partner](#), Costco Wholesale contributes to this work through a strategic blend of food rescue and grant support for partner food banks.

Since 2000, Costco Wholesale has helped provide more than **970 million meals** by donating over 1.16 billion pounds of food to Feeding America network partners, nourishing families and rescuing food. At the local level, each Costco Wholesale location collaborates with network members to ensure surplus food is quickly shared with neighbors who need it most.

Costco Wholesale also **invests millions of dollars annually in food purchase grants**, providing food banks the flexibility to source foods that reflect the preferences and realities of their communities. By pairing a national food recovery program with a deep respect for local insight, Costco Wholesale helps strengthen community-led efforts to achieve food security.

Working Together to Provide More Protein for Neighbors

Protein items—essential for a healthy diet—are among the most requested by neighbors. Working hard to meet community needs, food banks face a significant protein donation shortage.

To help close the network's protein gap, **13 Feeding America partner food banks operate protein pack rooms, and a 14th facility will open in 2027** in California. Protein pack rooms provide the necessary storage and refrigeration to keep protein fresh, meet food safety requirements and expand member capacity to break apart bulk protein donations into family-friendly sizes for local and regional neighbor distribution.

In April 2026, the fourth annual Protein Pack Room Convening was hosted by [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#). More than 20 speakers shared expertise on protein commodity markets, food safety, disaster response partnerships, equipment best practices, and nonprofit collaboration opportunities. The Georgia Department of Agriculture commissioner spoke about challenges facing Georgia farms and the importance of supporting U.S. agriculture.

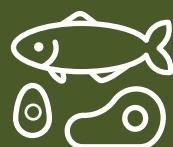
Special thanks to [Tyson Foods](#) for supporting this event.



Protein pack rooms, like the one at Atlanta Community Food Bank, are USDA-inspected rooms dedicated to handling and repacking meat, poultry and seafood products.

Ensuring Fair Neighbor Access to Preferred Food, Dignified Experiences

Neighbors have told Feeding America they want food access to be compassionate and affirming of their dignity. They want direct, timely and accurate communication and engagement with people providing support. In response, Feeding America launched a three-year \$18.4 million Neighbor Access and Experience (NAX) grant. Awarded June 30 among 61 network members, funds will help grantees advance access to preferred foods, convenient services, and dignified, non-judgmental experiences for neighbors. The NAX grants will support efforts to remove access barriers while strengthening welcoming, neighbor-centered environments. Grounded in neighbor voice and local insight, awardees will advance solutions through neighbor engagement, data-informed planning and community partner engagement to better meet neighbors where they are.



Investing in Protein Pack Room Capability and Operations

The latest round of Protein Pack Room Capacity Building Grants was awarded in March 2026 to help members build protein pack room capabilities and operations by expansion, modification and/or automation. Member grants were awarded to eight partner food banks, located in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Texas.

Special thanks to [Cargill](#) and [Tyson Foods](#) for supporting this work.

Project Milestone for ERP Modernization

In June, representatives from five food banks testing the Microsoft Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform met in Chicago to review progress and prepare for the next phase of the project. The group aligned on how information will be shared, tracked and used, and they planned for design sprints beginning in July at each participating food bank. A network ERP Modernization Task Force also recently kicked off work to establish common data and process standards for pilot implementation. Rooted in learnings from neighbors and the network, ERP Modernization aims to strengthen our capacity to serve neighbors with the right food at the right place at the right time and to do so by unlocking new capacity, innovation and coordination across the network.

LEAVE A LEGACY

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, Senior Director of Development and Planned Giving, at 312-641-5593 or plannedgiving@feedingamerica.org.



Stars from 'The Bear' Supporting the Movement to End Hunger

To capstone their final season, FX's "The Bear" cast recorded a [PSA](#) supporting Feeding America, running across Disney platforms. The cast also recorded a heartfelt [thank you video](#), recognizing the incredible work of food bankers and agency partners to end hunger. Over the course of the show's five-year run, the cast has raised awareness for hunger-relief, including during live appearances on "Good Morning America."

Special thanks to Disney, FX, Hulu and "The Bear" cast for their support.



COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN AMERICA:

Jack and Maria Truong

Jack Truong said he understands firsthand how powerful support can be when it's needed most. While growing up in war-torn Vietnam, his family was comfortable, but when they moved to the U.S. when he was in seventh grade, suddenly they had "nothing."

"Anything can be taken away from you, just like that," he said.

With nonprofit support, Jack's family regained their footing—his parents found work, and he started school and a paper route.

Jack and his wife, Maria, began supporting Feeding America after visiting the [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#). He was inspired to see and learn about the ability of the food bank—part of the nationwide Feeding America network—to **meet immediate need, address root causes of hunger and enable thriving futures** through programs that provide job training and experience.

Recently, the couple made a **significant, multi-year investment**, supporting the work of both Feeding America at the national level and the Greater Chicago Food Depository at the local level.

Jack has held numerous global CEO positions, attributing his success to his first year in the U.S. when he learned the value of hard work and being resilient. Now he wants to ensure that everyone has the same opportunity—and he wants to inspire other CEOs to join the movement to end hunger.

Visit the [Why I Give](#) page to read about more hunger-relief supporters.



Frederick, New York



Rooted in the voices of neighbors facing hunger, Feeding America® unites communities through a nationwide network to ensure everyone has access to food and a thriving future. As part of a network of 250+ food banks, 20+ statewide food bank associations, 10+ regional co-ops and 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 us to end hunger in America.

Donate. Advocate. Fundraise. Volunteer.

161 North Clark Street, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601

660 North Capitol St NW
Washington, DC 20001

800.771.2303

www.feedingamerica.org

Uplifted by a 44-year Partnership

Each year, TIME recognizes 100 of the world's most influential people, and at its annual TIME 100 Gala in April, they also honored a "TIME 101" recipient—an individual or organization demonstrating an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in communities. Feeding America was honored to be nominated by **P&G**, a longtime partner for 44 years in our hunger-relief mission.

Pictured below, left to right: Kate Bryant, Claude Zukowski and Vanessa Cheris of P&G, Bridget Carney and Monica Lopez Gonzalez of Feeding America, and Anna Saalfeld of P&G



Hunger Action Month Starts September 1

Each September, the Feeding America network celebrates [Hunger Action Month](#) (Sept. 1-30) to encourage collective action to end hunger in the U.S. 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 local food bank, or engaging on social platforms, among other ideas.

Key Dates:

Sept. 9

- **Annual State of Hunger Address** with Feeding America CEO Denis McDonough. The webinar will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. CT. Event and registration information coming soon.

Sept. 29

- **Hunger Action Day**, a key moment during Hunger Action Month when people across the country take action to end hunger
- 2026 release of the [Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#), our annual, nationally representative survey of the experiences, concerns and policy views of people facing hunger in the U.S.
- **Pet Hunger Awareness Day, led by PetSmart Charities**, an opportunity to elevate the issue of hunger and engage broader audiences