

Impact Report

Sustained Demand for Food Assistance

The Feeding America network is preparing for an era of sustained demand on the charitable food system, which may be extraordinary in its duration, geographic variation and complexity and is based on our assessment of four leading indicators:

- Widespread food insecurity persists
- Neighbors reporting long-term financial pressure
- Access to nutrition assistance may become less predictable
- Families needing support from a charitable system that also is under pressure

Inspired [by neighbors facing hunger who have shared with us their optimism](#) for the future, we have confidence in our collective resolve, underscored by your support, to achieve food security in America.

Network Steps Up Advocacy as Farm Bill Negotiations Continue

We continue to [advocate for the passage of a bipartisan farm bill](#) that supports federal nutrition programs and farmers. We aim to ensure all states have additional time to prepare for the new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits cost shift requirements and are urging lawmakers to increase funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food purchases.

NETWORK'S ADVOCACY DURING AUGUST CONGRESSIONAL RECESS



100%
of congressional offices engaged



400+
advocacy activities
completed by supporters



200+
elected officials and 170 staffers engaged
through food bank tours, facility visits,
press conferences and more



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Laura

As a substitute teacher, Laura works a flexible schedule that meets the needs of her two children. Her daughter, Katerina, has Rett syndrome, a progressive neurological condition, and her son, Drew, is nonverbal with autism.

Laura first applied for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) around the time of Katerina's diagnosis, when one parent needed to step back from work to manage therapy and specialist appointments. Laura's SNAP benefits help cover roughly three weeks of carefully budgeted groceries.

Laura also visits an agency partner of Philabundance (Pennsylvania), a network food bank. She's able to pick up essentials conveniently, including eggs, vegetables and personal hygiene products.

"[Without the food bank,] we would probably not be eating as well and maybe not as frequently," she said, adding how meaningful it is to have dignified access to food for her kids.

"Knowing they aren't going to bed hungry every night makes it easier to wake up and rise in the morning," she said.

79% of SNAP households include a child, elderly individual or person with a disability.



In August, McDonough visited the Friendship House pantry, operated by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an agency partner of [San Antonio Food Bank](#).

A Letter from Our CEO

After six months into my time at Feeding America, I have visited nearly 30 food banks across the country and heard directly from neighbors, leaders, staff, volunteers and community partners.

Those conversations have reinforced two things for me.

First, the pressure is real. Families continue to face high costs for food, energy and other essentials. Federal nutrition programs are changing, with as many as 5 million fewer people, including 1.5 million children, receiving SNAP benefits than a year ago. The federal government is also providing less food through programs like TEFAP, leaving food banks to meet sustained demand with fewer federal commodities.

But I have also seen real reason for optimism.

America produces and moves an extraordinary amount of food. The challenge is connecting it to the people and communities that need it. Neighbors know what their families and communities need, and across the network I have met food bank leaders, farmers, volunteers, donors, businesses and public partners ready to act alongside them.

Congress is making important progress in supporting America's farmers and ranchers, as well as giving states potentially more time to address the worst effects of the changes to SNAP.

That combination of food, local knowledge and committed, generous people gives me confidence.

As we head into the holiday season, the pressure will remain significant. But so will our capacity to respond.

I am not prepared to accept hunger as an unavoidable reality. I have seen what is possible when local expertise, national reach and committed partners come together.

Thank you for being part of that work.

With gratitude,

DENIS MCDONOUGH
CEO, FEEDING AMERICA

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness & Response

In August, Feeding America was accepted by the National Weather Service (NWS) as a **Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador**, a national designation recognizing organizations that play a meaningful role in helping communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather, water and climate events.

Why This Matters:

This collaboration helps the network better serve neighbors before, during and after a disaster and strengthens our ability to efficiently and effectively deliver and distribute food and relief supplies when communities need them most. The partnership will:

- **Strengthen Disaster Services' situational awareness** with direct access to authoritative, real time weather intelligence from NOAA and NWS.
- **Improve our ability to anticipate and prepare for disruptions** caused by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, heat waves, winter storms and other hazards that increasingly affect food banks and the communities they support.
- **Enhance network readiness** by giving us timely alerts, seasonal outlooks and preparedness guidance we can share across members and partners.
- **Support more effective disaster response** by helping us understand emerging threats earlier and coordinate resources more efficiently when food banks are impacted.
- **Expand opportunities to engage with NOAA** through periodic updates, resilience initiatives and community focused outreach.

Hunger Action Month Highlights

For [Hunger Action Month](#) (HAM) in September 2026, hunger-relief supporters like you rallied to raise awareness through food and fund donations, volunteer events, social media engagement and more.

4th Annual State of Hunger Address

We engaged more than 130 attendees during the fourth annual State of Hunger Address (Sept. 9), featuring Denis McDonough, Feeding America's CEO, who spoke about the real pressure facing families and communities—and the opportunity to work together to create lasting change in hunger relief. If you missed the webinar, you can [watch the recording](#) now.

2026 Elevating Voices: Insights Report Now Available

The 2026 [Elevating Voices: Insights Report](#), released on Hunger Action Day, Sept. 29, echoes what we have heard from neighbors throughout our report series (launched in 2022): On-ramps to the economic stability needed to afford groceries consistently remain largely out of reach, and the scale and impact of critical government nutrition programs remain constrained by administrative hurdles.

81%

Say people in their community are dealing with long-term financial stress, not just temporary hardship

68%

Say they want to eat healthier but cannot afford to

87%

Say it is important that lawmakers pass policies that direct more resources to food banks so they can serve more people

57%

Of current SNAP households saw a reduction in their benefits during the past year

To make ends meet amid limited economic opportunities and rapidly changing government nutrition programs, neighbors are supplementing meals they access through food banks by looking out for one another, including by exchanging resources online and sharing groceries.

To reach a hunger-free future, neighbors urge policymakers to build strong and accountable government nutrition programs, a resilient charitable food system, and solutions that reflect the economic realities families face.

The 2026 report is available in English and Spanish.



On “The Jennifer Hudson Show,” Pittman discussed the importance of uniting to achieve food security for neighbors.

Mobilizing Support to Raise Awareness

To celebrate his birthday Sept. 19, [Jimmy Fallon announced a donation to Feeding America](#) and shouted out HAM on “[The Tonight Show](#),” encouraging his audience to join him in donating to our mission.

During HAM, [Karen Pittman](#), producer, actress (“The Morning Show”) and Feeding America [Entertainment Council](#) member, shared her story of lived experience with [People Magazine](#) and announced a donation challenge match from [Tony Robbins](#), with up to \$150,000 in monthly donations matched by Sept. 30.



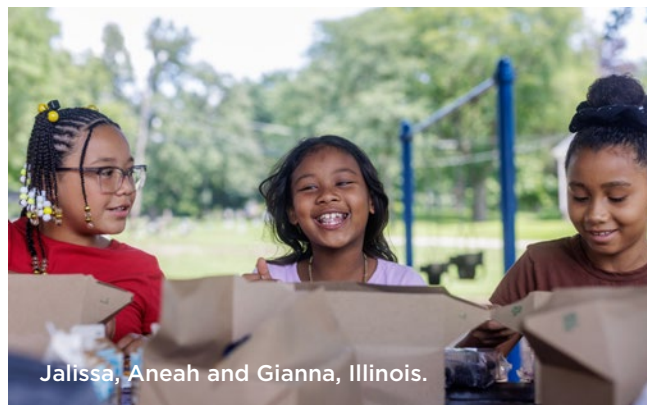
[Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado](#) set an unofficial world record by assembling the tallest packaged food tower: 8,500 cans standing at 11 feet 5 inches.

Partnering in the Movement to End Hunger

Through its 16th annual Independence from Hunger® campaign (June 24-July 31, 2026), **Grocery Outlet** committed at least \$150,000 to Feeding America and encouraged stores to support local hunger relief, including partner food banks. Stores also collected pre-assembled grocery bags to help local families.



Partners like **Sinclair** help drive awareness of summer hunger and rally local communities to act. The Sinclair Cares: Summer Hunger Relief broadcast campaign (June 10-July 12, 2026) encouraged viewers to help provide summer meals for kids, with donations allocated to local food banks.



Since 1991, **Pampered Chef** has supported our mission as our first cause partner through Round-Up from the Heart®. This year's campaign has raised more than \$140,000 so far to help neighbors facing hunger.



Enduring partnerships are vital for achieving our mission. For the 18th year, **The Cheesecake Factory** is helping provide meals for neighbors facing hunger through its annual slice campaign, donating 25 cents for every Brownie Crunch Choc-a-Lot Cheesecake slice sold through July 29, 2027.



Partners like **Fresh Thyme Market** help us ensure kids receive the nutritious food they need during the summer months. Their latest Round-Up at the Register campaign provided more than 1.4 million meals* for families facing hunger.

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.*

Meals by Source

Neighbors facing hunger gained access to **1.6 BILLION MEALS***, supported by the Feeding America network April through June 2026. The listing below conveys the meals received by the network.

SNAP Meals

60M

Purchased Food

310M

Fresh Produce Donations

209M

Manufacturing Donations

182M

Federal Commodities

239M

Retail Donations

557M

**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.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Walmart and Sam's Club

For the 13th consecutive year, Walmart and Sam's Club associates, customers and members joined together with participating suppliers (see below) to help people facing hunger access the meals they need through the **Fight Hunger. Spark Change.** campaign. More than \$18 million was raised to help strengthen food access for neighbors facing hunger across the country.

Through the campaign, shoppers made monetary donations at checkout or purchased participating items in stores or online to benefit their local food bank. Campaign donations help food banks better expand access to nutritious food and connect neighbors to resources by enabling local investments in the areas of greatest need within their communities.

To kickstart the campaign and further support local neighborhoods, Walmart invested \$2 million, most of which supported food banks in communities that have the highest food insecurity rates, where access barriers to food and resources persist. To date, the campaign has helped secure **more than 2.4 billion meals** for people facing hunger in communities across the country, including 180 million meals in 2026.

FIGHT HUNGER. SPARK CHANGE. CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATING SUPPLIERS:

Ben's Original™	General Mills	Mondelēz International
Bush Brothers & Company	Hershey Salty Snacks Company	OLIPOP
Campbells	Hidden Valley	RED BARON
Chef Boyardee	Kellanova	The Coca-Cola Company
Conagra Foods	Keurig Dr Pepper	WK Kellogg Co
Dole Packaged Foods, LLC	Kodiak	Unilever
Frito-Lay North America, Inc.	Kraft Heinz	Utz Quality Foods
Garden Veggie Straws®	Materne	Welch's® Fruit 'n Yogurt™ Snacks
	Milo's	

Increasing Retail Food Recovery Through Innovative Partnerships

Since launching in March 2026, a new store engagement model—a retail food recovery pilot partnered with **Divert**—has unlocked more than 314,000 pounds of food for local communities.

The donation optimization pilot combined data analysis of donation and organics recycling data to identify donation opportunities, food bank-led store visits, staff coaching, operational assessments and enhanced pick-up coordination to **identify and address barriers to donation**, including uncertainty around donation guidelines, training gaps among store staff and limited agency pick-up capacity.

Addressing Food Recovery Barriers

Food bank partners added weekly pick-up capacity and helped store teams strengthen daily donation practices, driving measurable and sustainable improvements. During the pilot, 264 store visits were completed by network representatives. Additional solutions implemented include:

- Hands-on coaching
- Repeated store visits
- Donation-focused team huddles
- Checking organics recycling bins for donation opportunities
- Retailer enforcement of program expectations

Looking Ahead

To increase food rescue and replicate these proven practices, Feeding America and Divert are exploring opportunities to expand this work and equip food banks with tools and strategies to help more retailers recover surplus food and strengthen hunger-relief efforts in their communities.

PILOT RESULTS

The pilot engaged 88 stores across **Raley's** and **Target**, which improved recovered food rates by as much as 13% (from 39% to 52%), meaning more unsold food was made available to neighbors facing hunger.

- Across 63 Raley's stores, pilot stores reduced the pounds of edible food going to organics recycling by 8% more than non-pilot stores while donation pounds increased 39% year over year compared to 6% among non-pilot stores, generating over 262,000 additional pounds of donated food.
- Across 25 Target stores, donations increased 29.1% year over year compared to 15.5% at non-pilot stores, generating more than an estimated 52,000 additional pounds of donated food.



Extend and Elevate Your Hunger-Relief Commitment

Dedicated, **enduring support through planned gifts**, from donors like Stephen and Linda, is vital as we work together to provide neighbors with dignified, convenient access to the nourishing meals they need to thrive.

When you share your intentions with Feeding America, we proudly recognize you through **membership in the van Hengel Society**—named for John van Hengel, the founder of the modern food bank movement—honoring 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.



Stephen and Linda Toross volunteering at [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#), a partner food bank.

Camille and Amelia, Colorado



In 2024,

48 million*

people, including more than 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in the U.S., the highest level since 2014.

*Source: [Map the Meal Gap](#)

LEAVING A LEGACY:

Stephen and Linda Toross

Years of volunteering with local food initiatives showed Stephen and Linda Toross how close food insecurity can be, strengthening their shared belief that no one should have to question how they will put food on the table.

"Access to nutritious food is fundamental to everyday life and the ability to learn and succeed," the couple said.

Stephen and Linda were drawn to Feeding America's national reach and partner food bank network, which provides immediate relief while responding to local needs.

"We support Feeding America because it aligns with our passion to ensure no one goes hungry in our country," the couple said.

Demonstrating their trust in Feeding America's lasting impact, Stephen and Linda have named our organization in their estate plans.

"A legacy gift gives people the chance to reflect their deepest values in a tangible way," Stephen and Linda said. "It becomes a final, meaningful statement about what mattered most and the kind of world we want to help shape."

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

Taylor and Liam, Virginia



Newly Launched: Carbon Credits for Rescued Food

On Sept. 30, we announced an [initiative](#) that aims to provide more nourishing meals to the tens of millions of people facing hunger in the U.S., while **rescuing edible food from going to waste** and avoiding emissions associated with good food reaching landfills.

A first-of-its-kind Verra issuance of carbon credits for rescued food recognizes avoided methane emissions achieved when nonprofit food rescue organizations redirect edible food from waste streams back into the human food supply. This **milestone is the result of a three-year collaboration** between partner food banks and independent food rescue organizations with [Brightly](#), a food waste and climate solutions company.

By recognizing the climate value of food rescue, carbon markets can provide nonprofit organizations with **additional revenue to recover and distribute more food** in communities across the country, with carbon credit proceeds helping to support costs for trucks, drivers, refrigeration, staff and other resources.

Ways to Engage

- Participate in **#GivingTuesday on Dec. 1** 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 the search tool on our [matching gifts page](#).



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.

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