

## The Foodbank Impact Statement FY2023

---

The Foodbank Mission Statement: Eliminating hunger and its root causes.

The Foodbank Vision: No One Should Go Hungry.

The Foodbank Values Statement: The Foodbank Values All People Without Judgement.

### Food Insecurity Work in Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties of Ohio

**The Foodbank works with a network of 110 nonprofit partner agencies, representing 124 programs, across our tri-county service territory to ensure that all residents have the food they need to live active, healthy lives. Together, we work to reduce food insecurity, which is defined as a socioeconomic condition of limited food to support a healthy life.**

**In fiscal year 2023, The Foodbank distributed 16,532,908 pounds of food (13,777,423 meals) to 843,480 clients.**

### Foodbank Programming

In addition to the daily acquisition and distribution of food to The Foodbank's partnership network, The Foodbank operates eight programs to reach residents in our community who are food insecure and unable to reach a local food pantry. These programs include:

1. Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): This program, operated by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, provides 1,676 unduplicated seniors with a monthly supplemental food box of shelf-stable food that is designed to complement the fresh produce and perishable foods seniors are already receiving from a Foodbank partner or program. All food placed in the box is specifically selected to meet nutritional needs of seniors.

2. Mobile Farmer's Markets: **The Foodbank operates 19 monthly Mobile Farmer's Markets and CSFP combined Mobiles** across our tri-county service territory. The locations of Mobile Farmer's Markets are specifically targeted to address high need areas with limited access to a local food pantry or with a large population of immobile residents/seniors.

3. Mass Food Distributions and Special Food Drops: The Foodbank, with our partners including CareSource and Henny Penny, operates **three Mass Food Distributions** each year. One Mass Food Distribution is held in each of The Foodbank's three counties. **In response to inflation and rising demand, The Foodbank held five**

**additional Mass Food Distributions during the 2023 fiscal year to meet an increased need for emergency food assistance.**

4. Good-to-Go Backpacks: Recognizing that over 15% of all local children are at risk for food insecurity, **The Foodbank partners with local school districts and community centers in Montgomery and Greene counties to provide a bag of shelf-stable food to food insecure children every week throughout the school year.** The bags are designed to pick up where free and reduced lunch programs leave off, providing enough food to sustain a child over the weekend. **In fiscal year 2023, The Foodbank distributed 36,910 Good-to-Go Backpacks in our community.**

5. Food Scripts: The Foodbank, in partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital, provides a box of shelf-stable food, fresh produce, and whole grain bakery items to families with children who screen positive for food insecurity by Dayton Children's physicians or community workers. We are currently in the process of talking to other healthcare providers to expand the program.

6. Drive-Thru: In 2018, The Foodbank opened an on-site Drive-Thru to provide seniors with an easy way to pick up their monthly senior food box. Drive-Thru operations were scaled to serve local residents impacted by the 2019 Memorial Day tornado outbreak. Drive-Thru operations expanded again in 2020 to serve families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shut down in a socially distant manner. Operations were assisted by 35 National Guard members during the first 18 months of the pandemic. At its highest peak, during the pandemic, as many as 750 households visited the Drive-Thru in one day. **In fiscal year 2023, a total of 1,197,554 pounds of food were distributed through the Drive-Thru.**

### Commitment to Community Service

**In fiscal year 2023, The Foodbank benefited from a total of 2,555 volunteers who provided 14,675 hours of service.** The Foodbank works to provide a volunteer experience unlike any other in the community. We are actively engaged with the Re-entry program and provide many engaging opportunities for youth and adults who are required to complete community service hours.

Volunteer tasks include distributing food through our CSFP program, Mobile Farmer's Markets, Drive-Thru and Mass Food Distributions, harvesting from our 80 raised-bed community garden, sorting food drive donations, repacking fresh produce, packing Good-to-Go Backpacks, CSFP, and building food-script boxes.

### Economic Impact

The Foodbank is housed in a 37,000 square foot warehouse facility on a previously abandoned property located in West Dayton, which the City of Dayton generously donated to The Foodbank for \$5.00. **The value of The Foodbank's property is \$182,100.00; the value of land improvements made as a result of our garden operations is \$212,050.17. The value of The Foodbank's warehouse and drive-thru produce market is**

**\$3,149,378.00. The total economic investment in West Dayton, zip code 45417, is \$3,543,528.17.** These investments were made without incurring debt or holding a capital campaign.

The Foodbank employs 64 individuals. **Our current economic contribution of payroll is \$3 million. The organization is committed to addressing the root causes of poverty through re-entry work. Currently, over 40% of our employees were previously incarcerated and are now employed full-time at The Foodbank. Our goal is to eventually have half of The Foodbank's workforce be re-entry. The starting salary at The Foodbank is \$19 per hour.**

The Foodbank team also benefits from many training opportunities and receives tuition assistance to take college level classes at any of our local colleges. Furthermore, our team has been trained in Collective Impact, Narcan administration, food safety, forklift operations, and participates in local organizations including Parity, Miami Valley Association of Volunteer Administrators, Grant Professional's Association, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and Leadership Dayton, among others.

At The Foodbank we believe that no one should go hungry, and we understand that food insecurity disproportionately affects people of color in our community. The Foodbank is focused on addressing this inequity and its root causes. **In fiscal year 2023, our Foodbank team dedicated a total of 693 hours to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training.** The Foodbank team is committed to engaging in equity work until there is justice for all.

In an effort to be as fiscally responsible as possible, we routinely accept interns, externs, and AmeriCorps VISTAS on The Foodbank team.

### Freezer and Cooler Expansion Project

In August of FY23, The Foodbank finished constructing a 4,500 square foot expansion to our warehouse, containing a walk-in freezer and walk-in cooler. This addition greatly expands our capacity to store and distribute fresh food to the community. With additional storage space for fresh, healthy food, we can now take in unexpected donations and also distribute product on a greater scale when we are called to do so. All of this is in service of our greater goals of eliminating hunger and inequity in our community.

### Commitment to Community Development

Through a collaboration between The Foodbank and Montgomery County, The Foodbank has redeveloped an acre and a half of dilapidated blacktop property that was once a parking lot into an active community garden with 80 raised beds. The County gifted in kind work to build the raised bed gardens, totaling \$122,846.00. **During the 2023 fiscal year, over 41,500 pounds of locally grown fresh produce were harvested on-site.** Our on-site raised bed gardens also include an edible forest with apple trees, pear trees, cherry trees, and blueberry bushes and a pollinator garden.

The Foodbank's garden also provides ample educational opportunities for underserved youth in our community. Preschool-aged children enrolled at MVCDC regularly attend free field trips at The Foodbank garden where children are engaged in hands-on garden and pollinator lessons provided by The Foodbank's Master Gardener.

### Dedication to Food Safety and Meeting the Highest of Standards

The Foodbank undergoes various audits to ensure the highest level of transparency. Through good fiscal financial reporting, as determined by a yearly audit, The Foodbank is a Platinum Guidestar organization, scoring in the top 1% of all Guidestar rated nonprofit organizations. We have also received a five-star rating from Charity Navigator six years in a row. In 2018, The Foodbank was named the second best foodbank in the nation by 24/7 Wall Street.

Food safety and warehousing gold standard lies with the American Institute of Bakers (AIB). The Foodbank has held the highest food safety award in the United States in foodbanking. Currently, we hold a 920/1000.

The Foodbank has made a commitment to our partner agencies to not hold fundraising events. All funds for our fiscal year 2024 operational budget will be raised through individual donors, corporations, contracts, foundations, and grants. This commitment was made to ensure that we are not negatively impacting the fundraising work already being done by our member agencies.

### Collaborative Work

The Foodbank recognizes the many talents of nonprofits across the Miami Valley. In addition to partnerships with 110 nonprofit hunger relief organizations across Montgomery, Greene, and Preble counties, The Foodbank also actively works with many local businesses and organizations to better serve our community. Below is a brief list of some of our collaborative partners:

- **Disaster Relief Partnerships:** The Foodbank has one staff member who is actively involved in Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster and Community Organizations Active in Disaster. Both organizations provide local and nation-wide disaster relief efforts. As such, The Foodbank is contracted to keep 12 skids of bottled water on hand at all times for local disaster relief response. Our building is also designed to withstand any local natural disaster. In the case of a region-wide power outage, The Foodbank can be powered by a natural gas generator, is housed with two showers and a washer and dryer, and can also store perishable and non-perishable food from local grocers as needed.
- **Dayton Children's Hospital:** Recognizing the trusted patient/doctor relationship, The Foodbank and Dayton Children's Hospital began a Food Rx program in 2018. This program allows Dayton Children's Hospital staff to screen patient families for food insecurity and provide a family-friendly healthy food

box for the family to take home. Referrals to ongoing food assistance through a Foodbank partner agency are also made.

- **Montgomery County Food Equity Coalition:** The Food Equity Coalition, created and operated by Montgomery County Public Health and key organizations in the community, is a countywide initiative which aims to support a food system that ensures everyone, no matter their race, income, or ability, can access and afford a basic healthy diet. The Foodbank operates the Food Insecurity branch within the coalition which reviews and analyzes The Foodbank's childhood hunger programs, identify and address hunger relief programming service gaps and areas of unmet needs, and looks at ways to expand The Foodbank's partner agency capacity. Members of The Foodbank team also sit on the Healthy People branch, which looks to develop healthy food zones in areas that are deemed food insecure, and the Backbone Support Group, which manages the branches within the coalition.

### Advocacy Work

The Foodbank is fortunate to have three staff members who are responsible for advocating for our neighbors and fighting the root causes of hunger. Their work locally leads advocacy efforts related to the Farm Bill, SNAP, and other hunger-related policy work. The Foodbank frequently receives visits from local politicians who are passionate about hunger and can drive real change. Our advocacy work is driven by metrics as outlined in our strategic plan.

### Food Rescue Work

Five days a week, The Foodbank picks up donated food product from 115 local retail stores. This product, which is largely comprised of food that retail stores deem "unsellable", is often undersized produce, seasonal food that is unsold, and excess bakery product. All food picked up at the back docks of our retail store donors is perfectly edible, yet without The Foodbank picking up the product, it would end up in the landfill. **In fiscal year 2023, over 5.8 million pounds of food was rescued by The Foodbank and put directly into the hands of the hungry.**

The Foodbank also works to empower our network of partner agencies to pick up processed (hot) food directly. Currently, three Foodbank partner agencies are picking up processed food from four restaurant locations, including Pizza Hut, City BBQ, and Panera Bread. Additionally, 32 of our partner agencies regularly pick up from local retail store donors on the weekends or other times that The Foodbank is unable to pick up food rescue.

Shelf-stable canned and boxed foods also represent a key opportunity for The Foodbank. In fiscal year 2023, over 620,000 pounds of canned food drive product was donated by local companies and organizations who are passionate about The Foodbank.

## Commitment to Communicating the Need

The Foodbank keeps all local hunger data and service statistics for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through an electronic client tracking system called PantryTrak. We are the first local organization to receive hunger statistics and data from Feeding America, Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), Ohio Association of Foodbanks, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hunger studies. The Foodbank routinely shares this information among our network of partner agencies and others in our community working to end food insecurity. Our PantryTrak service statistic numbers are also reported to United Way and Montgomery County for their use in reporting food insecurity numbers and the total impact of food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters in Montgomery County. This collaborative spirit helps to ensure our community is presenting work driven by metrics, holding us all fiscally accountable. The Foodbank and our 110 member agencies lead the local charge in ending food insecurity in our community.

The information gleaned from PantryTrak is routinely used to identify service gaps in our community. When those gaps are identified we deploy our Mobile Farmer's Markets as a temporary resource until stable food distribution can be established.

## The Foodbank Overarching Goals As Driven by Our Strategic Plan

- Lead Hunger Relief
- Create a Development Plan
- Maximize Food Distribution Throughout Our Network
- Enhance Food Acquisition Streams
- Foster Mission Driven Teams
- Root Cause of Poverty Work

## Foodbank Awards and Recognition

- Baldrige Spirit Award of Excellence issued by The Partnership for Excellence in 2012
- Winner of the Toyota Grant for Nonprofits in 2013
- Feeding America Finance, Technology and Human Resource Conference – guest speaker in 2014
- Feeding America Contract Task Force Team in 2014
- Feeding America ED – guest speaker in 2015
- Winner of the Better Business Bureau Eclipse Integrity Award in 2016
- Held one of ten positions with Feeding America to write the National Contract and assign metrics, led The Foodbank to be the winner of Feeding America's Foodbank Network Leader of the Year in 2016
- 2014-2016 held the highest AIB food safety award in the United States
- Named #2 foodbank in the nation by 24/7 Wallstreet in 2018

- BBB Community Honor Award Winner in 2019
- Held one of ten positions on Feeding America's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board 2020-2021
- American Institute of Bakers Food Safety Award (AIB) 920/1000 in 2023
- Charity Navigator (score) 99% in 2023
- Guidestar Platinum Level in 2023
- Winner of the Better Business Bureau Torch Integrity Award in 2022