Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

2023 has been one of the most trying years for food banks across the country, and here in the Heartland, we’re not immune to those challenges. As we grapple with the increase in demand—coupled with the significant decrease in food availability from the USDA—we are only able to trudge forward, thanks to the giving spirit of our community.

While there are many factors we can’t control, your support and unending determination to create food security across Nebraska and western Iowa is creating lasting change for children, families, seniors, and veterans facing hunger.

In FY 2023, 22.2 million meals were distributed across our 93-county service area. This life-changing work could not have been provided without you. This is a direct result of what can be accomplished when we partner together for the greater good.

Our FY 2023 Annual Report showcases the critical work of our volunteers, donors, partners, staff, and board. On behalf of everyone we serve, THANK YOU for creating a healthier Heartland—through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. You are filling families with hope, and their tables with nutritious food.

We look forward to continuing our mission, with you on our side.

Brian Barks
President & CEO

Chad Werner
Chair of the Board
Our mission in action:
HEARTLAND NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Michelle

“Food is so expensive right now. It’s hard to find stuff that goes together, and that’s nutritional. It’s hard to just make it,” said Michelle from Omaha, after visiting one of our pantries.

Inflation had a dire effect on individuals and families across the Food Bank’s 93-county service area in FY 2023, with food prices climbing about 8%. Low-income households were already spending nearly 1/3 of their budgets on groceries. With these increases, families felt even more pressure.

Michelle is just one of thousands of Heartland neighbors who made unthinkable decisions every day to survive. “When I came across the mobile pantry, it was one of those bleak days. I didn’t know what I was going to do that night for dinner. I saw the line of cars, and the volunteers, and I was blown away.”

Like so many of us—Michelle wasn’t just worried about feeding herself—she was also taking care of other family members. “I try to help my family any way I can to keep us from drowning, but it’s getting really hard to hold families together. My mom is worried about not having enough, and I told her, ‘You are not going to starve.’ Even if I’m left with nothing, I’ll make sure she’s fed.”

Despite the circumstances Michelle and her family faced, she was overjoyed to have found the Food Bank’s services and gain access to the healthy food she needs to thrive. “I’m forever grateful to the Food Bank. You guys blessed us.”

Food Bank for the Heartland served more than 1.5 million individuals in FY 2023—and we expect to serve more than 1.6 million people in FY 2024. We cannot do this without the kindness and compassion of our collective community. You are providing a light—for neighbors like Michelle—amid their darkest moments. Thank you!

“My family and I work together to pull our resources, because everyone is struggling so much. We all take turns feeding each other. It has gotten so rough.
1,517,962 INDIVIDUALS
served across the Heartland. In our service area, 1 in 11 people is facing hunger, including 1 in 9 children, 1 in 6 Hispanic individuals and 1 in 3 Black individuals.

26,757,685 POUNDS OF FOOD
distributed to neighbors in need. That includes 6,800,223 pounds of fresh produce.

22,298,071 MEALS
distributed across the Heartland.

1,379,330 CHILDREN’S MEALS
provided through the BackPack, Kids Café After School, and Kids Café Summer Feeding Programs.

$6,374,082
spent to purchase food for neighbors in need.

555 NETWORK PARTNERS
—including pantries, mobile pantries, schools, churches, emergency shelters and other non-profit organizations—to which the Food Bank distributes food.

403 MOBILE PANTRY EVENTS
distributed 2,609,038 meals.

339,975 MILES
driven by the Food Bank fleet, covering our 78,000-square-mile service area.

39,800 VOLUNTEER HOURS
donated by individuals, corporations, and civic groups. That’s the equivalent of nearly 20 full-time employees.

18,679 SNAP APPLICATIONS
submitted through our Nebraska and Iowa SNAP Outreach team.

**FOOD SOURCES**
calculated in pounds

- **51%** Donated
- **21%** Purchased
- **12%** USDA
- **37%** Calculated in pounds

**$13.3 MILLION**
in financial donations
(General operating and program support only)

- **40%** Companies
- **31%** Food Bank Foodies
- **21%** Foundations
- **5%** Individuals
- **2%** Special Events
- **1%** Churches, Civic Groups, Schools, and Unions
- **5%** Calculated in pounds
Food Bank for the Heartland

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$9,878,456</td>
<td>$7,073,582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$1,856,743</td>
<td>$650,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promises to Give</td>
<td>$2,772,829</td>
<td>$248,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$181,609</td>
<td>$58,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Inventory</td>
<td>$1,802,621</td>
<td>$954,553</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$2,890,590</td>
<td>$2,700,454</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,382,848</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,686,569</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets, Net of Depreciation</td>
<td>$15,938,938</td>
<td>$6,403,438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Long-Term Assets</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,938,938</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,403,438</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$35,321,786</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,090,007</strong></td>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

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<tr>
<th>CURRENT LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$1,085,429</td>
<td>$987,385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$118,493</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,685,429</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,105,878</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note payable</td>
<td>$7,130,000</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Leases</td>
<td>$100,857</td>
<td>$144,748</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,230,857</strong></td>
<td><strong>$144,748</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$8,916,286</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,250,626</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restriction</td>
<td>$24,464,875</td>
<td>$16,319,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Donor Restriction</td>
<td>$1,940,625</td>
<td>$519,562</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,405,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,839,381</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** | **$35,321,786** | **$18,090,007** |

FY 2023

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
(Accrual Basis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donated Food</td>
<td>$23,560,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial and In-Kind Donations</td>
<td>$18,783,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA Commodities</td>
<td>$4,961,577</td>
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<td>Government Support</td>
<td>$6,682,510</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$612,431</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$54,600,398</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>($43,047,825)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>($789,878)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>($1,196,576)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>($45,034,279)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$9,566,119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>$16,839,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,405,500</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Food Bank for the Heartland works with 555 Network Partners, including pantries, mobile pantries, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and other non-profit organizations to ensure consistent access to nutritious food. Network Partners play an integral role in assisting neighbors experiencing food insecurity. In FY 2023, the Food Bank distributed more than 22.2 million meals through our partners and programs.

The Mobile Pantry Program delivers fresh and shelf-stable food directly to communities with a high need but limited food resources. These one-day, recurring drive-through distribution events are free to attend. Community packs include various shelf-stable items. Other items distributed can include assorted fresh produce and bakery items. In FY 2023, the Food Bank hosted 403 Mobile Pantry Events in 51 counties, distributing more than 2.6 million meals and helping 69,030 households.

The BackPack Program, a partnership with area schools, offers packs of weekend breakfasts and lunches to elementary school children. Each week during the ‘22–’23 school year, 8,357 packs—equaling 33,428 meals—of easy-to-prepare or ready-to-eat nutritious food were distributed to children in 252 schools across 112 school districts in Nebraska and western Iowa. In total, 1,270,264 meals were distributed to children during the ‘22–’23 school year through this program. BackPack meals are assembled by Food Bank volunteers using food purchased by the Food Bank.

Kids Café is one of the nation’s largest free-meal service programs for children—serving meals to kids in partnership with organizations that offer a safe environment after school and during the summer months. The Food Bank distributed a total of 109,066 meals during the FY 2023 program year. We provided an average of 1,975 meals each week to 15 sites around the Omaha metro area as part of the Kids Café After School Program, and 2,655 meals each week to 8 sites during the Kids Café Summer Feeding Program.

Food Bank for the Heartland’s SNAP Outreach (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) team helps families and individuals navigate the application process, understand program benefits, and access additional community resources. As an equal-opportunity provider, our team helped submit 6,327 applications in Nebraska and 12,352 applications in Iowa in FY 2023. The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) estimates that $1 in SNAP benefits generates $1.79 in economic activity at local retailers.
Together, we’re

HEARTLAND DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

Collectively, the Food Bank’s circle of supporters is working across our 93-county service area to serve our neighbors with urgency, integrity, and respect. Through the versatility and strength of our communities, we are working every day to create a healthier Heartland.

Our partnership with the Food Bank is very important. I love the summer program with the lunch and snacks and the school year program with dinner is vital. I’ve had parents say, ‘I’m a little low Miss Tracy, I don’t get paid until tomorrow, so please make sure the girls eat dinner.’

TRACY BROWN
Director of Operations, Girls Inc.

I have people in my family who have put me in the position I’m in, and I can’t pay them back. That’s why I’m paying it forward to those who need it most.”

CLAUDE BERRECKMAN
Volunteer & Donor, Cozad, Nebraska

Everyone should have the opportunity to have a joyful life. But if you’re experiencing food insecurity, it’s awfully hard. If we can do our part in making sure people are fed, and have access to the nutrition they need, we’re guiding them down a more positive path.

SEAN CONNOLLY
President & CEO, Conagra Brands

We saw this as a chance to bring awareness to the food system and help educate people on where food comes from. Plus, it supports local farmers while providing food pantries with locally grown, quality produce.

LAURA SIMPSON
Program & Distribution Manager, City Sprouts, speaking to the partnership with Food Bank for the Heartland

Having access to healthy food, having access to fresh food is a right that everyone should have. With the mobile pantry, we’ve really been able to reach out to people that don’t typically have access to this kind of service.

LAURA KLOEWER
Mobile Pantry Coordinator, Red Oak, Iowa

Our visitors are always very appreciative. They talk about the prices of items at the grocery store, like eggs, milk, ground beef—and they are just so glad we’re available to them.

JODY NUNEZ
Pantry Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church, Omaha
How food banking works at Food Bank for the Heartland

DONORS

Individuals, businesses, foundations, governments, and other organizations donate food, funds, and volunteer time. The Food Bank also purchases food to meet the high need.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank collects, stores, and prepares food for distribution to 555 Network Partners in 93 counties across Nebraska and western Iowa.

NETWORK PARTNERS

The Food Bank distributes food to pantries, shelters, meal providers, mobile pantries, and child nutrition programs.

HEARTLAND NEIGHBORS

Children, families, seniors, and veterans receive critical nutrition that helps them thrive.

Food Bank for the Heartland BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Steve Wallace, Chair-Elect
Susan Violi, Secretary
Daniel Applegarth, Treasurer
Eric Arneson
Ellie Barko
Brian Barks
Jill Bazzell-Stenstrom
Melissa Beber
Shawn Bengtson
Karen Black
Angi Chamberlain
Eric Crawford
Matthew DeBoer
Judy Dittmar
Greg Fripp
Alejandra Jimenez
Tiffani Keckler
Duncan Murphy
Eva Roberts
David Tomlinson
Yesenia Valenzuela
Russ Wagner
Stephen E. Gehring, Legal Counsel

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
PayPal
Baxter Auto
Orion
Lindsay Corporation
Blair Freeman
Food Bank for the Heartland
Union Pacific Railroad
Metropolitan Community College
WoodmenLife
Conagra Brands
Valmont Industries
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
HDR Architecture
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Whispering Roots
Casa de la Cultura
Five Points Bank
Riekes Equipment Company
Front Porch Investments
Scolar, Inc.
City of Omaha
Farm Credit Services of America
Cline Williams

FoodBankHeartland.org
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