



**FOODBANK**  
FOR THE HEARTLAND

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023



# From the PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR

## 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

## MISSION

To eliminate hunger in the Heartland by ensuring consistent access to healthy foods through community partnerships.



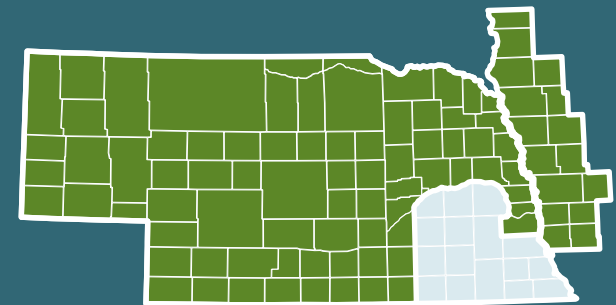
## VALUES

In everything we do, we serve with respect, integrity and urgency.



## SERVICE AREA

We serve 93 counties in Nebraska and western Iowa through our 555 Network Partners.

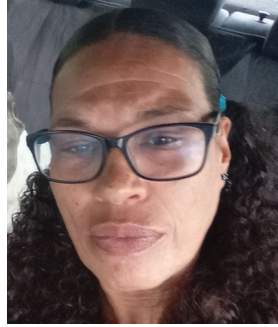


 Food Bank for the Heartland

 Food Bank of Lincoln

# 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.



# Community impact BY THE NUMBERS IN FY 2023



## 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.

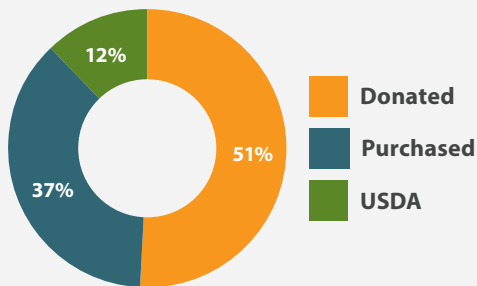


## 18,679 SNAP APPLICATIONS

submitted through our Nebraska and Iowa SNAP Outreach team.

## FOOD SOURCES

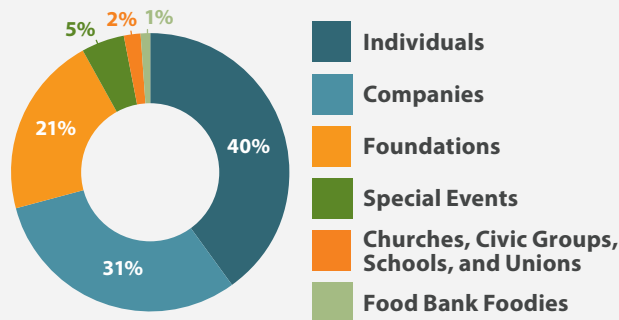
calculated in pounds



## \$13.3 MILLION

in financial donations

(General operating and program support only)



# Food Bank for the Heartland

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

### Assets

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

### Liabilities and Net Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$1,085,429	\$987,385
Other Current Liabilities	\$600,000	\$118,493
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,685,429</b>	\$1,105,878
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Note payable	\$7,130,000	—
Operating Leases	\$100,857	\$144,748
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$7,230,857</b>	\$144,748
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$8,916,286</b>	\$1,250,626
NET ASSETS	2023	2022
Without Donor Restriction	\$24,464,875	\$16,319,819
With Donor Restriction	\$1,940,625	\$519,562
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$26,405,500</b>	\$16,839,381
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$35,321,786</b>	\$18,090,007

## FY 2023

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(Accrual Basis)

#### SUPPORT

Donated Food	\$23,560,830
Financial and In-Kind Donations	\$18,783,050
USDA Commodities	\$4,961,577
Government Support	\$6,682,510
Other Revenue	\$612,431
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$54,600,398</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program	(\$43,047,825)
Administration	(\$789,878)
Fundraising	(\$1,196,576)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$45,034,279)</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$9,566,119
Beginning Net Assets	\$16,839,381
<b>ENDING NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$26,405,500</b>

# Food Bank for the Heartland PROGRAMS

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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—equating 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

<b>Chad Werner, Chair</b>	Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
<b>Steve Wallace, Chair-Elect</b>	PayPal
<b>Susan Violi, Secretary</b>	Baxter Auto
<b>Daniel Applegarth, Treasurer</b>	Orion
<b>Eric Arneson</b>	Lindsay Corporation
<b>Ellie Barko</b>	Blair Freeman
<b>Brian Barks</b>	Food Bank for the Heartland
<b>Jill Bazzell-Stenstrom</b>	Union Pacific Railroad
<b>Melissa Beber</b>	Metropolitan Community College
<b>Shawn Bengtson</b>	WoodmenLife
<b>Karen Black</b>	Conagra Brands
<b>Angi Chamberlain</b>	Valmont Industries
<b>Eric Crawford</b>	St. Patrick's Catholic Church
<b>Matthew DeBoer</b>	HDR Architecture
<b>Judy Dittmar</b>	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
<b>Greg Fripp</b>	Whispering Roots
<b>Alejandra Jimenez</b>	Casa de la Cultura
<b>Tiffani Keckler</b>	Five Points Bank
<b>Duncan Murphy</b>	Riekes Equipment Company
<b>Eva Roberts</b>	Front Porch Investments
<b>David Tomlinson</b>	Scoular, Inc.
<b>Yesenia Valenzuela</b>	City of Omaha
<b>Russ Wagner</b>	Farm Credit Services of America
<b>Stephen E. Gehring, Legal Counsel</b>	Cline Williams



FoodBankHeartland.org



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