



FY 2024 MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM REPORT

JULY 1, 2023–JUNE 30, 2024



Grateful for You

Food Bank for the Heartland is grateful for the outpouring of support from our community to combat hunger across the 93 counties we serve in Nebraska and western Iowa. It is only through your compassion that our Mobile Pantry Program delivered more than 2.6 million meals across 383 Mobile Pantry events serving nearly 64,000 households in FY 2024. We could not provide this life changing work without your generosity. Thank you!

Program History

We know—now more than ever—that hunger knows no boundaries. It is a reality for thousands of our neighbors living in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Food Bank for the Heartland recognizes their plight and collaborates with partners to offer Mobile Pantries and conveniently distribute healthy food for neighbors in need.

Founded in 2012, the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program delivers food directly to communities that have a high need but limited food resources. These one-day distributions are free and include a variety of shelf-stable and perishable products, including fresh produce and bakery items. No identification is required to obtain food.



Volunteers at Atlantic Mobile Pantry, IA



Wynona, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Weeping Water, NE



Volunteers at All Saints Mobile Pantry, Omaha, NE



It takes a little bit of the pressure off because I work 60 hours a week, and even working 60 hours a week it's not enough to pay all my bills and go get groceries. It's ridiculous how much food costs now.

— Wynona, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Weeping Water, NE

Making a Direct Impact

1 IN 8 INDIVIDUALS

IN OUR SERVICE AREA IS FACING HUNGER. THAT INCLUDES **1 IN 5** CHILDREN, **1 IN 4** HISPANIC INDIVIDUALS AND **1 IN 3** BLACK INDIVIDUALS.

383 MOBILE PANTRY EVENTS

HELD ACROSS THE FOOD BANK'S 93-COUNTY SERVICE AREA IN FY 2024.

2,687,108 MEALS

DISTRIBUTED TO NEIGHBORS, HELPING THEM TO FOCUS, LIVE, AND THRIVE.

40 COUNTIES

THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA AND WESTERN IOWA PARTICIPATE IN THE MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM.

63,946 HEARTLAND HOUSEHOLDS

RECEIVED COMMUNITY PACK, FRESH PRODUCE, AND BREAD.

\$2,231,468

TOTAL COST OF THE PROGRAM IN FY 2024.



Communities in Need

According to the latest data from Feeding America, more than 230,000 individuals in our service area are experiencing food insecurity. Many do not know where their next meal is coming from. They are regularly faced with agonizing choices—such as paying for rent, utilities, childcare, medicine and other essentials or paying for food. Despite being employed, many families struggle to earn enough money to cover their basic expenses.

Skyrocketing costs on food and fuel have added extra stress to already strained budgets. Over 60% of mobile distributions occur in what are considered rural counties where access to grocery stores is limited. Partners have shared that it is common for individuals attending Mobile Pantry distributions to drive over 60 miles round trip to have access to fresh produce—creating devastating barriers for families in need.



It's hard to express how thankful I am that the Mobile Pantry arrived in Oxford, Nebraska. What a wonderful gesture of kindness that is very much appreciated. We can't just run to a big box grocery store. The closest one would be fifty miles one way for us.

—Quinn, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Oxford, NE

In addition to the mental and emotional anxieties of food insecurity, the physical adverse health effects of a poor diet are clear. Individuals facing hunger are at higher risk for developing diet-related chronic illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. To help mitigate these debilitating health risks, the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program reinforces the importance of nutritious options with an emphasis on fresh produce, providing a pre-packed box of produce items at each Mobile Pantry event.

In conjunction with our Mobile Pantry Program, the Food Bank also hosts "School-Based Mobile Pantries." In FY 2024, the Food Bank held 86 distributions across eight school districts during the school year to support Heartland families who have limited access to healthy food.

Food Distributed

The Food Bank distributed 6.6 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to families across Nebraska and western Iowa in FY 2024. To ensure consistent access to healthy food, Mobile Pantry recipients receive a 15 lb. box of produce—consisting of hearty fruits and vegetables such as apples, potatoes, onions, cabbage, etc., as well as—a 15 lb. box of shelf stable items, including but not limited to rice, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned protein, and pasta sauce. In addition, recipients also receive a fresh loaf of bread from Rotella's Italian Bakery.



I have four kids and it's just not possible with the price of groceries. This is my first time at this mobile pantry. It's great!

—Mobile Pantry Recipient, Omaha, NE



MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

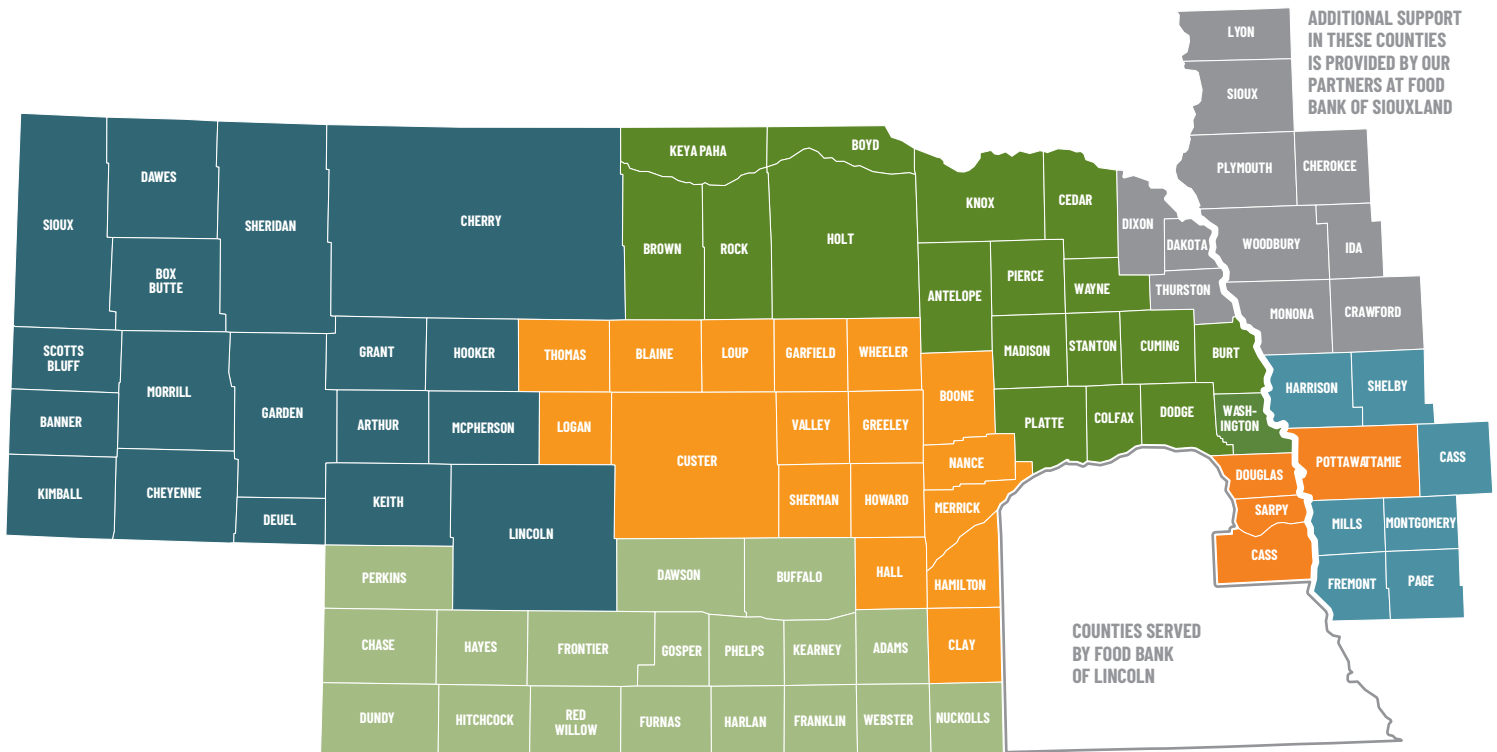
SOURCES OF DONATED REVENUE

Foundations	\$339,420
Corporations	\$90,909
Individuals	\$22,393
Food Bank General Operating Funds	\$1,778,746
TOTAL	\$2,231,468

Relationship-Driven Partnerships

In alignment with our mission of eliminating hunger in the Heartland by ensuring consistent access to healthy foods through community partnerships, Food Bank for the Heartland offers a “Regional Service Approach” to better provide our Network Partners with equitable distribution and creative solutions to food insecurity at the local level.

Food Bank for the Heartland’s 93-county service area is split into separate regions, with each region represented by dedicated Food Bank employees who understand the unique needs of those specific communities. These employees are known as Community Service Representatives—or CSRs. They serve as the main liaison for all Mobile Pantries—including communication, scheduling, and monitoring of all distributions—and provide consistent support and guidance to Mobile Pantry Partners.



The Food Bank has been amazing for us to partner with. We have a lot of families, hard-working families, who are right on the edge; they are a flat tire away from being sunk, and even that little amount of food each month can keep their heads above water, so they can keep moving ahead.

—Adam, Mobile Pantry Coordinator at Tabitha’s Thread, Weeping Water, NE



An FCSA-sponsored Mobile Pantry held in Ponca, NE

Program Supporter Spotlight

The Food Bank is grateful for the support we receive from individuals, foundations, and corporate partners. Farm Credit Services of America is just one example of a dedicated supporter in the fight against hunger. For the last decade, FCSA has sponsored various Mobile Pantries in rural communities across the Food Bank’s service area—helping distribute food to thousands of Heartland neighbors, while also providing financial support to the Food Bank to purchase the food that is distributed.



Nobody should have to go to bed hungry. It’s why we support the Food Bank and rural food pantries. Getting food to those who otherwise lack accessibility is important to us. We are here to strengthen rural communities.

— Jessica Stroham, Community Relations Manager at FCSA

Helping Hands

Food Bank volunteers are the lifeline of our mission, and they play a pivotal role in the Mobile Pantry Program. In FY 2024, 3,124 hours were dedicated to packing community packs, which are distributed to Mobile Pantries across Nebraska and western Iowa. We are beyond grateful for their time, talent, and unending support in the fight against hunger.

The Food Bank’s pantry partners also rely heavily on volunteers to help with the coordination of each Mobile Pantry. Volunteers assist with the flow of distribution, place boxes into each vehicle, and create a positive experience for recipients. These volunteers are essential to ensuring each Mobile Pantry is safe and efficient for recipients, and they help combat the stigma some recipients may feel as a result of experiencing food insecurity.



I try to do homemade meals, and this mobile pantry allows me to spend less money on the basics so I can get the other things I need to create a great meal.

— Tamara, Mobile Pantry Recipient, Plattsmouth, NE



Volunteers pack community boxes at the Food Bank



Pantry Coordinator at Plattsmouth Bible Church Mobile Pantry, Plattsmouth, NE



Volunteers at Tabitha’s Thread Mobile Pantry, Weeping Water, NE

Conclusion

Thanks to you, the Mobile Pantry Program meets an important need across Food Bank for the Heartland’s 93-county service area. Mobile Pantries are a flexible tool in addressing hunger. As food costs continue to rise, children, families, seniors, and veterans desperately need your help. With support from our generous community, we’re making progress toward improving the mental and physical health of families across the Heartland.



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