

THE DISH



SUMMER 2022

STUDENTS JOIN TOGETHER TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER

With the support of 1,200 of her closest friends, Sophia Franzluebbers—a 7th grader at Elkhorn Valley View Middle school—is determined to help the 1 in 6 children struggling with food insecurity in Nebraska and western Iowa.

In May of 2021, Sophia had the idea to host a fundraiser at her school to raise money for the Food Bank's Backpack Program—which provides weekend meals to students in 256 schools across the Heartland. She said it was her time volunteering at the Food Bank that helped her realize the need, and the impact she could make.

That's when she took her idea to Elkhorn Valley View Middle School Principal, Chad Soupir. "When she first came to me, we were sitting in a pandemic and had so much happening. I took a step back and realized we really needed to do

something positive. I thought this would be a great way to rally our school around a positive thing for other children," said Principal Soupir.

And it was. They easily surpassed their goal of \$500 the first year—raising \$5,600 in just one week. This gave Sophia an even bigger idea. "I thought if our school raised \$5,000 in one week, maybe we could partner with another Elkhorn middle school to raise \$10,000!"

With the assistance of 8th grader Brody Kennison and Elkhorn Ridge Middle School Principal, Tanner Schutt, Sophia's idea quickly gained traction and blossomed into a fundraiser involving two schools and 1,200 students. "

The inspiration was contagious. Sophia, Brody, and the rest of the students at Elkhorn Valley View and Elkhorn Ridge Middle School raised more than \$16,000 for the Backpack Program. Thanks to a generous match from Woodhouse Auto Family, those funds will be doubled—providing Backpack

meals to 195 children for an entire school year.

While Sophia was thrilled with the results, she's already thinking ahead. "Next year will be my last year at Elkhorn Valley View Middle School and we're going to go all out on this fundraiser."



Sophia's efforts in the fight against childhood hunger make her a perfect feature for the Food Bank's 40 Faces of 40 Years series.

Visit FoodBankHeartland.org or scan the QR code to learn more about her passion for helping the community.



Sophia has led this charge into something I never thought it could be. Her peers are inspired by her, and it makes them want to get on board.

Chad Soupir, Elkhorn Valley View Middle School Principal

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

While we welcome a measure of relief from the pandemic, the need to help our neighbors remains critical. Inflation has had a profound impact on our operations. Filling up one of our tractor trailers can cost the Food Bank close to \$1,000. Freight costs have doubled from a year ago and have already increased 15% since January, resulting in a \$36,000 monthly spend on freight to deliver food to our distribution center.

Access and delivery times for staples like juice, cereal, and certain wheat products have become unpredictable. And availability of USDA provided product has become limited due to the sunset of trade mitigation and other factors.

Our ability to overcome these challenges is a direct testament of your compassion. When I hear stories—like the one on our front cover—of how 1,200 middle school students worked together to raise \$16,000 for our Backpack Program—or of Scouts collecting more than 42,000 pounds of food,

I'm overwhelmed with pride. Your compassion to help our neighbors in need allows us to provide nutritious resources across our 93-county service area.

On behalf of our team and those we serve, thank you for your donations of time, talent, and treasure. It is appreciated more than you know.



Brian Barks
President & CEO



Brian with Sophia Franzluebbers and her parents

ARPA FUNDS TO HELP ADDRESS CONTINUED HISTORIC NEED

We are pleased to share that on April 7th, the Nebraska State Legislature passed LB 1014—a bill which includes assistance for the unprecedented demand for food created by the pandemic—through the appropriation of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding.

The bill—which officially allocates over \$1 billion in federal funding from ARPA—includes \$20 million to help address food insecurity across Nebraska, primarily through the purchase and distribution of food for those in need.

Food Bank of Lincoln and Food Bank for the Heartland were identified to receive specific appropriation of funds as well as the creation of a grant fund to support additional efforts to address hunger across Nebraska. Details regarding timing and how we may use the \$13 million in funds—appropriated to Food Bank for the Heartland—are still pending with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

We are grateful to everyone who played a part in securing ARPA funding by making their voice heard through advocacy efforts. Your dedication in the fight against hunger helped us get this bill to the finish line. THANK YOU!



JOIN THE FOODIES

Founded in 2013, the Foodies is an organization of volunteers dedicated to the support of the Food Bank through volunteerism, fundraising, and the promotion of community awareness. The Foodies are close-knit, committed to our mission, and driven to help our neighbors facing food insecurity.

2022-2023 Officers:

President	Jennie Warren	Secretary	Denise Fitzgerald
Pres-Elect	Catherine Mahoney	Advisor	Gabby Mormino
Treasurer	Michelle Zadalis	Staff Liaison	Joani Mullin



If you're looking to get more involved with Food Bank for the Heartland, joining the Foodies could be a great start! A Foodies membership offers volunteer opportunities, the chance to network with more than 200 members, and involvement in Food Bank special events. The 2022-2023 Foodies Membership Drive is underway. Scan the QR code to the right or visit FoodBankHeartland.org to complete the application.



SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE PROVIDES MUCH-NEEDED ITEMS

In April, metro-area Scouts held their annual "Scouting for Food" collection drive. The group collected 44,913 pounds of nonperishable food in just two weeks. Their efforts will provide more than 37,427 meals to neighbors in need.



United Way of the Midlands, Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA, Werner Enterprises, and area Target stores partnered together to collect nonperishable food items for neighbors in need and raise awareness of food insecurity across the Heartland. We are beyond grateful to the Scouts and community partners for their efforts!

BECOME A MEAL MAKER TODAY!

Many of our neighbors are still struggling following a loss of income and years of hardship. Amid the rising cost of food, housing, and gas, many are now forced to choose between paying the bills or buying food.

Diane Duren & Drew Collier have generously agreed to contribute \$100 for every new Meal Maker who signs up—starting today—for a total gift of up to \$10,000. Thanks to their support, this will help the Food Bank provide more meals to neighbors in need throughout the year.

Scan the QR code to the right or visit FoodBankHeartland.org today to learn more.



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Food Bank for the Heartland is excited to introduce our new planned giving program, Heirloom Legacy Circle. This special group is comprised of thoughtful supporters who are passionate about building a healthier Heartland. Including Food Bank for the Heartland in your will or trust is a simple way to meet the needs of families facing food insecurity for generations to come. Visit our website or contact our Philanthropy Officer, Ryan Lally, for more information, RLally@FoodBankHeartland.org.



Heirloom > LEGACY CIRCLE <



It is important to me to sustain the practice of providing critical meals to children, seniors, and families across the Heartland who are food insecure even when I am gone. If I can continue to help make lives better for others in my community, I want to do so, and including an exemplary organization like Food Bank for the Heartland in my estate plan will make this possible.

Stephanie Wernig, PhD

DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

- To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
- To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
- To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donors will be professional in nature.
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share. (Food Bank for the Heartland does not sell or trade its donors' personal information. The Food Bank will periodically use a third party to communicate only with its donors.)

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For additional information, including our governing board list, annual reports, financial audits, and 990 forms visit our website, FoodBankHeartland.org.



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