

THE DISH

WINTER 2023



MEET BUTCH

On a frigid Wednesday afternoon in November, Butch waits in his car amid several rows of other vehicles parked at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Red Oak, Iowa. Each of them lined up—sometimes up

Butch is always looking for ways to give back. With the fresh food loaded in his vehicle, he is grateful for support from the Food Bank. Butch says this act of kindness will inspire him to find ways to help the

“I try to help people whenever I can. I’ve lived here for 61 years. This is my home and always will be. It’s a good town to live in. Nothing big, nothing fancy, just plain ol’ good people.”



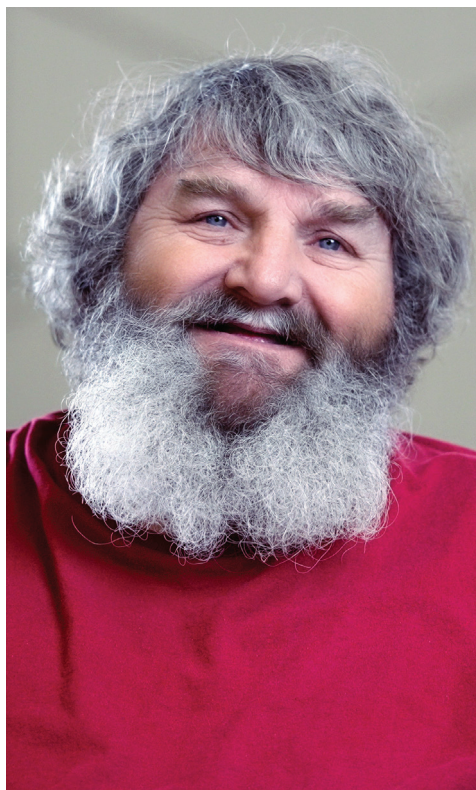
Thousands of Heartland neighbors like Butch have found themselves in the unexpected position of needing food assistance due to inflation. Thanks to you, the Food Bank—along with our Network Partners—is working relentlessly to provide our communities with healthy meals and hope for a brighter future.

to an hour and a half early—to wait for the Food Bank’s mobile pantry to begin. According to Feeding America, 9% of adults and 14% of children in Montgomery County are facing food insecurity.

good people of Red Oak during these difficult times.

Butch is retired and according to him, “retirement just doesn’t cover it.” He’s saddened by how inflation has impacted his small-knit community. “It’s hit pretty hard. I feel sad seeing how much it’s gone up so fast. A lot of people can’t afford anything, so this helps a lot.”

Struggling with hunger isn’t the only hardship for Butch. He lost his brother last year around Thanksgiving and tells us he’s still grieving. Despite his loss—and the challenges he’s facing—



BECOME A MEAL MAKER

Help neighbors like Butch receive access to nutritious food all year long by becoming a Meal Maker! **Plus, if you become a monthly Meal Maker by March 31, your first month’s gift will be generously matched—dollar for dollar—up to \$10,000 by a friend of the Food Bank, Stephanie Wernig, Ph.D.** Scan the QR code below or visit our website to sign-up today.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

2022 brought unprecedented challenges for the Food Bank and those we serve. Food insecurity levels eclipsed what we witnessed during the height of the pandemic, which I never could have imagined.



In addition, Feeding America is reporting massive declines in federal commodities. In FY23, food banks will see a decrease of 427 billion pounds in USDA commodities, while 90% of food banks within Feeding America's network have reported an increased or sustained need.

Though the need—and the cost to purchase and distribute food has increased—federal funding has done the opposite. During the pandemic, government assistance programs were created to help families afford food. Many of those programs have already expired including stimulus checks, P-EBT, child tax credit, CARES act funding, and Farmers to Families boxes. This reduction in resources has led to a significant increase in the number of individuals served by pantries and mobile pantries, contributing to the upward trajectory we've seen since 2018 (see graph to the right).

With the new congress beginning in January, a reauthorization of the Farm Bill represents an opportunity for us to advocate for additional support to fight hunger in our communities. It is only through your advocacy and support, that we will overcome these hardships. I specifically want to thank Conagra Brands Foundation, The Scoular Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America, and Baker's, for graciously stepping up during our recent Shine the Light on Hunger campaign. Collectively, we are creating a healthier Heartland—one day at a time.

Brian Barks
President & CEO

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Powered by: **WOODHOUSE**

Right now, your gift to the Backpack Program will be matched—dollar for dollar—up to \$500,000, providing twice as many Backpack meals.

\$164 will sponsor 1 child for the entire school year. Scan the QR code below or visit our website to learn more!



THANK YOU FOR SHINING A LIGHT ON HUNGER

The 16th annual Shine the Light on Hunger campaign was a tremendous success! It helped us raise critical meals for Heartland neighbors struggling to make ends meet.

This year, we set an ambitious goal to raise 3 million meals. To help support our goal, **Conagra Brands Foundation, The Scoular Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America, and Baker's** generously stepped up with a match of **\$320,000** to double gifts through the end of 2022.

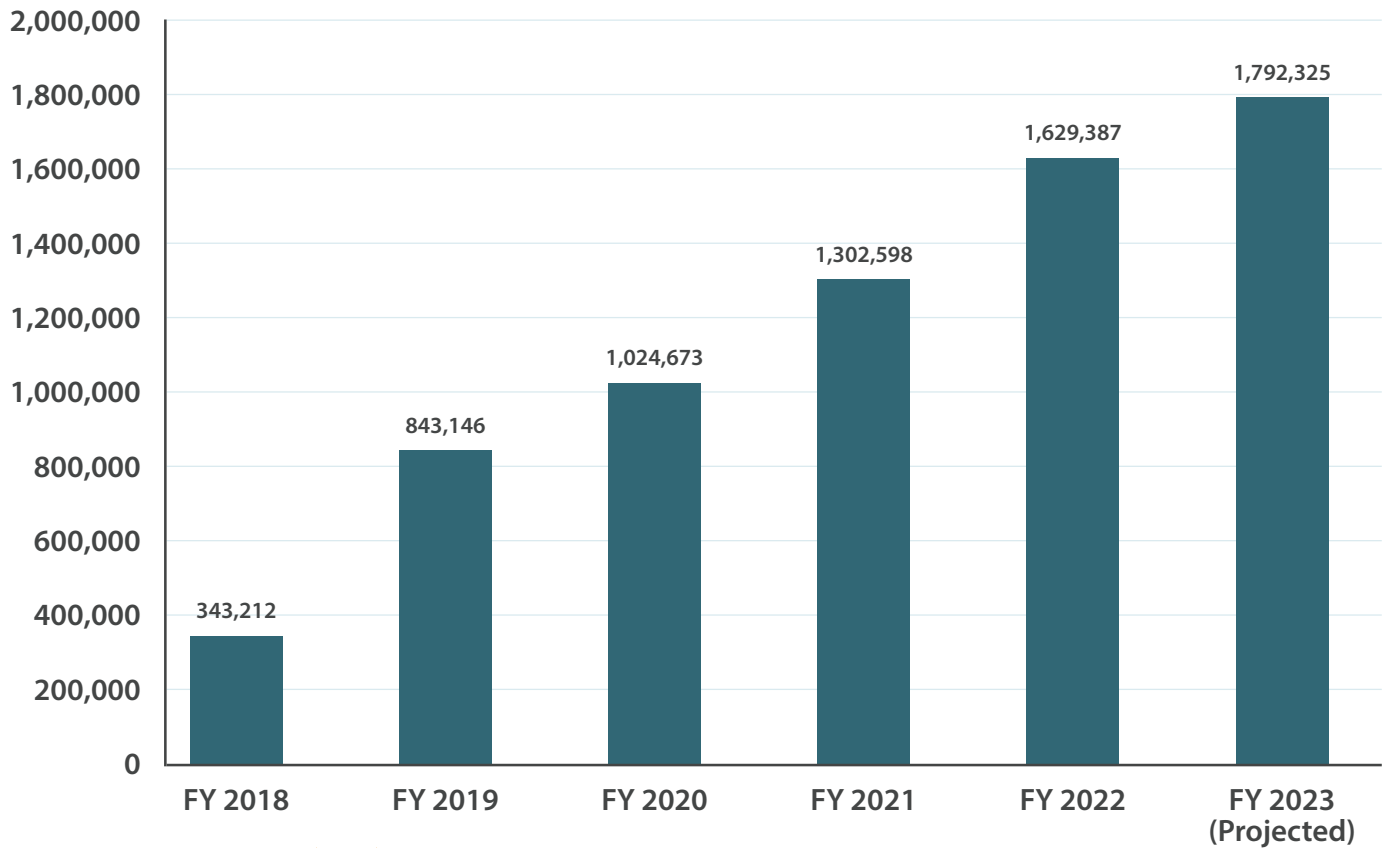
Stay tuned to our website, where we'll share the results of the campaign after our press conference on January 18, 2023.



SHINE THE LIGHT ON HUNGER

CONAGRA
• BRANDS •
FOUNDATION

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY FOOD BANK FOR THE HEARTLAND



I'm a stay-at-home mom so we're on one income. Inflation has made it so hard. I tried to buy the cheapest stuff but still needed more help.
Fany, Omaha pantry recipient

Learn more about how the Food Bank is serving neighbors in need and view our financial summary in our 2022 Annual Report on the Reports & Resources page of our website.



DRIVING HOPE ACROSS THE HEARTLAND

This fall, the Food Bank donated a Ford Transit Van to Care Corps' LifeHouse pantry in Fremont, NE to facilitate pick up of direct retail donations from Hy-Vee, Walmart, Baker's, and Aldi stores as part of the Food Bank's Enabled Program. It also allows them to deliver food to those who don't have access to transportation in Dodge County.

"We are grateful to the Food Bank for such a wonderful gift. Going through the pandemic and having them as such a wonderful partner has helped us feed so many more people in our community and we are so blessed."
— Tera Kucera, CEO of Care Corps' LifeHouse



Jacob Kampschneider, a Food Bank CSR, with Care Corps' LifeHouse team members.

To further assist our Network Partners in better serving their communities, the Food Bank now offers Capacity Grants. These grants award up to \$2,000 and are available on a quarterly basis to purchase items such as new equipment—allowing partners to increase the amount of food they can safely receive, store, and distribute.



**CELEBRITY
CHEF**
2023



AN EVENING WITH CHEF
MARCUS SAMUELSSON

Thursday, March 2, 2023 · 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
CHI Health Center · 455 N 10th St, Omaha, NE 68102

We are thrilled to welcome acclaimed chef, restaurateur, *New York Times* bestselling author, and television host—**Marcus Samuelsson**, to the CHI Health Center on Thursday, March 2! Experience a wonderful night of delicious food and entertainment as Chef Samuelsson demonstrates his favorite recipes. The event will feature an auction, pre-event celebrations, and a gourmet meal inspired by our Celebrity Chef.

We hope you'll join the Food Bank to help us raise **2.4 million meals** and make this our most impactful fundraiser. We need your support now more than ever as inflation continues to affect our neighbors in need, our Network Partners, and our operations. Your support will provide critical nutrition to children, families, seniors, and veterans who don't know where their next meal will come from. **Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets today!**



**THANK YOU TO OUR TOP FOOD
DONORS, WHO CONTRIBUTED
NEARLY 8.7 MILLION MEALS IN FY 22!**

Thank you to our top food donors in fiscal year 2022. Collectively, these companies donated **8,684,736 meals** to the Food Bank! We are tremendously grateful to those listed below, along with the thousands of other organizations and individuals who support our mission through food donations.

Aldi
Baker's
Cargill
Conagra Brands
Costco
Hy-Vee

Rotella's Italian Bakery
Sam's Club
Target
Tyson
Walmart



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