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AMERICA**

SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

A Publication of The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri

SUMMER 2020

Food Bank on *The Forefront* of COVID-19 Response

HOW OUR WORK TO FEED THOUSANDS CONTINUES THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT

The COVID-19 crisis is among the most significant challenges faced by our country in recent history. Feeding America and its national network of food banks emerged as leaders in helping the millions of people made food insecure by the pandemic. The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri is among them.

Many local families are still struggling with newfound hardships, causing an increase in the number of people using our services for the first time. So far, our service area has been fortunate to avoid the same drastic rise in need other parts of the country have experienced. The Food Bank dedicates itself to helping them while facing new challenges of its own. A significant reduction in food donations and national strains to the supply of shelf-stable food have made it more expensive and difficult to obtain food to distribute.

To ensure our hunger-relief mission continues, we've created new ways to distribute food to keep people safe. Our 140 partner agencies are following The Food Bank recommendations to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Central Pantry continues to serve thousands every month in Boone County by using a contact-less, drive-thru model.

The Food Bank kept distributing Buddy Packs after schools closed, getting food for the weekend



into students' hands by working with school districts across our service area. This summer we provide more than 2,000 Buddy Packs weekly to children in Boone, Cole and Callaway counties.

We've also kept our Mobile Pantries running with contact-less distribution methods to continue to serve people in areas with poor access to food assistance. To help further, we added a new, temporary service called Fresh Mobiles that has provided over **100,000 pounds** of fresh and refrigerated items.

Our donors and community have made it possible for The Food Bank to continue its work through an outpour of support. As we face the uncertain future of the crisis, that support must stay steady so we can share food and bring hope to all who need it.

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Continuing Our Mission During The COVID-19 Pandemic



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In my nearly six years at The Food Bank, we have never faced a crisis as challenging as COVID-19. Millions are out of work, making even more people food insecure. **It is my goal for The Food Bank to lead in helping everyone who is made food insecure by the pandemic.** As mentioned in the cover story, we are still using our Mobile Pantries with the addition of Fresh Mobiles. We are still helping students in our service area by continuing the Buddy Pack Program through the rest of summer. However, we are running low on shelf-stable items and need your help in continuing to help people in need.

In my nearly six years here, we have always strived to bring our community together to feed people in need.

We can continue to add to our work during the COVID-19 pandemic because of our donors and staff. **Your donations have allowed us to continue obtaining supplies while the price of shelf-stable food has increased.** As our staff adapts to the new changes, we can continue to help those who are food insecure. Since we haven't been able to utilize volunteers, I am also grateful to the National Guard and Missouri Foundation for Health for helping us distribute food.

On June 17, our Leadership and Executive Teams sent a statement about diversity, equity, and inclusion to all of our staff. This was the beginning of our effort to work against racial inequity in our service area. We immediately took action by forming different committees focused on how we can improve our life and community. I look forward to seeing the positive change that will come from these committees.

In my nearly six years here, we have always strived to bring our community together to feed people in need. No matter what the rest of the year brings us, The Food Bank will continue our mission.

Gratefully,

Lindsay Young Lopez
President and CEO



Food Bank Feeds Thousands Through Fresh Mobiles

FINDING NEW WAYS TO PROVIDE HELP IN A CRISIS

They came in a steady stream, ranging from sedans carrying only a driver, to vans with more than one family represented inside. Each vehicle answered a few simple questions on the amount of food requested and other needs. Then, members of the Missouri National Guard and community volunteers loaded boxes, bags and produce into the trunk or back seat. The process took no more than minutes, but people facing food insecurity drove away with needed supplies.

Many families in our community face new uncertainty due to the COVID-19 crisis. To help them meet challenges like losses in income and school closures, The Food Bank added a new, temporary service — Fresh Mobiles.

Like The Food Bank's monthly Mobile Pantries, Fresh Mobiles are refrigerated trucks that directly distribute food to areas in need. Running from April to July, they provided fresh food, frozen meats and other essentials using a drive-thru method.

At a few Fresh Mobiles, volunteers offered bouquets of fresh flowers donated after Mother's Day. The small gesture drew smiles, serving as a bright moment during difficult times.

In total, 17 Fresh Mobiles distributed over **113,931 pounds of supplies** in five counties from April to June. More than **4,300 people received food**. This service was in addition to The Food Bank's regular resources, which serve an average of 100,000 people monthly.

Many groups worked together to make Fresh Mobiles possible. The Missouri Foundation for Health awarded a grant, the Missouri National Guard and community volunteers served as a workforce, and local organizations provided the locations. The Food Bank is incredibly thankful to each of these partners for stepping up to help feed Missourians.

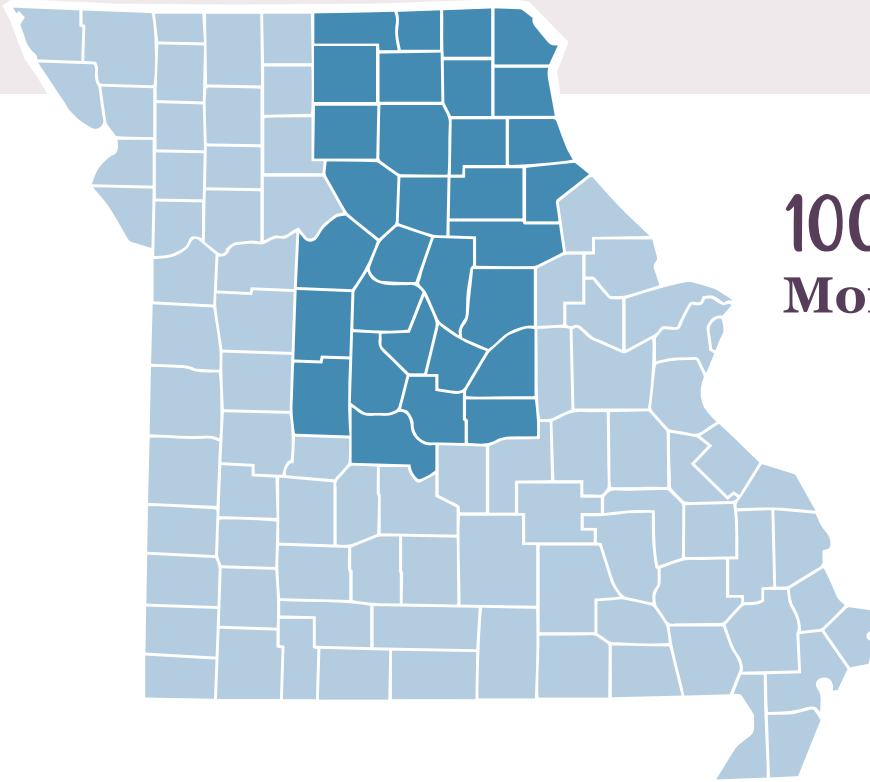


The VIP Veteran Pack Program

The VIP Veteran Pack Program provides additional nutrition to Veterans. VIP Veteran Packs include ready-to-eat entrees, soup, fruit and vegetables in easy-to-open cans, as well as toiletries such as razors, body wash and deodorant. **We currently distribute 350 packs monthly in seven counties — Benton, Boone, Cole, Callaway, Adair, Miller and Audrain.**

You can help by donating at sharefoodbringhope.org/our-programs

Report On The Food Bank's Work in 2019



100,000 People Served Monthly in 32 Counties

One in seven Missourians struggle with food insecurity, and for children it is worse at one in six. This means thousands of Missourians lack enough nutritional food to regularly eat healthy. Our mission is to end hunger in our communities.

The Weight of Our Work, County by County

Adair	904,993 lbs.	Macon	683,552 lbs.
Audrain	1,716,512 lbs.	Maries	464,503 lbs.
Benton	942,609 lbs.	Marion	1,067,142 lbs.
Boone	6,895,205 lbs.	Miller	1,486,902 lbs.
Callaway	1,208,026 lbs.	Moniteau	646,507 lbs.
Camden	1,208,269 lbs.	Monroe	373,607 lbs.
Chariton	322,795 lbs.	Morgan	1,173,124 lbs.
Clark	274,280 lbs.	Osage	365,731 lbs.
Cole	1,957,801 lbs.	Pettis	1,706,810 lbs.
Cooper	483,471 lbs.	Phelps	1,504,440 lbs.
Howard	277,375 lbs.	Putnam	281,883 lbs.
Knox	344,847 lbs.	Ralls	178,638 lbs.
Lewis	408,753 lbs.	Randolph	1,134,923 lbs.
Linn	618,084 lbs.	Saline	869,294 lbs.
		Schuyler	344,564 lbs.
		Scotland	314,178 lbs.
		Shelby	565,221 lbs.
		Sullivan	260,293 lbs.
		Partner Food Banks	1,865,883 lbs.



15,120 Volunteers
contributing 106,260 hours,
worth \$2.7 million



32,862,633 pounds
of food distributed,
worth \$50 million



27,654,105 meals
served through programs
and partner agencies

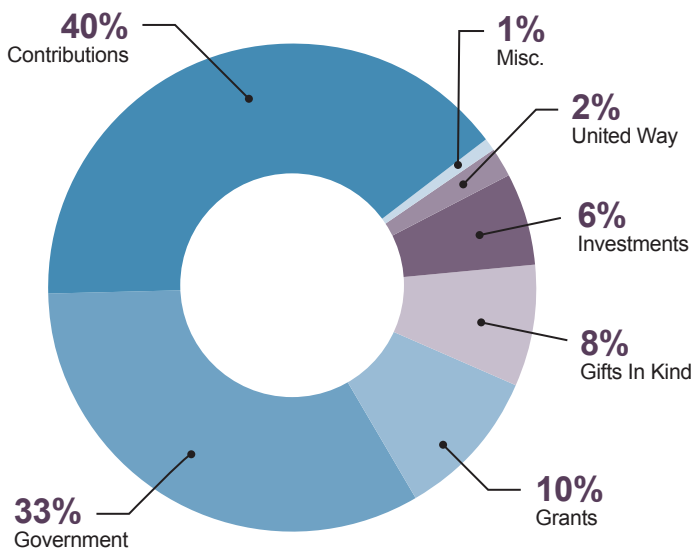
140
partner agencies

The bulk of The Food Bank's work is in providing food to **partner agencies** at no cost so they can feed people in need. These organizations are local, like your town's **food pantry**, **soup kitchen** or **shelter**.

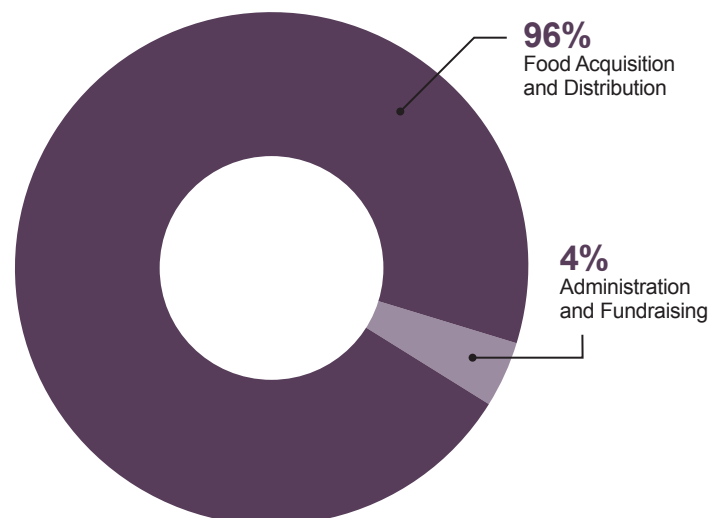
182
schools served

Among the most vulnerable to food insecurity are **students**. To learn and grow, **they need nutrition**. That's why The Food Bank operates the **Buddy Pack Program** and **School Pantry programs**.

Our Funding



How We Use It



Running to Support Heroes

HOPE FOR HEROES 5K SUCCESSFUL IN THIRD YEAR DESPITE COVID-19

In July, we ran and walked to support Veterans virtually. The race usually takes place in June, but due to the COVID-19 crisis, we decided to have the Hope for Heroes 5K open all month long and online. This allowed people to run and walk on their own time while also social distancing.

In 2019, The Food Bank distributed 350 VIP Veteran Packs a month throughout seven counties — Benton, Boone, Cole, Callaway, Adair, Miller and Audrain. The packs contain food and toiletries to help veterans. To qualify, a person only needs to show proof of military service and express need.

Despite the challenges of the crisis, the third year of the event was a success. By having the event go virtual, we were able to invite more people to support The Food Bank's VIP Veteran Pack Program. Columbia Insurance Group again joined us as the presenting sponsor.



Around 5,000 veterans in our area have an annual income below the poverty line. Veterans are able to utilize our other services such as mobile pantries or food distributed by partner agencies, as well as the VIP Pack. Thank you to everyone who joined us virtually by running, walking and donating.

Chase Daniel Leads Fundraising Effort for The Food Bank

Recapturing the magic of their historic season, NFL quarterback Chase Daniel reunited virtually with teammates of the 2007 Mizzou Football team on May 1. **The group reminisced their team's success on Daniel's online talk show, "Chase Chats," while encouraging donations to The Food Bank.**

Fans of the team and viewers across the nation donated to help purchase food for people facing food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis. At the end, donations totaled more than \$100,000. Thanks to Chase Daniel, his teammates and the hundreds of people who gave to help us tackle hunger.

More than
\$100,000
in Donations



COVID-19 Creates Need for Food Drives

LEARN HOW YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS CAN HOST A DRIVE TO DONATE SUPPLIES

The COVID-19 crisis has reduced the supply of shelf-stable food items to an all-time low. With everyone stocking up on these items, grocery stores are under strain to keep them on shelves. The Food Bank faces that same challenge with even more difficulty. To help us solve this problem, we are sending a call for people to organize food drives.

We need your help in collecting non-perishable food items. **The most needed non-perishable items include peanut butter and canned goods. Canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, rice, cereal, soup and pasta are also needed.** Homegrown fruits and vegetables are acceptable as well. We cannot accept refrigerated meat or home-canned goods.

The Food Bank has seen an influx of fresh produce donations, leading us to start our Fresh Mobile program. However, due to the difficulties and uncertainties caused by COVID-19, many need shelf-stable foods to provide better food security.

You can hold a food drive to help us obtain essential items for our community. You can start a drive based on an event such as a birthday or anniversary. A fun way to get many donations is to start a competition between co-workers. If you plan to collect more than 200 pounds of food, you may request our help with delivery and pick-up of donation barrels.

If you can't hold a food drive in person, you can host one virtually instead. A virtual drive will allow you to encourage your friends, family and others to stay safe by donating online. For every \$10 gift, we can acquire \$210 worth of groceries.

To Register Your Food Drive
or learn more about how to hold one, visit
sharefoodbringhope.org/fooddrive.

Food Bank Starts Effort on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

On June 17, The Food Bank sent the statement below to all of our staff. The following day, we made it public. It affirms our support of efforts to end inequity, explains why The Food Bank must take an active role in creating a more fair society, and establishes our promise to learn and improve. **Since this statement, we have formed a new group focused on diversity, equity and inclusion to turn these words into action and experience.** The Food Bank staff encourages our community and partners to join us in this effort.



To our Food Bank family,

The violent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Tony McDade shocked us. The loss of their lives and the countless unjust deaths that came before them demand change. The Food Bank is unwavering in our support of our employees of color and pledges to be part of the solution in creating a better society for all.

The Food Bank's vision is to lead and collaborate to end hunger in the communities we serve. This dream of ours cannot become reality when systemic injustice and oppression based on race, gender, sexual orientation and class perpetuate the cycles of poverty so many face. We are committed to feeding all who are hungry and recognizing their value as individuals. We do not have all of the answers, but we will find the strength through our core values of respect, integrity, stewardship and compassion to discuss the issues, no matter how uncomfortable the truths we discover.

Racism is real. We must commit to educating ourselves on it at every level. The Food Bank supports the efforts, voices and research that bring attention to the harmful impact of inequity. The Executive and Leadership teams promise to invite new voices and create spaces for discussion so we can foster a culture where each person feels seen, heard and supported. **We pledge to advance equity, diversity and inclusion throughout our organization, network of partner agencies and communities.**

We want our employees, supporters and participants of color to know we will stand with them. We will educate and improve ourselves. We will work against racial injustice. We will say, publicly and proudly, The Food Bank stands as a positive force in creating a more fair and equal central and northeast Missouri.

Gratefully,

Your Executive and Leadership teams
The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri