OCTOBER 2026: VOLUNTEERISM

TURNING FROZEN CORN INTO CHICKEN

In the last three months, we have repacked 222,407 pounds of frozen corn in our Volunteer Room. A food manufacturer in our service area regularly shares frozen corn on the cob with us. We can only accept these donations because our volunteers help us repack the corn for easy distribution to our community. Sometimes we have so much corn that we share it with other food banks across the nation. Last quarter, we were able to trade a truckload of frozen corn for a truckload of chicken from a food bank in Virginia! Protein like chicken is a valuable item for The Food Bank to share with our neighbors. Protein from meat is often one of the most expensive items you can purchase, and we don't always receive it as donations. Being able to secure a highly valued item like chicken – a whole truckload of chicken – was only possible because our volunteers helped us prepare frozen corn to share with our network!

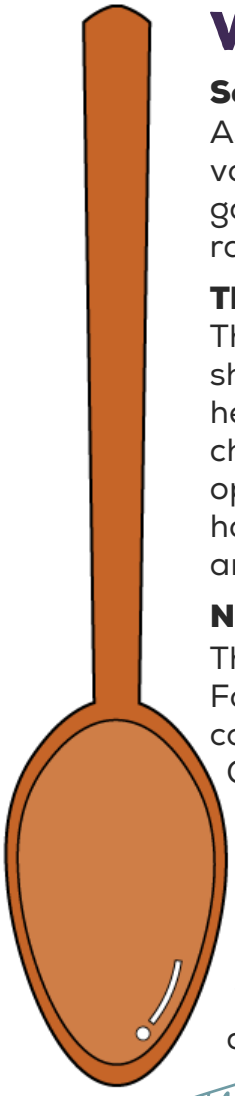
HOW THE FOOD BANK HANDLES RECALLS

In the last few months, we have seen a lot about foodborne outbreaks on the news. As you know, The Food Bank distributes millions of pounds of food on an annual basis. To keep our food safe for neighbors, we follow policies and procedures for handling, transporting and storing food. Our volunteers support us in our efforts to keep food safe – for example, volunteers wear gloves when repacking food, wash their hands regularly and keep food on designated food-safe surfaces. The Food Bank regularly monitors food recalls from federal regulatory agencies, determines whether they affect our operations and promptly notifies our partner agencies who help coordinate the segregation, return or disposal of recalled products. This is a regular part of our operations, and our entire team participates to ensure food safety standards are met. We are so grateful that volunteers support us in these efforts to keep food safe for our community!

NOTES FROM NEIGHBORS & SUPPORTERS

> We truly appreciate the opportunity to serve alongside your team and be a small part of the incredible work you do for our community.
>
> -Volunteer

> Because of The Food Bank, my family's tummies are full, and they can rest easy in our home as we prepare for the new school year ahead.
>
> -Neighbor at The Market



WINS FROM THE PAST QUARTER

Score Against Hunger Game Raises $25,000

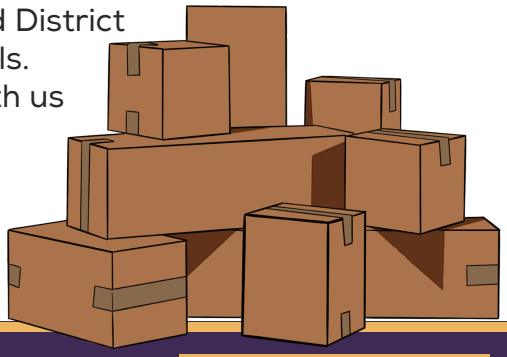
As the Missouri Tigers took on the Troy Trojans, The Food Bank and its volunteers prepared to tackle hunger at the annual Score Against Hunger game in September. This year, with the addition of a $10,000 matching gift, we raised more than $25,000 – a new record!

The Food Bank Hosts Annual Agency Conference

The Food Bank collaborates with over 145 partner agencies and 200 schools to share food across our 32-county service area. At the end of September, we held our Annual Agency Conference. We spent time discussing last year's challenges and successes, and growing partnerships and operational opportunities for the future. We had a handful of volunteers support us in hosting this fun event, and we were excited to continue to build connections and share resources with our partners.

New School Year Inspires Students to Serve

The Food Bank hosts students from across Columbia to volunteer at both The Food Bank Market and the Volunteer Room. In September, our team welcomed college students from the University of Missouri's Community Engaged Learning Office for the Service Learning program, as well as Columbia College students in the Work Study program. We also welcomed Dietetic students from the University of Missouri who will be hosting cooking demonstrations at The Market. Additionally, we hosted various classes from Columbia Public Schools for their Work Block and District Classrooms to help students build work-ready skills. We are excited to have these students serving with us again this school year!



Thank you for making a difference!

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP SESSIONS AVAILABLE!

Questions?

Contact Volunteer Manager Samantha Cripe at volunteer@sharefoodbringhope.org

Scan here to see how you help neighbors!