

ON THE FRONT LINES

COVID-19 Response

- » From March – November 2020, the Food Bank **received 9,990,644 lbs. and distributed 9,397,408 lbs. of food.**
- » **1,462,984 lbs. of mixed dairy, produce and mixed meat distributed** through the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Farmers to Families Boxes.
- » 159 mobile food distributions served 57,746 households/215,159 individuals and **distributed 2,451,947 lbs. of food in our six-county service area.**
- » **5,555 volunteers provided 27,460 volunteer hours**, including 15 Indiana National Guard (INNG) members deployed to the Food Bank beginning in April. In August, the number of guards increased to 20. INNG members stepped down at the end of September and seven members continued their assignment with the Food Bank through December 31, 2020.
- » **3,182 new households/12,689 individuals served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County.

These numbers reflect March – November 2020



WISH LIST

- ✓ **New Lighting (Back of Warehouse)**
\$50,000
- ✓ **New Lighting (2nd Floor, Warehouse)**
\$50,000
- ✓ **(1) Walk-in Freezer**
\$200,000
- ✓ **Painting Exterior of Building**
\$200,000
- ✓ **Remodel of Community Food Pantry**
\$200,000
- ✓ **Grinding and Repaving of Parking Lot**
\$150,000

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Canned Chicken and Tuna
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned Soups – Chicken Noodle, Vegetable and Cream of Mushroom
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Boxed Helper Meals – Lasagna, Alfredo, Cheeseburger
- Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Beef Stew and Ravioli
- Canned Fruit
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Boxed Breakfast Cereal
- Boxed Potatoes
- Personal Care Items – toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, bar soap



Call 574-232-9986 ext. 124 for more information.

IN MY VIEW

Hope is on the horizon!

2020 has forever changed us. I hope I never forget what a smile looks like, what a hug feels like, not all heroes wear capes, and so much goodness surrounds us even during our darkest days.

2020 exposed something we have known for a long time — hunger exists in every community in northern Indiana and every county in the United States. 2020 added many new faces of hunger, like Peter, who is using food pantries to feed his family for the very first time.

Every dollar you donate to the Food Bank allows us to provide four meals for people in need.

Wishing you a hopeful new year.

With gratitude,

Marijo Martinec
Executive Director and CEO
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

~ Desmond Tutu



MEET PETER

Peter, father of four, was laid off from his job in April, which was his family's main source of income. He immediately began looking for new jobs but found limited opportunities for work. The positions he did find did not offer the same amount of money and benefits that he was used to making to support his family.

“It's the first time I haven't felt financially stable since first having kids. I knew I had a duty as a father to weigh every option and find a new job as soon as possible for them.”

Peter found a low-paying job to help his family temporarily, he found out about the Food Bank of Northern Indiana's mobile food distributions on the morning news.

This was a huge discovery for Peter and his family because it allowed them to maintain access to affordable and nutritious foods that would have cost them much more at a supermarket. This made up for the money that the family was missing out on after Peter was laid off and allowed them to stay well fed in the midst of this stressful period of time.

“It's the first time I haven't felt financially stable since first having kids.”

PROGRAM UPDATES

For more information on the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, Healthy Choices Market, and Senior Nutrition Program, please contact Allison Schoenfeld, programs and experience manager, at 574-232-9986 ext. 127.

Agency Spotlight

First Pentecostal Church

509 S. Roosevelt Road, Knox, IN 46534
(574) 772-4165

Open first and third Wednesdays
from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The First Pentecostal Church Food Pantry opened in 2009. Pastor Jerry Patrick and Lorrie Gardener oversee the pantry. Clients from all over Starke County can shop at their pantry twice a month and they can take as much food as they need. They are grateful for the many bonus food distributions held by the Food Bank to help people in need during the pandemic.



Senior Nutrition Program

Through November 2020, the Senior Nutrition Program served 9,218 seniors received

98,113 lbs. of food in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke, and St. Joseph Counties.

For more information about Food 4 Kids and the Senior Nutrition Program, please contact Allison Schoenfeld, programs and experience manager, at (574) 232-9986 ext. 127 or aschoenfeld@feedindiana.org.



Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County

Through August 2020, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County served 17,855 households/73,885 individuals and distributed 1,730,892 lbs. of food.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through November 2020, 6,025 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties received **280,840 lbs. of food.**

For more information about Food Bank agencies and CSFP, please contact Brandy Love, agency relations director at (574) 232-9986 ext. 137 or blove@feedindiana.org.

2020 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	30	319,089	8,088	31,943
Kosciusko	28	265,014	6,623	24,604
LaPorte	30	395,973	8,815	31,220
Marshall	26	229,334	6,089	21,905
Starke	24	237,260	4,804	14,187
St. Joseph	55	1,007,359	22,490	87,733
Total	193	2,254,029	56,909	211,592

Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through November 2020.



Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

Staff at Madison STEAM Academy in South Bend have gone above and beyond this school year to ensure that virtual students are provided with the nourishment necessary to stay focused. Each Wednesday, **several dedicated staff members board a school bus to deliver 140 food bags directly to students' homes.**

As a magnet school, Madison is comprised of students of every corner of South Bend. The bus makes 67 stops over the course of four hours in which bags are placed on students' doorsteps for contactless delivery. While maintaining socially distant, staff at Madison STEAM Academy show that heroes are close to home.

An investment of \$150 provides one student with a weekend sack of food during the school year. For more information about Food 4 Kids, please contact Allison Schoenfeld, programs and experience manager, at (574) 232-9986 ext. 127 or aschoenfeld@feedindiana.org.

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Alicia Webber
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Marijo Martinec, Executive Director &
CEO, Food Bank of Northern Indiana

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana works in partnership with the community to feed the hungry, increase awareness of the effects of hunger, and lead programs designed to alleviate hunger. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana serves Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Stark, and St. Joseph Counties and is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FiH) and United Way.

100% (\$98,430) [FY 2020-2021] of total program costs for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are financed with federal funds. TEFAP is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

100% (\$41,639) [FY 2020-2021] of total program costs for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) are financed with federal funds. CSFP is an equal opportunity provider.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

Thank you to our volunteers who have volunteered during the pandemic. We are forever grateful for your bravery during this unprecedented time.

Because your safety is our top priority, measures have been implemented including having your temperature taken upon entering the building, mandatory mask wearing, plastic gloves, hand sanitizer, and hand washing stations located throughout the building, 6 ft. physical distancing practiced on all projects, limiting the number of volunteers in the warehouse, increased cleaning and sanitation of workstations, and offering outdoor volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers are needed at the Food Bank Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. for various projects. The Community Food Pantry is open for outdoor drive-thru distributions on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. We also provide a bonus drive-thru Thursday afternoon on-site from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. A two-hour time commitment is encouraged.

If you live outside of St. Joseph County and would like to volunteer, we can use your support at our mobile food distributions taking place in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, and Starke Counties or we can put you in touch with one of our pantry partners in your community.

If you are unable to volunteer in person, we have several easy actions you can take to make an impact from a distance:

➤ **Host A Food and Funds Drive** – Ask your church, office, club, or neighborhood association to hold a food and funds drive by collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations. Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 124 or mmartinec@feedindiana.org for more information.

➤ **Follow Us on Social Media** – Stay up-to-date with the latest Food Bank news and events by following us on Facebook at Food Bank of Northern Indiana and on Instagram and Twitter @foodbknindiana.

➤ **Host a Food Bank Fundraiser** – Encourage friends and family to support the Food Bank by creating a post on your social media, selecting “support a nonprofit”, and searching for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

Through November 2020, 7,408 volunteers provided 32,484 hours for Food Bank Programs.

Share your time and talent with us! Contact Allison Schoenfeld, programs and experience manager at (574) 232-9986 ext. 127 or aschoenfeld@feedindiana.org.

FOOD FINDERS

To meet the demand for emergency food assistance, the Food Bank actively seeks manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and grocers to procure more protein, produce, dairy, and shelf-stable items to distribute through our network of agency partners.

Through November 2020, the Food Bank distributed 10,479,007 lbs. and receipted 11,692,302 lbs. of product. During this period, 5,683,841 lbs. of government commodities were distributed and 6,607,044 lbs. were receipted.

Our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program receipted 1,046,467 lbs. in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte and Marshall Counties through November 2020. This program began in November 2018 with agency partners working with Food Bank retail partners in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and Kosciusko Counties to pick up product Monday through Friday.

food bank
OF NORTHERN INDIANA

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

FEEDING INDIANA'S HUNGRY

United Way

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