

ON THE FRONT LINES

Emerging from the COVID-19 Pandemic

- » From January – October 2021, the Food Bank received **8,210,656 lbs. and distributed 8,769,977 lbs.**
- » **1,288,188 lbs. of mixed dairy, produce, and meat/protein** was distributed through June 2021 through the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Farmers to Families Boxes.
- » From January – October, 2021, **135 mobile food distributions served 34,047 households/113,615 individuals and distributed 1,685,489 lbs. of food/the equivalent of up to 1,316,788 meals** in our six-county service area.
- » From June – October 2021, **196,380 lbs. of produce** was distributed through the USDA's Fresh Produce Program through TEFAP agencies.
- » **5,324 volunteers contributed 14,325 volunteer hours.**
- » **13,182 households/51,748 individuals served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County.



**Due to Feeding Matters production schedule, numbers reflect January – October 2021.*



Why Food 4 Kids is Important to Us

**Bob Hayden, Executive Manager, Jordan Automotive Group,
Food 4 Kids Presenting Sponsor since 2009**

We were approached by a local radio station to help. We learned the Food Bank was in three schools, feeding 250 kids with a large waiting list. We took \$50 for each car sold that month to raise money, thinking it was a one-month program. We raised money month after month, and as we learned about child hunger, we were committed.

commissioned employees wondered how they would get paid and be gone two-three hours. I told them they wouldn't. These are the same employees that now volunteer.

Our staff is proud to tackle child hunger. It has been the reason many people have come to work for us. This is a focused cause that we are so permanently committed to and very important to our employees. The change in culture is evident. Employee satisfaction along with retention for the past 13 years has to be, in part, due to this commitment to Food 4 Kids. Our brand is connected to this program, and what it has done for all of us is far greater than the financial commitment.

Get involved. We were all educated on the need, and when we put our all into this commitment, it gave our 225 plus employees something to feel good about. The pride in working for a company fully committed each year gives all of us a reason to feel great about what we do.

Feeding kids one backpack at a time. What can be better or more gratifying?

The number of food-insecure kids in our elementary schools is heartbreaking. Along with raising money, we began packing and delivering food to some schools on Thursdays. When kids tug on your pant leg and thank you, it is not hard to stay behind this program now serving 2,800 kids.

Employees from different departments travel to the Food Bank to pack and deliver each week. In the beginning, many

WISH LIST

- ✓ **Exterior Painting of the Building**
\$200,000
- ✓ **Grinding and Repaving of the Parking Lot**
\$150,000

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Boxed Breakfast Cereal

Boxed Meal Helpers – Alfredo, Beef Pasta, Cheeseburger, Cheesy Tuna, and Lasagna

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

Boxed Potatoes – Au Gratin and Mashed

Canned Beef Stew and Ravioli

Canned Chicken and Tuna

Canned Fruit – Apple Sauce, Mixed Fruit, Peaches, and Pears

Canned Soups – Chicken Noodle, Cream of Mushroom, Tomato, and Vegetable

Canned Vegetables – Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Sliced Carrots, and Sweet Peas

Pancake Mix and Syrup

Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce

Personal Care Items – Bar Soap, Body Wash, Deodorant, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, and Toothpaste

No glass items please.

Please consider donating items that are low-salt and low-sugar with pop top lids.



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

IN MY VIEW

We have all endured so much for nearly the past two years, and remarkably, all of us "MacGyvered" our way through this extraordinary time to carry on.

For example, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, the onsite pantry located at the Food Bank, pivoted to a drive-thru distribution model in March 2020. Based on input from neighbors who use this pantry, it continues to operate through this drive-thru model and provide client choice. Many of our partner agencies operate in this distribution model, too.

Hunger headlines may not be as frequent as they were at the beginning of the pandemic, making it easy to forget that so many continue to struggle to put food on the table. Working families, children, seniors, young adults — hunger does not discriminate.

Nearly 90,000 neighbors struggle with hunger in northern Indiana, including nearly 29,000 children. 96 cents of every dollar donated to the Food Bank goes directly to feeding programs to help neighbors like Jay, often one life event from needing the services the Food Bank provides.

Nothing we do is possible without you.

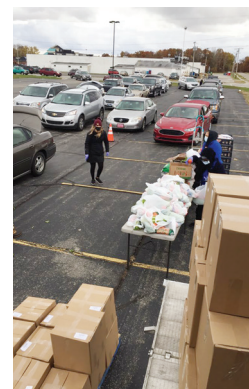
Thank you.

Wishing you a happy 2022!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marijo".

Marijo Martinec
Executive Director and CEO
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



“Another day, a whole ‘nother set
of fresh possibilities...”

~ MacGyver



MEET JAY

Jay has been taking care of his sick mother for nearly ten years. Throughout this time, his mother has needed several surgeries and rehab to overcome them. Jay has offered much of his time, energy, and financial resources to care for his mother, which has had its fair share of struggles.

“I was helping my mom pay her medical bills, which has greatly impacted my finances. I haven’t saved money because I am putting most of it into paying a lot of bills. And I can only make minimum payments.”

When Jay discovered the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and its partner agencies, he found access to nutritious food, which enabled him to avoid a difficult choice — paying for medical expenses or buying food.

“Knowing that I can put that extra money that I would be spending on food at the grocery store into the well-being of my mom is comforting. And I am so grateful.”

Your support makes a difference. Call (574) 232-9986 for more information.

PROGRAM UPDATES

For more information on the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, Healthy Choices Market, and Senior Nutrition Program, please contact Marijo Martinec at 574-232-9986 ext. 124.

Senior Nutrition Program

Through October 2021, the Senior Nutrition Program served 8,243 seniors who received 81,683 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 Cassidy Martenson, Programs and Experience Manager, at (574) 232-9986 ext. 127 or cmartenson@feedindiana.org.



Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County

Through October 2021, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County served 13,182 households/51,748 individuals and distributed 1,080,685 lbs. of food.



Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

The Food Bank officially kicked off the Food 4 Kids

Backpack Program in September for the 2021-2022 school year. Now in its 15th year, 47 schools are feeding 2,825 students each week in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke, and St. Joseph counties.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through October 2021, 3,860 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties received 91,482 lbs. of food.

Partner agencies participated in mandatory training in the fall, conducted virtually, which included Civil Rights and the Primarius 2 database. In addition, Purdue Extension provided information about their services, including a cooking demonstration and some tips on stress relief. Feeding Indiana's Hungry, our state association of food banks, provided a primer on the benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

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

Agency Spotlight

Grace Food Pantry of Bremen 1237 W. Plymouth Street Bremen, IN 46506 574-546-2245

Those in need of food assistance should call the pantry regarding what information they must provide to shop there and current COVID protocols. Open: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Clients can visit twice a month.



Grace Community Food Pantry serves residents of Marshall County.

1. Grace Community Food Pantry warmly welcomes all residents of Marshall County.
2. This pantry provides hygiene products one week and cleaning products the following week — items that can't be purchased with SNAP benefits.
3. Grace Community Food Pantry is a CSFP Program partner of the Food Bank.
4. The greater Marshall County community is very generous to their pantry.
5. Clients receive an abundance of food when they come to this pantry.

Grace Food Pantry of Bremen's Impact in Marshall County:

One day an elderly gentleman came in on his riding lawn mower and was very upset. He had just heard of our pantry, and when he got there, he had no food, and his gas and electricity had been shut off. We were able to communicate with the Salvation Army to help get his utilities turned back on, and he was signed up for energy assistance. We signed him up for a senior box and provided him with food from the pantry. He visited us twice a month and said he had never eaten so well in his whole life. When his lawn mower broke down, we helped secure a ride with another client. He appreciated everything that we did for him and never failed to tell people that we saved him. Sadly, we lost our friend to COVID-19 last summer. We miss our sweet fellow and his riding lawn mower.

2021 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	21	237,026	4,569	16,890
Kosciusko	15	180,060	3,450	11,448
LaPorte	24	303,422	8,541	26,087
Marshall	19	226,304	4,339	14,694
Starke	18	191,047	4,028	11,500
St. Joseph	38	547,630	9,120	32,996
Total	135	1,685,489	34,047	113,615

*Reflects mobile distributions held from January – October 2021

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Marijo Martinec, Executive Director and 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, Starke and St. Joseph Counties and is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH) and United Way.

100% (\$272,130) [FY 2021-2022] 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% (\$44,756) [FY 2021-2022] of total program costs for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) are financed with federal funds. CSFP is an equal opportunity provider.



Food Bank of Northern Indiana
702 Chapin St.
South Bend, IN 46601-2804
feedindiana.org
574-232-9986 . 800-879-7040

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

It doesn't take a lot of time to make a big difference!

Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. for various projects, including food sorting, packing boxes/bags for program distributions, and a variety of cleaning projects throughout the building.

The Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, the on-site pantry located at the Food Bank, now operates outdoor drive-thru distributions on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist clients in their drive-thru shopping experience.

A two-hour time commitment is preferred. Safety protocols are in place to ensure that you have a great experience, including having your temperature taken upon entering the building, mandatory face masks, plastic gloves, hand sanitizer and handwashing stations located throughout the building, along with social distancing practiced on all projects.

If you live outside of St. Joseph County and would like to volunteer, we can connect you with our partner agencies in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, and Starke Counties.

Through October 2021, 5,324 volunteers contributed 14,325 hours for Food Bank Programs.

Share your time and talent with us! Sign up at feedindiana.org/get-involved/volunteer or call **Cassidy Martenson, Programs and Experience Manager, at (574) 232-9986 ext. 127.**



Help Us Restock the Food Bank's Shelves!

Many of our neighbors continue to struggle to put food on the table.

Hosting a Food Drive at your place of employment, school or church makes a direct impact in our communities and helps us restock our shelves for the winter months.

**Can you help?
Call (574) 232-9986 for more information.**



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 October 2021, the Food Bank distributed 8,769,977 lbs. and received 8,210,656 lbs. of product. During this period, 4,599,982 lbs. of government commodities were distributed, and 4,183,085 lbs. were received.

Our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program received 1,126,868 lbs. through October 2021. In August, the Food Bank added a reclamation partnership with the new Trader Joe's located in South Bend and picks up donated products seven days each week.

The Agency Direct Pick-Up Program began late November 2018 with agency partners working with Food Bank retail partners in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, and Marshall Counties to pick up product Monday through Friday.