

## ON THE FRONT LINES

### At a Glance

- » The Food Bank received **8,275,842 lbs. and distributed 8,068,620 lbs.**
- » From January – November 2022, **100 mobile distributions served 20,984 households/67,932 individuals and distributed 582,917 lbs. of food – the equivalent of up to 455,404 meals** in our six-county service area.
- » **6,254 volunteers contributed 16,320 volunteer hours.**
- » **25,006 households/88,535 individuals served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County and **distributed 1,161,442 lbs. of food – the equivalent of up to 907,377 meals.**

*\*Due to Feeding Matters production schedule, numbers reflect January – November 2022.*



## Why We Volunteer — Meet Curt and Judy P.



We volunteer at the Food Bank because we were looking for a community need in the Northern Indiana area where we could help. **Feeding people in need of food assistance in our area is clearly a high priority. We felt the Food Bank was a great place to donate our time and talent.**

Once you begin volunteering, you clearly understand the mission. Namely to feed those in need of help and food. Food Bank of Northern Indiana employees are extremely committed to making this happen. It is a joy to work alongside them.

We are motivated to volunteer at the Food Bank because we are doing good things for people in need. We look forward to every Monday and Tuesday morning when we come to help.

We know that the time we spend volunteering at the Food Bank helps people in need. It is really good to know that working on the food lines packing boxes and bags provides a basic level of staples for people in the counties the Food Bank serves.

We are very organized and can quickly adapt to changing priorities. Our mindset is we are willing to do whatever needs to be done the days we are here volunteering. **We LOVE showing new volunteers how to get things done, too. We always enjoy working on the box lines for mobile distributions. We are happy to help sort food donations for dates and types of foods and then sort appropriately.**

Our favorite program is the Senior Nutrition Program we create food boxes for each month. This program provides low-income seniors with staples and is distributed through their housing complexes. We also enjoy packing the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program bags, too.

We enjoy volunteering at the Food Bank because everyone is friendly. We all come in with the same mission to help with whatever we can to get food to people in our community. Volunteers are extremely motivated and helpful getting new volunteers up and running.

Given the huge need for providing food to those in need in Northern Indiana and the scope of the Food Bank's work and programs, it's important to have ongoing and committed volunteers committed to getting this work done.

**Can you help us feed hungry neighbors? Call (574) 232-9986 to learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Food Bank.**

# 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 Dinner Meals – any variety
- Canned Fish and Meat
- Canned Beans (Black, Garbanzo, Pinto, Kidney)
- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Household Cleaning Products
- Personal Care Items – Bar Soap, Body Wash, Deodorant, Shampoo, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

# HELP US RESTOCK

## Hold a Food and Funds Drive and Help Us Restock the Food Bank's Shelves!

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

Hosting a **Food and Fund Drive** at your place of employment, school, church, organization, or club makes a direct impact in our communities and helps us restock our shelves. Every \$1 donated to the Food Bank provides up to five meals or eight pounds of food.

**Can you help? Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 129 for more information.**



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

# IN MY VIEW



Happy New Year! The years go by in the blink of an eye. 2023 marks the 30th year for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

In May 1993, United Religious Community of St. Joseph County's Hunger Education Task Force accepted the challenge to reestablish food banking services in north central Indiana. That July, an organizing committee brought together the first board of directors that agreed that the North Central Indiana Food Bank would be the organization of record created to address local problems of hunger and malnutrition by providing quality food to participating social service agencies. The North Central Indiana Food Bank began operations as a SDO (Subsidiary Distribution Organization) of Gleaners Food Bank of Indianapolis. Our first distribution of 6,800 pounds was made in December 1993 to 29 agencies. Our organization's largest distribution of 12.9 million pounds through a network of 125 partner agencies was made in 2020 during the COVID 19 Pandemic. In 2021, we distributed 10.4 million pounds.

Thirty years later hungry neighbors continue to need our help. Neighbors like Brittany who make difficult choices every day between food and other necessities.

In northern Indiana, 91,060 (12.4%) neighbors are food insecure, including 31,460 children (17.5%) struggling with food insecurity. From January through November 2022, 4,819 new neighbors came to the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, located onsite at the Food Bank. This is a 53% increase compared to new neighbors coming for the first time in 2021.

We will embark on a new, three-year Strategic Plan in 2023 and sign a new 10-year contract with Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization.

When the time is right, I welcome the opportunity to have you visit the Food Bank to see firsthand how your investment is making a difference. We cannot do the work we do without committed partners like you!

With gratitude,

Marijo Martinec  
Executive Director and CEO  
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



# MEET BRITTANY

Brittany has been shopping at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, the onsite food pantry located at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, for the past year and a half and it has changed her life. She began coming to the Community Food Pantry when she and her ex-husband divorced, causing a loss of income.

"We were already living paycheck to paycheck with both of our salaries combined. When we split, it was a big shock financially. It was the first time I was really supporting myself because we were married at 19, and now I am 24."

Brittany then said, "There was no accepting defeat or going hungry. I've always fought hard." With her determination and willingness to accept the help she needed, Brittany called the Food Bank for help and opened the doors to a better life for herself.

"It's given me more stability coming to the Community Food Pantry knowing that I can receive quality perishable and nonperishable food. Until I can find a better paying job, I really need this support to survive."

Neighbors like Brittany live in every community we serve.

**Your support makes a difference. Call (574) 232-9986 for more information on how you can help.**



# 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.



## Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

Since 2006, the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program has been providing students with a weekend sack of food during the school year and holiday breaks.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is supporting 2,645 students in 45 schools in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties.

The cost is \$150/child for the school year (\$3.75 per week). The Food Bank continues to pilot an enhanced backpack program that provides larger quantities for participants. This program costs \$670/student for the school year (\$8 per week). Can we count on your support?

**Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 129** for more information.

## Senior Nutrition Program

Through November 2022, the Senior Nutrition Program served 7,718 seniors who received 221,241 lbs. of food in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties.



An investment of \$326 ensures that a senior in need of food assistance receives a monthly bag of food.

For more information on how to support the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program, Healthy Choices Market or Mobile Food Distribution Program, please contact Marijo Martinec, Executive Director and CEO at [mmartinec@feedindiana.org](mailto:mmartinec@feedindiana.org) or **(574) 232-9986 ext. 124**.

*\*Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, numbers reflect January through November 2022.*

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through November, 3,749 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties received 107,296 lbs. of food.



To learn more about eligibility requirements for CSFP and about the Food Bank's partner agencies, please contact Brandy Love, Agency Relations Director, at [bllove@feedindiana.org](mailto:bllove@feedindiana.org) or **(574) 232-9986 ext. 137**.

## Agency Spotlight

The Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee and Willis Twp., Inc.  
3444 E. US Hwy. 20  
PO Box 187  
Rolling Prairie, IN 46371  
(219) 380-5564 – Sue Hartwick,  
Pantry Manager



**Pantry Hours:** Thursday (except holidays) from 8 a.m. – Noon CT

This pantry is handicap accessible. Shoppers may visit two times a month. In addition to food items, personal hygiene items (laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, and toilet paper) are also provided. Additionally, this pantry sometimes carries clothing and other household items.

Shoppers are asked to provide some identification and know in what township they reside and what their address is. If they don't reside in the service area, they will be served once and provided information about pantries in their service area.

**Service Area:** Residents of LaPorte County. Four townships are served – Galena, Hudson, Kankakee, and Willis Townships. The townships are in the New Prairie School District. Zip codes served are: LaPorte (46250); Galena (46350); Hudson (46552); and Willis (46371).



The Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee and Willis Twp., Inc., has been a partner agency of the Food Bank since 2010.

Volunteers are friendly and treat shoppers with respect.

Recently, a shopper did not come for food on the pantry's distribution day but came to Sue Hartwick, Pantry Manager, in tears and wanting to talk about a personal issue. Hartwick consoled her and felt good the pantry was there for her. In the end, she did pick up some groceries and was smiling when she left. The Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee and Willis Twp., Inc., gives more than food, it also provides moral support for neighbors in need.

## 2023 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	19	109,326	4,228	14,892
Kosciusko	9	42,450	1,713	5,873
LaPorte	16	111,702	4,193	13,252
Marshall	12	53,842	1,968	6,495
Starke	19	136,548	3,992	10,497
St. Joseph	25	129,049	4,890	16,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>582,917</b>	<b>20,984</b>	<b>67,932</b>



## 2023 Board of Directors

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Jeff Wisler  
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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 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.*

**foodbank**  
OF NORTHERN INDIANA

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

**FEEDING  
INDIANA'S  
HUNGRY**

United  
Way

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!

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ✓ Packing food bags and boxes for distributions.
- ✓ Pre-sorting donations in our warehouse.
- ✓ Serving as a personal shopper in the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County located on-site at the Food Bank.
- ✓ Helping with various cleaning and organization projects inside the warehouse and outside on the Food Bank's property.



Opportunities are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. with extended hours available until 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. A two-hour time commitment is preferred.

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

Through November 2022, 6,254 volunteers provided 16,320 hours for the Food Bank.

**Share your time and talent with us. Sign up at [feedindiana.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://feedindiana.org/get-involved/volunteer) or call (574) 232-9986 ext. 129.**



## FOOD FINDERS

Through November 2022, the Food Bank distributed **8,068,620 lbs.** and received **8,275,842 lbs.** of product. During this period, **2,938,049 lbs.** of government commodities were distributed and **2,926,664 lbs.** were received.

Our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program received **1,295,606 lbs.** through November 2022.