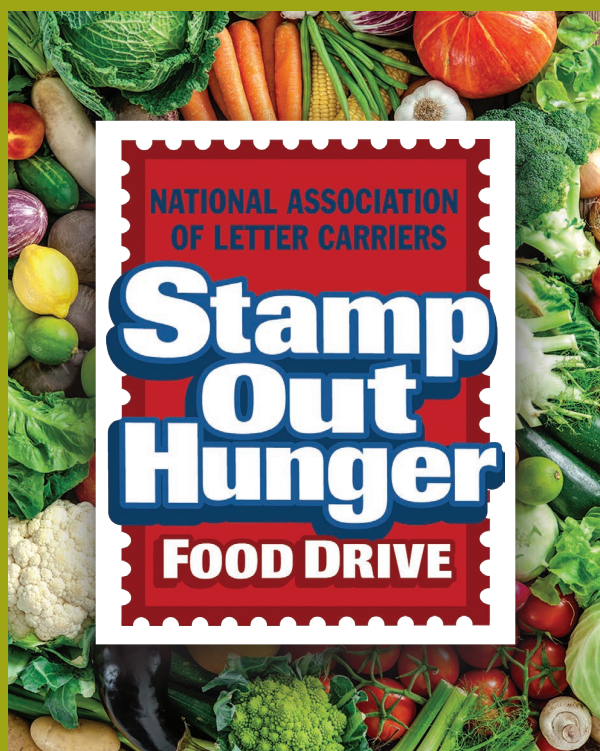


ON THE FRONT LINES

At a Glance

- » The Food Bank distributed **9,518,343 lbs. and received 10,039,492 lbs.** from January – December 2023.
- » From January – December 2023, **190 mobile food distributions served 31,725 households/99,905 individuals and distributed 918,900 lbs. of food — the equivalent of up to 717,891 meals** in our six-county service area.
- » **9,460 volunteers contributed 25,362 volunteer hours.**
- » **29,381 households/94,016 individuals were served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County. This pantry distributed **1,458,138 lbs. of food — the equivalent of up to 1,139,170 meals.**

**Due to Feeding Matters production schedule, numbers reflect January – December 2023*



32nd Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 11, 2024

On the second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 communities will collect food donations along their postal routes to restock food banks and pantries during the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest one-day food drive and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana's largest drive each year.

The Food Bank's 2024 goal is to collect 100,000 lbs. of non-perishable food items to restock its shelves for the summer months when the need is high and food drive donations are typically low.

Businesses are welcome to collect food prior to this drive. The Food Bank can provide collection barrels and will deliver barrels and pick them up. **Volunteers are needed to help collect food along postal routes. Please call (574) 232-9986 ext. 129 for more information.**



WISH LIST

- ✓ **Residing Exterior of the Building**
\$250,000 - \$450,00
- ✓ **Electronic Exterior Signage**
\$65,000

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!**
- Host a Food and Fund Drive** at your place of employment, school, church, organization, or club, and make a direct impact in our communities and help 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. 124 for more information.



IN MY VIEW

Happy Spring! I look forward to more opportunities to spend time outside during this time of the year — including participating in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This year's drive takes place on Saturday, May 11. It's easy to participate — grab a few nonperishable food items and put them in a plastic bag by your mailbox by 8 a.m. Your letter carrier will deliver your donation to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. If you're not going to be home that Saturday, you may deliver your donation to any U.S.P.S. retail center. In St. Joseph County, opportunities are available to assist letter carriers picking up food along their routes.

Now in its 32nd year, Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest one-day food drive and the Food Bank's largest food drive each year. Stamp Out Hunger began as outreach into communities by the NALC — these hunger heroes are boots on the ground and saw the face of hunger along their postal routes. If you receive a postcard in the mail, wherever you live, your community is participating in Stamp Out Hunger.

Food collected in your community stays in your community and helps our neighbors. If possible, please donate items with pop-top lids, and healthier items that are low in sugar and sodium. These types of items help neighbors like Ryan create a healthier lifestyle.

The Food Bank's goal is 100,000 lbs. It will help us get through the summer months when the need is high and food donations are low.

Your generosity makes our work possible.

With gratitude,

Marijo Martinec
Executive Director and CEO
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



MEET RYAN

Ryan has been in and out of shelters since he was a teenager. After graduating high school, he lived out of his car for several months. Occasionally, he would stay with friends and find cheap meals in their cupboards, which was his main source of food at the time.

"I don't really have a place to call home exactly. I am homeless but I have good friends who will let me crash when I need to."

When Ryan began going to sleep hungry nearly every night, he knew that something had to change.

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana and its network of partner agencies have helped Ryan establish a healthier lifestyle. Pantries and mobile distributions provide fresh ingredients whenever he shops, which is enough for multiple meals. Additionally, low-sodium and low-sugar canned items with pop-top lids are available.

"I know how to make all kinds of meals for myself just from grabbing a few ingredients at the pantry. I feel I have come a long way, and it always surprises my friends that I know how to cook!"

Neighbors like Ryan live in every community we serve. Your support makes a difference. Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 124 for more information on how you can help.

PROGRAM UPDATES



Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

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

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 one group of students. The cost is \$670/student for the school year (\$8 per week). Help us provide the tools to be successful in school and life.

Contact Erin Carter-Wortham, Director of Development, at (574) 232-9986 ext. 118 or ecarterwortham@feedindiana.org.

2023 Mobile Food Distribution Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	28	161,391	5,893	19,789
Kosciusko	18	86,581	2,861	9,647
Marshall	17	76,412	2,621	8,364
LaPorte	38	152,847	6,195	19,618
St. Joseph	61	317,290	10,326	32,350
Starke	28	124,379	3,829	10,137
Total	190	918,900	31,725	99,905

**Due to Feeding Matters production schedule, numbers reflect January – December 2023*

Senior Nutrition Program

Through December 2023, the Senior Nutrition Program served 9,002 seniors who received 210,974 lbs. of food in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke, and St. Joseph Counties.



An investment of \$18.22 each month 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, Mobile Food Distribution Program, and the Senior Nutrition Program, please contact Erin Carter-Wortham, Director of Development, at (574) 232-9986 ext.118 or ecarterwortham@feedindiana.org.

**Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, numbers reflect January through December 2023.*

Agency Spotlight

Lifepoint Church
1006 S. 16th Street
Goshen, IN 46526
(574) 533-1191

Pantry Hours:

Lifepoint Church Food Pantry is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – Noon. Neighbors can shop at this pantry once a month. Neighbors are asked to provide a form of I.D. to shop there if possible.



Service Area: Lifepoint Church serves any neighbor in need of food assistance.

The Lifepoint Church Food Pantry is funded through donations designated to the pantry — there is no allocation to fund the pantry in the church budget. Open four mornings each week, LifePoint Church Food Pantry serves anyone — regardless of residency. Their team of volunteers is very welcoming to the neighbors they serve.

It is important for this pantry to include meat with the food box they provide.

They share: “A friend of the pantry, who has been visiting us for many years, is a single mom with three adult children with disabilities. She struggles to make ends meet while trying to keep up with many medical bills. It is life-giving to us to see her on a regular basis and keep up with her story. Her story seems overwhelming, but she continues to put one foot in front of the other, one day at a time, while never giving up. With every box of food we hand to her, we are thankful for the opportunity to be part of her story, provide encouragement to her, and help fill a need.”

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through December 2023, 3,806 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties received 124,238 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 or (574) 232-9986 ext. 137.

2024 Board of Directors

Jason Pursehouse, Chairman
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Ryan Career Consulting

Alicia Webber
Hub International

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% (\$190,457.00) [FY 2022-2023] 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% (\$32,566.00) [FY 2022-2023] 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 or 800-879-7040



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

Help us feed our hungry neighbors! Volunteer opportunities can 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 5:45 p.m. each Wednesday. 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.

In 2023, volunteers provided 25,362 hours for the Food Bank.

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



FOOD FINDERS

Through December 2023, the Food Bank distributed **9,518,343 lbs.** and received **10,039,492 lbs.** of product. During this period, **2,869,369 lbs.** of government commodities were distributed and **3,175,495 lbs.** were received.

Additionally, our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program received **1,776,268 lbs.** of assorted dry goods and perishable items.

food bank
OF NORTHERN INDIANA

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

**FEEDING
INDIANA'S
HUNGRY**

**United
Way**

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