

ON THE FRONT LINES

COVID-19 Response

- » From March - August 2020, the Food Bank **received 6,233,269 lbs. and distributed 6,031,665 lbs. of food.**
- » **775,213 lbs. of mixed dairy, produce, and mixed meat distributed** through the USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Farmers to Families Boxes.
- » 133 mobile food distributions served 32,217 households/128,585 individuals: **distributing 1,542,533 lbs. of food in our six-county service area.**
- » **3,872 volunteers provided 19,656 volunteer hours,** including 15 Indiana National Guard members deployed to the Food Bank beginning in April.
- » **3,182 new households/12,689 individuals served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County.

These numbers reflect March - August 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

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Canned Chicken and Tuna
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Canned Soups – Chicken Noodle, Vegetables, and Cream of Mushroom
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Boxed Helper Meals – Lasagna, Alfredo, and Cheeseburger
Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beef Stew and Ravioli
Canned Fruit
Macaroni and Cheese
Boxed Breakfast Cereal
Boxed Potatoes



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

IN MY VIEW

As our world turned upside down in a few short weeks in early March 2020 because of COVID-19, one thing has remained consistent — your desire to help those in our community who struggle with hunger. Your commitment to our mission is humbling. You have been our cheerleaders through some very dark days. We are forever grateful.

Feeding America projects more than 54 million people in the U.S. could face hunger this year in the wake of this pandemic.

The need is great in northern Indiana.

Every dollar donated to the Food Bank allows us to purchase five pounds of food. Every dollar helps those in need, like Jim.

Together, we can provide hope to those who need it most this holiday season.

With gratitude,

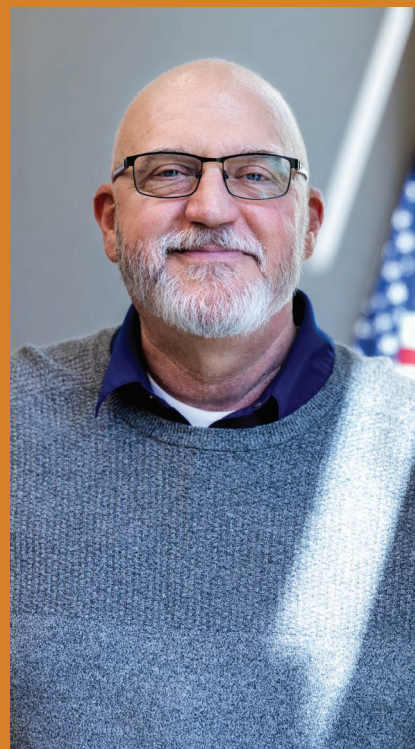
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marijo".

Marijo Martinec
Executive Director and CEO
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

~ William Arthur Ward



MEET JIM

Jim is disabled veteran. He has been fighting hunger due to lack of income for nearly 15 years. As he struggles with physical restrictions as well as post-traumatic stress disorder, Jim explains why it's so easy for him to feel helpless on his journey to food security.

“It's hard, you know. There's not really a lot of work out there for me. Going hungry has been a real concern.”

Admirably, Jim recognized that he would not be able to fight his battle with hunger alone. That's why he turned to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana to ensure that he has a resource for high quality and nutritious food.

Jim explains that the products and services offered by the Food Bank are plentiful. “For how many people come in here, there's always great food. Lots of ingredients, fresh produce, meat, milk, and eggs. I can get everything I need here.”

Although he faces adversity each and every day, Jim finds hope and comfort within the community efforts at the Food Bank.

“I really appreciate that people are willing to help. It goes a long way to have this kind of support so close to home.”

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

Combined Community Services

1195 Mariners Drive
Warsaw, IN 46580
574-269-6019

Combined Community Services (CCS) of Kosciusko County provides services for county residents in both emergency assistance programs and self-sufficiency programs. The emergency assistance programs include the area's largest food pantry, free legal advice and a free clothing pantry. CCS also provides utility assistance and the continuing yearly events to recognize all of these needs.

The Food Bank's agency relations team participated in annual statewide training for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program in mid-September.



The Food Bank held a virtual agency conference in late October to introduce its 2021-2023 agency contract, provide civil rights training and a refresher on the

Food Bank's online ordering system. In addition, guest speakers Emily Bryant, Feeding Indiana's Hungry; Becky Lies, Nutrition Education Program Purdue Extension; and Sarah Zapeda, St. Joseph County Health Department, provided educational information for attendees.

For more information about agencies, contact Brandy Love, Agency Relations Director at bllove@feedindiana.org.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through August 2020, 4,501 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties received **128,998 pounds of food**.



Senior Nutrition Program

Through August 2020, the Senior Nutrition Program served **6,697 seniors** received **80,014 pounds of food** in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke, and St. Joseph Counties.

2020 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	20	214,786	4,826	19,329
Kosciusko	20	173,005	3,890	14,664
LaPorte	20	285,913	5,010	17,890
Marshall	16	137,450	3,134	11,691
Starke	17	172,894	2,780	8,417
St. Joseph	38	633,785	13,259	52,210
Total	131	1,617,833	32,899	124,201

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



Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County

Through August 2020, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County served 12,921 households/53,685 individuals and distributed 1,018,141 lbs. of food.

Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

Because of the on-going pandemic and virtual learning for some school corporations, the Food Bank officially kicked off our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program for the 2020-2021 school year in late September. While classrooms may look different this year, the Food Bank is committed to providing children facing hunger in our area with supplemental weekend meals. **This year, we are welcoming 41 schools back into our program and feeding over 2,389 students.** This program would not be possible without the diligent work of our volunteers, who bag food items in our warehouse throughout the school year. The Food Bank would like to extend a special thank-you to our generous presenting sponsor Jordan Automotive Group. For over a decade, the Jordan team has been instrumental in ensuring students in our community are able to live and learn outside of the classroom without the distraction of hunger.



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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% (\$338,067.35) [FY2019-2020] 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% (\$46,250) [FY2019-2020] of total program costs for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) are financed with federal funds. CSFP is an equal opportunity provider.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

Emily Kersten is a senior at Elkhart High School using her virtual schedule to give back to her community. "It was summertime during COVID-19, and I had a lot of free time, so I decided to put to good use" she says. Since July, Emily has spent Thursday and Friday afternoons at the Food Bank. She has been especially instrumental in the success of our St. Joseph County bonus mobile distributions on-site at the Food Bank. For three hours every Thursday, she distributes a week's worth of meat, dairy, and fresh produce directly into the hands of people facing hunger in our community. She says her favorite part of volunteering is, "Seeing the people happy and really grateful for what we do." Emily plans to graduate this Spring with hopes of attending Indiana University. Thank you for your service to our community, Emily!



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. Safety protocols are in place to ensure that you have a great experience including having your temperature taken upon entering the building, mandatory mask wearing, plastic gloves, hand sanitizer and hand washing stations located throughout the building, and 6 ft. physical distancing practiced with all projects.

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.

Through August 2020, 5,725 volunteers provided 24,680 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 August 2020, the Food Bank distributed 7,647,427 lbs. and receipted 8,026,870 lbs. of product. During this period, 4,085,660 lbs. of government commodities was distributed and 4,353,609 lbs. was receipted.

Our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program receipted 780,378 lbs. in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte and Marshall Counties through August 2020. These agency partners work with Food Bank retail partners 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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