



## ON THE FRONT LINES

### At a Glance

- » The Food Bank distributed **7,722,263 lbs. of food** and received **8,441,225 lbs. of food.**
- » From January – October, **142 mobile food distributions served 20,696 households/60,678 individuals** and distributed **720,117 lbs. of food – the equivalent of up to 562,591 meals** in our six-county service area.
- » **7,621 volunteers contributed 20,866 volunteer hours.**
- » **26,232 households/83,726 individuals served** at the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County and **distributed 1,236,230 lbs. of food — the equivalent of up to 965,805 meals.**

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

## Why I Volunteer — Laurie M.

Laurie M. has been volunteering at the Food Bank of Northern Indiana for three years. Coming out of COVID, she was looking for something to give her hope, give back to her community and make a difference.

Laurie volunteers to help improve the quality of life for neighbors that need the services provided by the Food Bank. This volunteer experience allows her to be part of a team of helpers in this community. She finds the spirit and energy of Food Bank volunteers to be extraordinarily strong and contagious.

Laurie volunteers three days each week and helps in the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, Mobile Food Distributions and pulling agency orders. Laurie will help wherever needed. She knows the need for volunteers and food assistance continues to increase in northern Indiana. Volunteering has provided her with the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, have fun, and make an impact in her community.

**She said that connecting with the neighbors who use the Food Bank has been a privilege and powerful experience. Daily and weekly, she has experienced a wide range of emotions for the neighbors the Food Bank serves – delight, relief, gratitude, empowerment, and pride.**



**Can you help us feed hungry neighbors? Please call (574) 232-9986 ext.129 for more information on volunteer opportunities at the Food Bank.**

# WISH LIST

- ✓ **Residing Exterior of the Building**  
\$250,000-\$450,000
- ✓ **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!

The winter months are difficult for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and its partner agencies with limited resources and increased need.

**Host a Food and Fund Drive** at your place of employment, school, church, organization, or club to 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 2024!

The Food Bank's vision is to aspire to create communities where all hungry neighbors have access to healthy and nutritious food.

According to Feeding America's 2023 Map the Meal Gap (FY21), there are 76,400 neighbors including 22,810 children in northern Indiana who are food insecure.

## What can we do better?

When the time is right, please visit the Food Bank to see how your investment helps us feed our hungry neighbors.

## Our work is impossible without you.

With gratitude,

Marijo Martinec  
Executive Director and CEO  
mmartinec@feedindiana.org



# MEET DERON



Deron started taking care of his grandchildren in 2020. Now, four years later, he thanks the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and its network of agency partners for helping him provide for his grandkids during a time when they needed it most.

**"I was already on a budget before they moved in with me. Trying to save what I can because I'm getting older, too. Unfortunately, it got really difficult to save any money, let alone make my paychecks last two weeks, with three more bodies to feed and the high cost of food."**

A friend told Deron about the Food Bank of Northern Indiana — its network of partner agencies and mobile food distributions. Here, Deron is able to gain access to more affordable and healthier foods, which keep him and his grandchildren well-fed and happy.

**"It's nice knowing that we can come and get food each month to supplement what I buy from the grocery store. The Food Bank is a blessing!"**

Neighbors like Deron 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



## 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.

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. Call (574) 232-9986 ext. 118 for more information.**



## 2023 Mobile Food Distribution Statistics

| County       | # of Distributions | Pounds         | Households    | Individuals   |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Elkhart      | 18                 | 111,865        | 3,593         | 11,223        |
| Kosciusko    | 11                 | 62,573         | 1,661         | 5,293         |
| Marshall     | 11                 | 65,914         | 1,702         | 5,081         |
| LaPorte      | 30                 | 124,882        | 4,045         | 12,042        |
| St. Joseph   | 48                 | 246,946        | 6,777         | 18,425        |
| Starke       | 24                 | 107,937        | 2,918         | 7,614         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>142</b>         | <b>720,117</b> | <b>20,696</b> | <b>60,678</b> |

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



## Senior Nutrition Program

Through October 2023, the Senior Nutrition Program served 7,463 seniors who received 174,238 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, Senior Nutrition Program or Mobile Food Distribution Program, please contact Erin Carter-Wortham, Director of Development, at [ecarterwortham@feedindiana.org](mailto:ecarterwortham@feedindiana.org).**

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

## Agency Spotlight

**Monroe Circle Community Center (MC3)**  
526 W. Western Ave.  
South Bend, IN 46601  
(574) 287-4259

**Hours:** The Food Pantry is open every other Monday from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Neighbors can visit once every two weeks on a pantry night.

**Service Area:** Monroe Circle Community Center's primary focus is the 46601 zip code in St. Joseph County. As one of the few pantries with evening shopping hours, they serve working families from neighboring counties and zip codes who have utilized their services in the past.

Monroe Center Community Center has been serving hungry neighbors with its food pantry since 2007.

Neighbors need to bring a current piece of mail with their name and current address. Additionally, they verbally collect financial information along with family size.

They strive to equip and empower families to break a cycle of poverty within their own family. They host several events throughout the year, such as a Back-to-School Clothing and Christmas store to minimize the impact of life events.

A faith-based organization, their volunteers are constantly re-presenting Christ to neighbors, so they witness His Truth, Grace, and Love.

Their ministry has expanded to minimize the stigma of utilizing a food pantry especially during this post-pandemic time when families are making above a certain assistance threshold yet still live paycheck to paycheck. They hope to help families utilize their resources better so they can begin taking steps towards a fuller life and out of dependency.

Volunteers are integral to the work of MC3, and they are always seeking more volunteers and partner organizations who have a passion for providing a hand-up and seeing the value of one relationship at a time.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Through October 2023, 3,182 seniors in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph Counties received 100,488 lbs. of food.



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

## 2024 Board of Directors

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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% (\$62,933.00) [FY 2023-2024] 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% (\$19,794.00) [FY 2023-2024] 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

# 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. on 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.

Through October 2023, 7,621 volunteers provided 20,866 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. 127.**



## FOOD FINDERS

Through October 2023, the Food Bank distributed **7,722,263 lbs.** and received **8,441,115 lbs.** of product. During this period, **2,241,600 lbs.** of government commodities were distributed, and **2,595,651 lbs.** were received.

Additionally, our Agency Direct Pick-Up Program received **1,365,494 lbs.** of assorted dry goods and perishable items.



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