

WE ALL THRIVE

Impact Report | July – December 2025



NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.

47M

MEALS DISTRIBUTED



570K Neighbors served monthly, on average



23% Increase in daily visits to food pantries from October to November

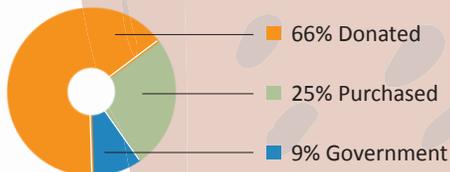


86K Volunteer hours

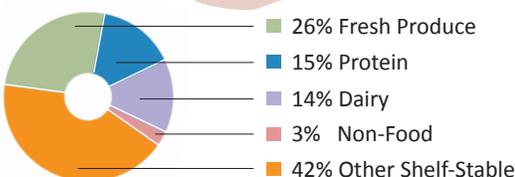


28K Financial donors

SOURCES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



TYPES OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



Dear Food Bank Community,

If I were to describe the first half of this fiscal year in just one word, it would be **resilient**. Over the past six months, we have worked diligently to serve our neighbors, even in the face of change, adapting quickly and continuing to show up when it mattered most.

As a community, we invested resources to get more food out to our food pantry network. I am proud to share that we received the Farm to Food Bank state grant, coordinated by Feeding Illinois. This important opportunity supports local farmers, reduces food waste, and helps ensure our neighbors have access to fresh, nutritious food. With your help, our advocacy efforts were strengthened, creating opportunities for elected officials to learn directly from our neighbors, food pantry leaders, and Food Bank team about the realities families are facing.

When SNAP benefits froze in October, many of our neighbors faced uncertainty and we witnessed an extraordinary outpouring of community support. Donated food filled the Food Bank lobby, dozens of food and fund drives were launched online, and volunteers stepped up for extra shifts, some coming in as many as five days a week. Our phone rang nonstop with the same question: *“What can I do to help?”*

Because of your unwavering support, our charitable food network of over 900 pantries and feeding programs stepped up, working alongside the Food Bank to deliver **an additional 3.4 million meals** over what was planned to neighbors across Northern Illinois through trusted, local access points. We were also able to serve an additional 10,315 families through our direct service programs in addition to the increased visits to our network of food pantries.

Mr. Rogers once reminded us that when times are scary, we should look for the helpers. In moments like these, I am reminded that **together, we are the helpers**: donors, volunteers, and community members coming together to ensure that families can count on us to provide fresh nutritious food, when they need it most.

Fighting hunger is ongoing work, even when it isn't making headlines. Thank you for helping us provide hope today and into the future. Together, we truly thrive.

Gratefully,

Julie

Julie Yurko,
President & CEO

WE ALL BELONG



Kids receive the food they need year-round, thanks to our caring community.

RESILIENCE IN ACTION:

Responding With Purpose

Due to changes in SNAP benefits and the government shutdown, we developed a rapid response plan which included adding extra **My Pantry Express** orders, **Mobile Markets**, **Pop-Up Distributions**, and **extended hours at the Neighborhood Market**. These efforts resulted in an additional 10,315 families being served during October and November.

Cars line up to receive groceries at a Mobile Market distribution at Elgin Community College



Additional Neighbors Served through our Rapid Response, by Program:

My Pantry Express Orders: 1,215 **Pop-Up Market households served: 4,250**
Neighborhood Market **Mobile Market households served: 2,465**
Extended Hours Visits: 2,385

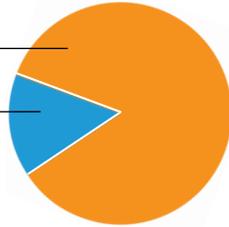
Neighbors have been grateful to receive the food they need

Rapid Response Distribution

3.4M meals were provided to neighbors as part of our rapid response plan through our Food Bank programs and our network of food pantries.

85% Food pantries

15% Northern Illinois Food Bank programs



Representative Bill Foster with local leaders



Meeting the Moment Together

- Through the investment of our resources, the generosity of our donors, and the Farm to Food Bank grant, we strengthened our agency network and expanded food distribution during a period of heightened need.
- In response to the SNAP benefit freeze, the State of Illinois provided **\$2.2M in additional funding** to help the Food Bank meet increased need.

Fresh produce at the Neighborhood Market



Building Community at the State and Local Levels

The Farm to Food Bank state grant allows us to purchase fresh produce, protein and dairy from local farmers, reimbursing them for the **795,000** pounds of surplus product that would otherwise have gone unused. That support resulted in **662,500 meals**.

The Food Bank hosted and participated in multiple roundtable discussions with federal, state, and local officials to address the impacts of SNAP cuts.

“Programs like this really make me feel human, and the dignity is there. These things and the SNAP benefits are incredibly important to me, and the cut to SNAP was felt by me and the members of my community who are in the same position.”

- Chloe

Chloe at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry



Learn more at SolveHungerToday.org