



Rooted in Community



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



PLANTING THE *Seeds*

For many years we have been planning, visioning, and planting seeds for the future of the Food Bank—and the future of hunger relief in Northwest Indiana. In 2017 we saw these seeds begin to take root, and just this year we announced the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana had found a new home.

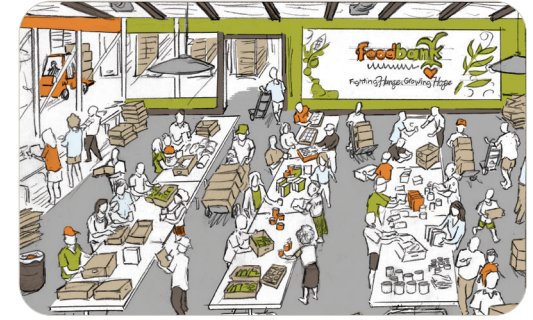
I'm excited to share that, in July, we sold the barn and officially transitioned all operations to this new home at 6490 Broadway in Merrillville. As you can see from the artist's renderings of the new Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, our plans for the future are big and bold—but they're also necessary. At five times greater size, the 72,000 square foot facility has the space,



equipment, and potential to transform the way we fight hunger in Northwest Indiana.

Here, we can accept and distribute millions more nutritious meals to hungry children and families across Northwest Indiana, serve people in more meaningful and sustainable ways, and educate and engage our

community to better support those who are in need. **In this space, we are planting the seed for a stronger, hunger-free community for years and generations to come.**



But while we prepare ourselves for continued growth and impact, the ever-increasing needs of our community remain at the foreground of our work. Every day, countless neighbors are struggling to make ends meet, and are faced with impossibly hard choices: Do they feed their families or pay for heat during the winter? Do they skip just one meal or two so that their children will have enough? Nobody should have to make choices like that.

I'm grateful to our community of supporters, whose kindness and generosity ensures thousands of people we serve no longer have to make such hard choices. **Because of you, we distributed a record-breaking 4.5 million meals in 2017.**

But our work is just beginning. Feeding America says almost 100,000 people in Northwest Indiana face hunger each year. That means families are still going without on our watch. In this new facility we will have the space and ability to provide for every hungry child, adult, and senior in our community. We can accomplish our vision of a community free of hunger—but we cannot do it alone.

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is rooted in community—in this community. For more than 35 years we have called this region home, and we look forward to many, many more years of serving alongside the dedicated and compassionate neighbors of this community we call home.

With my sincerest gratitude,

Steve Beekman
Executive Director

GROWING *Stranger Communities*

More than 100 partner agencies serve at the front lines of hunger. These pantries, soup kitchens, and other sites provide food, resources, and support throughout Northwest Indiana. Through this network, at least 25,000 people each month eat something from the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

CEDAR LAKE

Project Love
Chesterton
Fairhaven Baptist

CROWN POINT

God's Appointed Place
Holy Spirit Church
St. Mary's Crown Point
Winfield Township

EAST CHICAGO

Antioch Baptist
Catholic Family Services
Community Fellowship
Greater Destiny Church
Greater First Baptist
House of Glory
James Hunter Building
Meek Baptist
Nicosia Building
Northtown Village Apartment
Salvation Army
St. Luke Soup Kitchen
St. Mark AME Zion Church
The Mission of Jesus Christ
Dr. Martin Luther King Ctr.
Pennsylvania Center
West Calumet Housing

GARY

25 Alive Food Pantry
A New Life Ministry
Al Thomas High Rise
All Nations COGIC
Bethel Temple
Brother's Keeper
Carolyn Mosby High Rise
Christ Baptist Church
Clark Road Genesis Family Ctr.
Embassies of Christ
First AME
First Baptist Church - Gary
FWO - For Women Only
Gardens on Carolina
Gary Manor Apartments



Gary Muslim Center
Genesis Tower Housing
Gethsemane MB
Glen Park High Rise
God's Grace Church
Gospel Truth
Healthier Living Charitables
Holy Rosary Conference
Jerusalem MB Church
Linden House
Masjid Al Amin Food Pantry
Miller First Baptist
New Friendship
Northlake Church of Christ
Open Door Church
Peace Baptist Church
Problem Solvers Association
Rapid Assessment Center
Salvation Army - Gary ARC
Sojourner Truth House
St. Andrew
St. Ann's Conference
St. Mary's of the Lake
St. Monica & Luke
The Church of God in Christ

The True Church of Jesus Christ
Trinity COGIC
Trinity United
Van Buren Baptist
Veteran's Village
Wonder Working Word
Zion Progressive
Zion Temple Apostolic
GRIFFITH

Operation Care
St. Timothy Church
HAMMOND

Apostolic of God's Love
Bethel Congregational
Caring Hands
Charity House Woodmar
First United Methodist
Greater Works Prayer
Mount Zion MB
New Hope MB
St. Joseph's Conference
HEBRON
Hebron Country Pantry
Salem United Methodist
Highland
St. James Conference



HOBERT

Advancing Christ's Kingdom
Cornerstone Community Church
Southlake Church of God

LAKE STATION

First Baptist Church
Light of Life Worship Center

LOWELL

St. Edward's Conference
Trinity Lutheran Church

MERRILLVILLE

Aliveness Project
Christian Revival Center
Faith Temple of Christ
Little Dreamers
New Ebenezer MB

MUNSTER

Salvation Army

PORTAGE

Iglesia Evangelical de Cristo
Portage Twp. Food Pantry

VALPARAISO

Cafe Manna
Immanuel Lutheran
New Hope Church of God
The Church of Jesus Christ
Village Hilltop Pantry

WHITING

Calumet College St Joseph



Things are tight. I work as many hours as I can and my wife took on a second job. It's hard to keep up that pace. The food pantry helps alleviate some of the stress of providing for my family of six.

♥ Michael, a neighbor in Merrillville

SERVING *Neighbors & Families*

Between growing food deserts, a lack of reliable transportation and financial limitations, many families in Northwest Indiana face numerous obstacles to accessing good, nutritious food. Mobile Marketplace aims to eliminate those barriers and deliver food assistance directly to the people and communities that need it most.

Mobile Marketplace visits a different community each week to serve fruits, vegetables, protein, grains, dairy, and other nutritious staples to our hungry neighbors. As many as 300 families per stop receive the hope and help they need. In 2017, the Mobile Marketplace truck **delivered 650,000 meals to kids, adults, and seniors** facing hunger across Lake and Porter County.



I live on disability and use a wheelchair to move around. My neighbors help me to the store or the doctor... when they can. When I saw your truck was coming right across the street, it was such a relief. Thank you for being here. I appreciate this help more than you ever know.

♥Carol (65), a neighbor in Valparaiso

NOURISHING *Seniors*

After a lifetime of hard work, many seniors find themselves struggling with health issues and relying on a fixed income. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) supports the health and wellbeing of low-income seniors by providing critical, monthly nutrition assistance.

Every month in 2017, **1,004 local seniors in need received regular boxes of nutritious food**—including dairy, protein, fruits, vegetables, and grains—to help them live healthy, independent lives.



FEEDING *Children*



We believe all children deserve access to the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow all year long. But thousands of children across the Region, like Taylor, rely on free/reduced meals during the school year. For many of these kids, weekends, holidays, and

summer vacations are more than just a break from homework—they're a break from the comfort and security of guaranteed meals each school day.

The last thing a child should have to worry about is having enough to eat. Which is why, during the 2016-17 school year, the Food Bank served almost **50,000 weekend meals to more than 300 schoolchildren** across 15 local schools through the Backpack Program. And the 2017 Summer Food Service Program provided **over 26,000 nutritious breakfasts and lunches to nearly 250 kids and teens** each weekday during the summer months.



The breakfast and lunch programs make me feel like they care about me. They make sure I get the most important meal of the day... instead of being hungry all day I can just come here.

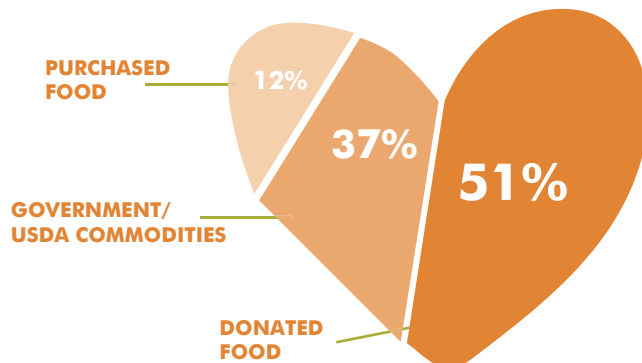
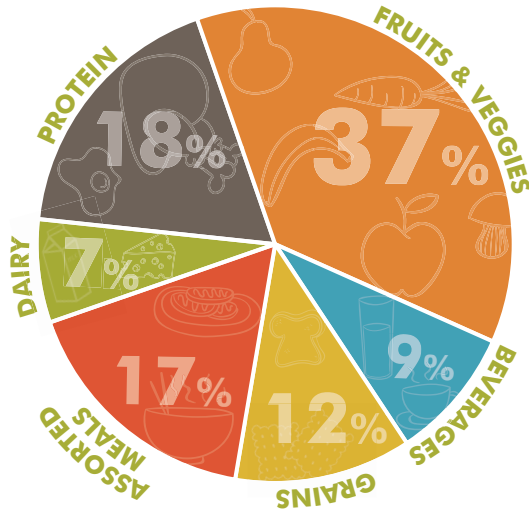
♥Taylor, a student in East Chicago

FOCUSED ON *Nutrition*

Everyone deserves access to fresh, healthy food no matter their circumstance. Following the lead of Feeding America, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana focuses on sourcing and providing highly nutritious Foods to Encourage— especially fresh fruits and vegetables, protein, whole grains, and dairy items. Nearly 70% of items distributed are Foods to Encourage.

It's important to keep a nutritious diet, especially at my age. Because of the pantry and senior box program, I eat a lot healthier. There's good stuff. It gives me the extra food I need.

♥ Paula, a senior neighbor in Hebron



STATEMENT OF *Finances*



INCOME

GRANTS (4%)
PROGRAMS & AGENCIES (2%)
SPECIAL EVENTS (2%)
OTHER (1%)



EXPENSES

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL (5%)
FUNDRAISING (2%)

Working to end hunger should be a top priority for all of us who have been blessed with the resources to fight this battle.

♥ Bob Lowry, Food Bank Board of Directors

A GRATEFUL *Heart*

On behalf of the many children, adults, and seniors who have received hope, support, and nutrition assistance from the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana: thank you to our donors, volunteers, and community partners for their generous and impactful contribution to hunger relief in 2017.

More than **2,000 volunteers** gave their time to sort, pack, deliver, and serve nutritious meals to individuals and families across Northwest Indiana.

Members of Three Square Society provide dedicated, ongoing support to the Food Bank mission. Over **100 monthly givers** provided **100,000 meals** to children, adults, and seniors in 2017.

League of Hope members inspire and lead our mission by giving more than \$1,000 each year to support hunger relief efforts. In 2017, **133 League of Hope members** provided **659,000 meals** to hungry neighbors in the Region.

Thank You TO OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS



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Food Bank of
Northwest Indiana

Mission

To feed people today, and end hunger tomorrow by inspiring and collaborating with our community.

Vision

A community free of hunger.



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foodbanknwi.org

