



# 2020 Annual Report



Feeding & Nourishing *OUR* Neighbors

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ROOTED IN *Community*

# Message From **OUR** CEO



*As we look back at 2020* and the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the ways in which you have helped ensure our food bank was able to provide food to people facing hunger throughout the Region. In the same vein of gratitude, I also want to share how your support is allowing our organization to evolve to make material difference in the fight against hunger. As food bankers, our job is twofold – to provide food to those facing food hunger today and to make measurable strides in ending hunger in the future. What we have learned throughout our 39 years of work is that the only way to sustainably end hunger is to attack the root of the problem, which is both complex and vast.

*Thanks to the outpouring of support* from our community, our food bank has an incredible opportunity to both provide nourishing meals to families facing hunger and change the ways in which clients can access food, feel supported in their time of need, and eventually step out of the cycle of hunger. In the report, you will see how we increased our capacity and evolved in 2020 to meet clients' needs amidst an ongoing pandemic. And we continue to refine our strategy to expand our capacity to serve nutritious food while developing new programs that mitigate the root causes of food insecurity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. [unclear]'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

# **OUR** Board of Directors

Bob Lowry, Peoples Bank

Shawn Strack, Strack & Van Til

Ryan Reithel, IBEW Local 697

Tami Pae, First Merchants Bank

Jared Tauber, Tauber Law

Dan Douglas, NIPSCO

Kenneth Greenhill, Turano Foods

Eric Horon, The Times Media Company

Kelly Kathlina, Meijer

Rachel McDermott, Community Volunteer

Yohlunda Mosley, Purdue Northwest

Dawn Reynolds-Pettit, Hard Rock International

Martha Rios-Sanchez, Woodforest National Bank

Rabbi Leonard Zukrow, Temple Beth-El

# **OUR** Fight: Food Insecurity & Hunger

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct concepts. Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while food insecurity refers to a lack of consistent access to food on an individual or household level.

Food insecurity is a complex problem tied to a person's ability to meet basic needs. The lack of adequate resources to meet basic needs increases the risk of food insecurity. Food insecurity is also closely related to poverty. However, not all people living below the poverty line experience food insecurity and people living above the poverty line can experience food insecurity.

Food insecurity does not exist in isolation. There are multiple, overlapping contributing factors such as lack of affordable housing, social isolation, chronic or acute health problems, high medical costs, low wages, and age. Because this is true, addressing food insecurity must extend beyond simply providing short term food assistance, to also include strategies designed to bring relief and support in the long term.

In collaboration with the Feeding America network, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, and 200 member food banks, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana addresses food insecurity and hunger by connecting individuals and families to nutritious food and providing other long term sustainable solutions.



**OUR Mission**

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

**OUR Vision**

**A community free  
of hunger.**

# OUR Organizational History

The mission of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is to feed people today, and end hunger tomorrow by inspiring and collaborating with our community. We envision a community free of hunger. Since 1982, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana has been providing critical food assistance to tens of thousands of children and adults throughout Northwest Indiana. As the only food bank serving Lake and Porter Counties, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is the largest hunger relief organization in the Region. For the past thirty-nine years, the Food Bank has been leading Northwest Indiana’s hunger relief efforts by acquiring, storing, and distributing food through direct-service programs and a far-reaching network of dedicated community partners. Food is a basic human need, and the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana believes everyone should have access to the nutritious food that is necessary to survive.

For years, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana operated out of a 12,000 square foot barn that had been repurposed as a distribution facility, but in 2018 the Food Bank moved into its new home—a larger, more efficient 72,000 square foot facility in Merrillville. This move marked a new chapter for the organization and was a turning point in its ability to address hunger and impact the Northwest Indiana community in meaningful and sustainable ways. The timing of the move and the increase in physical capacity positioned the Food Bank to be able to address the unexpected and unprecedented spike in demand for food assistance due to the pandemic. The strength and relevancy of the organization emerged during this time, as the Food Bank was able to meet the 60% increase in the need for food resources. With community support, the Food Bank rose to the challenge, expanding its capacity in every area, resulting in a record-breaking year of service to the community.

	2019	2020
Total Meals Provided	5,073,724	9,001,544
Total Pounds of Food Distributed	6,088,469	10,801,853

# Food Insecurity In **OUR** Community



Indiana
13 – 16% rate of overall food insecurity (1 in 8 individuals)
1 in 7 children are food insecure
1 in 6 seniors is food insecure
50% below poverty threshold of 130%
16% between 130%-185% poverty

Lake County
79,000 food insecure individuals
43,450 seniors
19,750 children
61% below poverty threshold of 130%
14% between 130% and 185% poverty

Porter County
21,000 food insecure individuals
11,550 seniors
5,250 children
43% below poverty threshold of 130%
13% between 130% and 185% poverty



# **OUR** 2020 Community Impact

	Lake County	Porter County	NW Indiana	YOY % Increase (2020/2019)
Individuals Served	519,229	129,807	649,036	132%
Households Served	207,692	51,923	259,614	109%
Meals Provided	7,536,553	1,334,428	9,001,554	64%
Pounds Distributed	9,181,211	1,620,642	10,801,853	56%
Agencies - Individuals Served	154,373	56,987	412,400	74%
Agency - Household Served	335,233	22,205	147,605	57%

# **OUR** YOY Community Impact

	2020	2019	2018
Total Individuals Served	649,036	25,000	25,000
Total Households Served	259,614	10,000	10,000
Total Meals Provided	9,001,544	5,723,724	4,060,360
Total Pounds of Food Distributed	10,801,853	6,088,469	4,872,432
Pounds of Food Donations Received	1,879,876	4,125,362	2,835,807
Pounds Distributed by Partner Agencies	7,495,790	4,680,796	3,738,152

# **OUR** Neighbors Thank You



*“This was such a scary time. I didn’t know how we would eat”*

Maritza, mother of 2,  
unemployed due to  
pandemic



*“It’s been hard for them, not being able to leave the house”*

Lisa, picking up groceries  
for her 3 elderly neighbors



*“It was hard to ask for help because I was used to helping”*

Mary, a 73-year-old nurse  
on a fixed income



*“I wasn’t sure how we would make it”*

Bobby, a fifth-grade math  
& special ed teacher with  
a master’s degree



# Programs: Nourishing **OUR** Children

## **Backpack Program**

Provides food assistance during the school year for children enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs who experience food gaps on the weekend.

## **Backpack On The Go**

Provides weekly food assistance to 700 children enrolled through the Boys & Girls Club and local schools. Backpack On The Go is sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Funders Collaborative.



## **Pantry Pack**

Provides approximately 25 pounds of monthly groceries to targeted food insecure individuals. Pantry Pack is serving children/youth through partnerships with Lake County Juvenile Detention Center, YMCA, YWCA, and more.

## **SFSP**

The program provides breakfast and lunch to children/youth ages 18 and under. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is sponsored by USDA to bridge the meal gap that students face when school is out.

# Programs: *Nourishing* **OUR** Seniors

## **CSFP**

Provides monthly shelf stable meals to 1600 food insecure seniors on fixed incomes. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is subsidized by the Indiana State Department of Health. The Food Bank operates the largest CSFP program in the State.

## **Pantry Pack - Seniors**

Provides approximately 25 pounds of monthly groceries to food insecure seniors. Pantry Pack serves 600 seniors in Lake & Porter Counties. The groceries are delivered by a team of volunteer drivers.





# Programs: Nourishing **OUR** Families

## Mobile Market

Provides 25 - 40 pounds of groceries to individuals and families at various sites throughout Lake & Porter Counties. Mobile Market food distributions are held 4 - 7 times per week serving 100 - 500 families each time.

## SNAP Outreach

Provides enrollment and application assistance to help income challenged individuals access free federal food benefits. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) increases food security and stimulates the local economy. The SNAP Outreach program was launched in 2020 through funding from Legacy Foundation and the State of Indiana.



## Pantry Pack

Provides approximately 25 pounds of monthly groceries to specific groups of food insecure individuals. Pantry Pack partners include Tradewinds, Everybody Counts, Franciscan Health, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, Methodist Hospital, and more.

## Pantry Partners

Provide food assistance to individuals and families in local communities. The partner program includes 110 pantries, soup kitchens, churches, and organizations working to ease hunger and increase accessibility to food assistance.

# Programs: *Nourishing* Through **OUR** Partnerships

## Northwest Indiana Hunger Coalition

Through funding from the Northwest Indiana Funders Collaborative, the Food Bank launched the Northwest Indiana Hunger Coalition. The Coalition assembles charitable food organizations in Lake & Porter Counties to streamline and maximize hunger relief efforts and service to food insecure individuals and families.

## Level Up Job Training

In partnership with Lake Area United Way and Ivy Tech, individuals receive job training in warehouse and logistics. Participants are provided a stipend and guaranteed job interviews upon completion of the course.

## Retail Recovery Reformation

Through a partnership with Feeding America and local retailers, the Food Bank rescues more than 15,000 pounds of rescued food daily. Retail Recovery accounts for 39% of food that is distributed to families annually.

## Meal Connect

Through funding from Feeding America, Meal Connect matches pantry partners with local retail donors for direct access to regular food donations. Meal Connect opens avenues to food rescue, while also minimizing the possibility of food waste.



# **OUR** Partner Agencies

A Sure Foundation  
Advancing Christ's Kingdom  
AHEPA 78-V  
Al Thomas High Rise  
Aliveness Project  
All Nations COGIC  
Antioch Baptist  
Apostolic Church of God's Love  
Bethel Temple  
Brother's Keeper  
Café Manna  
Calumet College  
Carolyn Mosby High Rise  
Carter Memorial  
Catholic Charities  
Charity House Woodmar  
Christ Baptist Church  
Christian Family Worship Ctr.  
Christian Revival Center  
Christian Valley  
Community Fellowship  
Cornerstone Community Church

Fairhaven Baptist  
Faith Temple of Christ  
First AME  
First Baptist Church - Gary  
First Christian Church  
First United Methodist-Food Pantry  
Fish and Loaves Ministry  
Gardens on Carolina  
Gary Manor Apartments  
Gary Muslim Center  
Genesis Tower Housing  
Gethsemane MB  
Glen Park High Rise  
God's Appointed Place (G.A.P)  
God's Grace  
Gospel Truth  
Greater Destiny Church  
Greater First Baptist  
Greater Grace Church  
Greater Works Prayer  
Griffith First Christian Church  
Helping Hands Food Pantry

Hebron Country Pantry  
Holy Spirit Church  
Hope Christian Church  
House of Glory  
House of Prayer  
Iglesia Evangelical De Cristo  
Immanuel Lutheran  
InnerMission, Inc.  
Jerusalem MB Church  
Lake Station Senior Center  
Life Church International  
Lighthouse Recovery Home  
Linden House  
Linden House Hobart  
Light of Life Worship Center  
Marram Health Center  
Masjid Al Amin Food Pantry  
Meek Baptist  
Mihut Charitable Mission  
Miller First Baptist  
Mount Zion MB Church  
Nativity of Our Savior

New Ebenezer MB  
New Friendship  
New Hope Missionary Baptist  
Northlake Church of Christ  
Northtown Village Apartments  
Open Door Church  
Operation Care  
Peace Baptist Church  
Portage Township Food Pantry  
Porter County Aging & Community  
Project Love  
Rapid Assessment Center  
Salvation Army - East Chicago  
Salvation Army - Munster  
Salvation Army- Porter  
Secret's Loving Care  
Sojourner Truth House  
South Haven Christian Church  
St. Andrew  
St. Ann's Conference  
St. Edward's Conference  
St. James Conference

St. John Baptist  
St. Joseph's Conference  
St. Luke Soup Kitchen  
St. Mark AME Zion Church  
St. Mary's Crown Point  
St. Mary's of the Lake  
St. Matthias Church  
St. Monica & Luke  
St. Patrick's Church  
St. Timothy Church  
The Church of God in Christ  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
The Mission of Jesus Christ  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Trinity United  
VanBuren Baptist  
Village Hilltop Pantry  
Winfield Township  
Wonder Working Word  
Zion Temple Apostolic  
25 Alive Food Pantry

## **Serving Lake & Porter Counties**



# ***Nourishing Through* YOUR Time & Talent**

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## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are critical to the mission of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. In 2020, more than 3300 volunteers donated nearly 115,000 hours of time to support the hunger relief efforts of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

## **AmeriCorps & RSVP**

In partnership with United Way of Porter County, the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana received full time staff support from 5-7 regular AmeriCorps service members. Additional regular volunteer support was provided through the RSVP program.

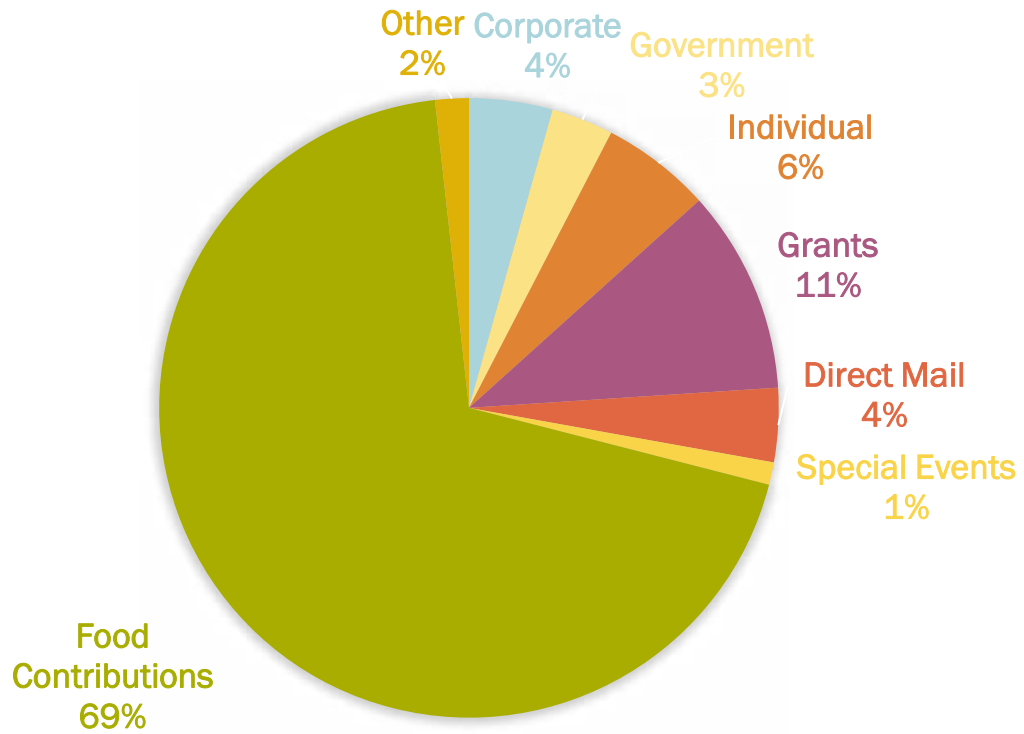
## **Indiana National Guard**

In 2020, the National Guard was deployed to assist local food banks in areas of high need. The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana hosted 33 full time National Guardsmen from April – December, as a result of the shutdown and increased need due to COVID-19.

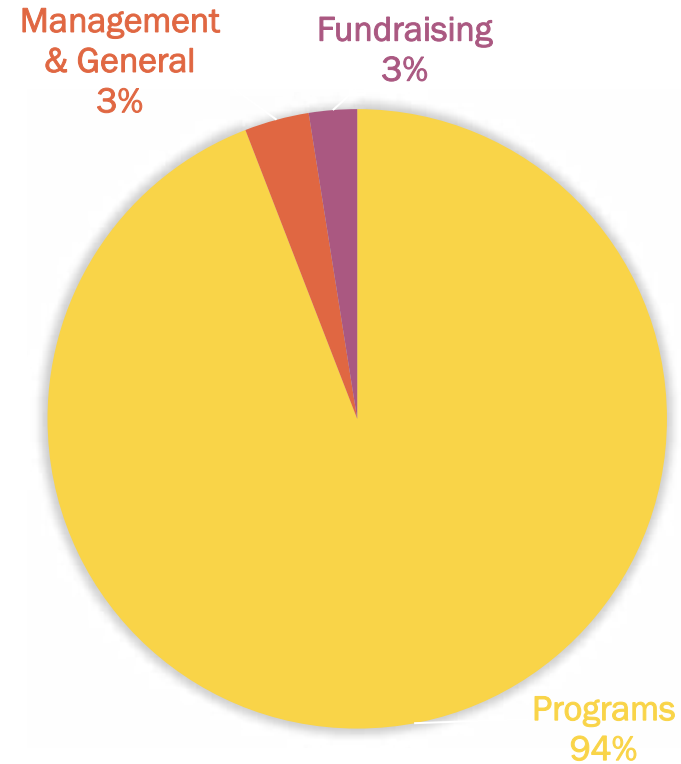
## **Community Partners**

To meet the needs of Northwest Indiana residents during the pandemic, the Food Bank established several levels of partnership with more than 250 corporations, foundations, community organizations, townships, schools, and other entities to meet the increased demand for food assistance.

# OUR Financial Overview



## Income



## Expenses

# **OUR** Strategic Partnerships



John W. Anderson  
Foundation



Lake Area  
United Way



Lake County's Community Foundation



**Serving Lake & Porter Counties**

# Leaders In *OUR* Fight Against Hunger

Albert's Diamond Jewelers  
Albertsons Companies Foundation  
Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation  
Ameristar Casinos, Inc.  
ArdaghGroup  
Belstra Milling Co  
Buckeye Partners, LP  
C.R. England  
Calumet Breweries  
Canada National Railway Co.  
Cargill  
Casey's  
Castle Creek Arbitrage LLC  
Castle Subaru  
Centene Corporation  
Centier Bank  
Central Indiana Community Foundation  
Citizens Savings Foundation  
Comcast  
Costco  
Crown Mortgage Company  
Crown Point Community Foundation  
Darden  
Dawn Foods Foundation  
Deutsch Family Trust  
Discount Pizza Supply Inc.  
DL Reeve Enterprises LLC

DL Reeve Enterprises LLC  
Eleanor B. Leese Trust  
Enbridge Energy  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Faith Reformed Church  
Fifth Third Bank  
First Financial Bank  
First Merchants Corporation  
First Midwest Bank  
Franciscan Foundation  
Gelatka Family Foundation  
Glick Philanthropies  
Great American Milk Drive  
GNIAR  
Hasse Construction Company, Inc.  
Hoffman Charitable Trust  
Horizon Bank  
Humana  
Humana Foundation  
Indiana Beverage Inc  
InstaShield  
International Paper  
Jack Gray Logistics Network  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Kikalos Holding Company LLC  
Lake County Board of Commissioners  
Lake County Economic Development

Leep Enterprises LLC  
Liberty Mutual  
Linz and Company  
Macy's/ Bloomingdale's  
Marshco, IN.  
McDonald's Restaurant Management Corp  
Mead Family Foundation  
Midwest Express Clinic  
Midwest Refrigeration Corporation  
Milestone  
Nextera Energy Foundation  
NiSource Corporate Services Co.  
North Township Trustee  
Northern Indiana Public Service Co  
Northwest Indiana Auto Trade Association  
One For Everyone Inc.  
Peoples Bank  
Pleasant View Dairy Corp.  
Porter Regional Hospital  
Powers & Sons Construction Company, Inc.  
Red Nose Day Fund  
Schepel Auto Group  
Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.  
Service League of Hammond IN  
Sisters Working It Out, NFP  
Smith Ready Mix, Inc.  
Starbucks Foundation  
Stracci Law Group

Subaru of America, Inc.  
TC Energy Foundation  
Teachers Credit Union  
The Caesars Foundation  
The G3 Foundation, LTD.  
The Leep Foundation Inc  
The Links Inc – Northern IN  
The Times Media Company  
Treasurer of Lake County  
Unilever  
United States Steel Corporation  
USG Foundation  
W.R. Grace Foundation Inc  
Walgreens  
Walmart  
Wells Fargo Foundation

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Cindy Bianchi  
Mary Boomsma  
Joel & Allyson Boomsma  
Beverly & Keith Bruxvoort  
Douglas Dedelow  
Kent & Carol DeVries  
Kevin DeVries  
Webster Royce Dunbar  
Tom Sourlis & Susan Eleuterio  
Anthony Englert  
Annette Farrell

Bruce & Leslie Givens  
Mary Ann Greiner  
Susan Griffin  
Mari & Doug Hahn  
Alicia Hall  
John Hasse  
David Hein  
Harry Howisen Jr.  
Joanne Jones  
Phil Klingeberger  
Bernard & Susanne Konrady  
Frank & Janet Lowry  
Robert & Dawn Lowry  
Jo Ann Manes  
Joe Markovich  
Karen & Terry McMahan  
Scot & Bonnie Olthof  
John & Tami Pae  
Ann Robertson  
Matthew Robins  
Craig Shillinglaw & Kris Parker  
Craig D. Stepnicka  
Jeff & Shawn Strack  
Ronnie Taylor  
Gretchen Vacendak  
Joseph & Sally Van Bokken  
Elwood & Amy Williams  
Kenneth & Anita Jean Youga

# Support **OUR** Hunger Relief Efforts

## Volunteer

Volunteers are the driving force behind the mission of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. Volunteer as an individual or group to help pack or distribute food to our neighbors.

[www.foodbanknwi.org/volunteer](http://www.foodbanknwi.org/volunteer)

## Engage

There are several dynamic ways to support the mission and work of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana: serve on a committee, become a partner agency, offer your site as a Mobile Market location, host a food and/or fund drive, contact elected officials to support legislation advancing hunger relief, and more.

[info@foodbanknwi.org](mailto:info@foodbanknwi.org)



## Join Three Square Society

Three Square Society is our monthly giving program. Members make a regular commitment to ease the burden of hunger. A gift of \$30/month provides 3 square meals a day for a food insecure neighbor. In 2020, 170 TSS members collectively provided more than 203,000 meals.

[www.foodbanknwi.org/TSS](http://www.foodbanknwi.org/TSS)

## Donate

Every dollar makes a difference to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. Just \$1 provides 3 meals for someone facing hunger. Donate as an individual or company. Sponsor an event or one of our hunger relief programs.

[www.foodbanknwi.org/give](http://www.foodbanknwi.org/give)





# Thank You



Thank you for every gesture of kindness and generosity in 2020 to help **OUR** neighbors survive an extremely difficult year. Please enjoy this [short highlight video](#) to understand the impact of your support of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

