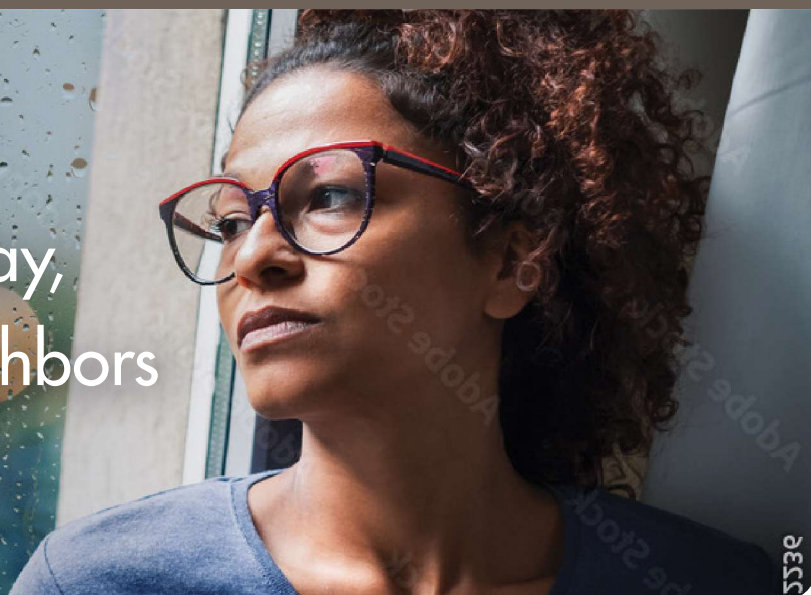


Beyond the Meals They Need for Today, You Empower Neighbors for Tomorrow



Sally lives and was employed in Hobart. Following an on-the-job injury that left her unable to work, she began receiving worker's compensation. But one day, the payments simply stopped coming. Sally had to hire a lawyer to help try to recover the benefits she qualified for.

The combination took a heavy financial toll on the 50-something. While on the website of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana looking for help, Sally found the SNAP Outreach form.

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. More commonly called "food stamps," it is a federally funded program that helps make sure no one who's facing food insecurity goes without the nourishment they need to thrive.

"Sally began telling me everything that was going on with her — she really needed help," recalls Krystle Simmons, the Food Bank's SNAP Coordinator. "I was able to walk her through the application. I explained what would happen next, how a caseworker would call her and they would need certain documents to determine her eligibility."


About a month later, Krystle followed up by phone. "It was so heartwarming when I talked to Sally again. She had been approved, and couldn't thank us enough — she was very, very grateful for the help."

Krystle is the Food Bank's first full-time coordinator of SNAP outreach — a position that was made possible by generous donors to the Food Bank. "It is very humbling. There are so many people like Sally who are in need. They have some awareness that help is available, but they have no idea where to find it or how to get started. It can be an arduous process."

When Krystle started in September 2020, the Food Bank was assisting about 10 applicants per month. Today, Krystle receives 10-20 requests for help a day and completes about 70-80 applications each month.

"Absolutely we've had more people coming in the past six months. Gas prices, food prices, everything has been going up. There's just such a need."

Names and photos may have been changed to respect privacy.

 facebook.com/FoodBankofNorthwestIndiana

 twitter.com/foodbanknwi

 instagram.com/foodbanknwi

www.foodbanknwi.org

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Krystle says she feels blessed by the opportunity to help people navigate the process that empowers them to be able to secure the nutrition they need month after month. "It is really wonderful ... I work with such a great team, and we are so grateful for the donors who make it possible." ♥

From Hunger Action to Holiday Hope ... and Beyond

The 60-some-year-old grandmother couldn't take a chance. She got to sleep early the night before the Food Bank's Mobile Market so she could be one of the first in line. She arrived at 4 a.m.

After the doors opened, Marlene told us:

—❤—
"You don't realize the impact you have on my family. Because of the Food Bank, my family eats; otherwise, we would go hungry. My grandchildren get so excited when I come home with this food."
—

Marlene's only source of income is a disability check. She is the sole supporter of her adult child with disabilities, and two grandchildren. She remembers crying at the grocery store when she realized she could only afford one or the other: two loaves of bread or one gallon of milk.

Her story is like that of thousands of neighbors. Even more so since searing inflation in this pandemic era has cut a deep wound in Americans' pocketbooks.

But you — you are the face of hope for seniors like Marlene; for struggling neighbors in Portage Township and in rural towns around the Region; for workers like Sally whose health and legal problems have left her at risk of hunger.

Like most, you probably have a lot on your plate this time of year. I hope you also have room in your heart to be there for someone in need. Will you help the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana serve the children and adults experiencing hunger at the holidays?

Gratefully,



Victor A. Garcia
President & CEO



Please Join Us in Serving Up More Hope for the Holidays

As high inflation is expected to continue well into the holiday season, the crisis of hunger continues for tens of thousands of neighbors across our Region.

In Gary, poverty isn't the only barrier keeping people from buying the food they need. The city of 68,000+ residents is served by just three full-service grocers. For folks who don't own a car, are disabled or without family, it is nearly impossible to even reach a store.

Many live on what they can buy at corner convenience marts — where the selection includes few or no fresh fruits and vegetables, and prices are much, much higher.

Can you picture serving your family a Thanksgiving dinner using a couple of 1-pound packages of turkey lunchmeat from the gas station? Our neighbors deserve better than to go hungry at the holidays or having to pay exorbitant prices for overly processed, unhealthy foods.

Generously supporting the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana this month will help us remove barriers that right now keep thousands of neighbors from getting the daily nourishment they need.

Your generous gift to the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana will:



stock pantry shelves and freezers at the Food Bank's 100+ meal sites and partner agencies



ensure kids don't go hungry as we work to provide more weekend Backpacks on the Go and establish new school-based food pantries



help deliver groceries directly to the doorstep of more homebound seniors



support critical Mobile Markets, which in 2022 are on pace to distribute 2.5 million pounds of nutritious groceries and fresh produce, meat, and dairy directly to rural communities where the need is greatest

Don't wait. Return the enclosed reply slip with your holiday gift today. Or, to put your contribution to work even faster, scan the code on p. 4 and give securely online today! ❤

Thank you for giving the
gift of hope for the holidays!



Partner Spotlight:

Portage Township Food Pantry

Census Reporter states that one in five children under age 18 in Porter Township are living below the poverty line. *That's more than 2,300 youngsters whose parents may struggle to put enough healthy food on the table each week.*

The Portage Township Food Pantry was established more than 30 years ago by area churches and organizations to provide emergency assistance to families in crisis.

Located on Willowcreek Road in Portage, the volunteer-run ministry serves some 600 individuals each month — and the need continues to grow.

About three dozen volunteers pitch in weekly to be sure no neighbor in need is turned away. They purchase and pick up food from the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and other retailers; stock pantry shelves; collect food donations; work community events; welcome guests to the pantry; and more.

Their guiding principle is a verse from the Gospel of Matthew: *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."*

Neighbors needing food assistance are asked to call the Portage Township Trustee's office at 219-762-1623 to apply for a referral to the food pantry. ♥



Your gift will help us serve thousands of NWI seniors who remain at risk for hunger this season.



The fall is a perfect time to say YES to the Food Bank's monthly giving program and start making a BIGGER impact — a little at a time. Every dollar you donate provides one hungry neighbor with three square meals. Members of the Three Square Society also enjoy select benefits.

Making monthly gifts automatically by credit card is a convenient way to do good all year round. It's no wonder we reached 186 dedicated donors who collectively gave over \$109,000 last year alone!

For more information, visit: www.foodbanknwi.org/threesquare or contact Charlie Cole at ccole@foodbanknwi.org or 219-980-1777 x314. ♥

Thank You, Dawn Foods!



Amy Briseño, vice president of development and communications for the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, receives a generous contribution from Todd Tanis, distribution manager at Dawn Foods. The bakery supplier recently ran a month-long food drive with their local team and facilitated their corporate giving program to allocate \$1,994 toward the Food Bank's Senior Grocery Delivery program. This effort allows more seniors throughout Lake County to receive supplemental groceries that promote proper nutrition aging adults need to stay strong and healthy in their golden years. ♥

Mark Your Calendar!

#GIVINGFOODSDAY CORPORATE PACK TO GIVE BACK

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 9AM – 3PM | FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

2022

PACK TO
GIVE BACK



Corporate, local business, and community service teams are invited to pack food assistance boxes for holiday Mobile Market distributions. Build camaraderie while bringing hope to our community!

Visit foodbanknwi.org/packtogiveback or contact Charlie Cole at 219-980-1777 x314 or ccole@foodbanknwi.org.

FAMILY PACK TO GIVE BACK FOR CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 8 | 4 – 6PM | FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

Bring your family to pack grocery boxes to feed the 25,000+ NWI children facing hunger this season. Enjoy refreshments, games, crafts, music, pictures with Santa, and more. Admission: Donation of any amount.



Sign up at www.foodbanknwi.org/pack or contact Amy McDunn at 219-980-1777 x313 or amcdunn@foodbanknwi.org.



YES, I'll bring help and hope for the holidays!
Use my gift to serve to nourishing meals to more families across Northwest Indiana!

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$_____

For more information about donating, visit foodbanknwi.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

I would like more information about:

- ☐ Volunteering ☐ Donating food or hosting a food drive
☐ Giving a gift to Food Bank of Northwest Indiana through my will
☐ Receiving occasional email updates

My email is _____

- ☐ I would like to pledge a monthly gift of \$_____.
My first **Three Square Society** gift is enclosed.

- ☐ Charge my gift to:
☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

CARD NO. _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please make your check payable to:

Food Bank of Northwest Indiana
6490 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410

Please call 219.980.1777, ext. 311,
to charge your gift by phone, or visit
foodbanknwi.org/give to make a gift online.
Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



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