



Food Finders
Food Bank, Inc.
fighting hunger, giving hope

Annual Report **2024**



PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
FEEDING
AMERICA



A Message from the President/CEO

Dear Friends:

As I reflect on my second year as president/CEO, witnessing your support and our team members who are on the front lines transforming your donations into action are what I'm most thankful for. Thanks to our community's generosity, Food Finders Food Bank has not had to turn away anyone seeking assistance—a remarkable achievement given the economic pressures many families and nonprofits continue to face.

In addition to the significant programmatic impact you'll read about in this report, we continued to carry out our goals and made significant developments that will strengthen Food Finders for years to come. Since last year's report, we purchased the Fresh Market, allowing us to envision broadening services and collaborations, extended our wraparound services by piloting an exclusive Resource Coordinator for Howard County, and expanded our leadership team with a chief operating

officer, creating a more unified operation between our programs and warehouse teams.

We've also advocated in Washington, D.C. on behalf of neighbors facing hunger, been selected as one of four Feeding America food banks for a national grant recognizing our economic mobility work, received high marks in our employee engagement survey, and most meaningful to me, ensured all employees earn a living wage.

While we are proud of these efforts that directly support our mission, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the challenges and uncertainties ahead. The Farm Bill still has not passed, and we face looming threats to vital federal nutrition programs which supplement our work, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Should we see cuts to other safety net programs like Medicaid, the consequences will extend far

beyond the immediate individual hardship. These cuts would create a cascading effect, forcing more people to turn to nonprofit organizations already operating at capacity. Now more than ever, your advocacy will be crucial as we work to protect these essential safety nets that help us fulfill our mission.

As we move forward, please remember that, at its core, our work is about seeing humanity in each person we meet. We believe every person deserves dignity and respect. Regardless of their circumstances, we must recognize ourselves in others. Empathy and compassion for our neighbors truly sustain our community.

Thank you for being part of this vital mission.

In gratitude,

Kim Crites Muller

Mission

We provide food and connections to life-stabilizing resources when our neighbors need us most.

Vision

By eliminating food insecurity, we provide a pathway to empowerment, hope, and self-sufficiency.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Balagtas

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Dr. Anne Edwards

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Rosie Gonzalez
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Melissa Prochnau
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Stephanie Scherer

Dennis Schlott
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Commitment to Community

We believe nourishing food is central to life; therefore, we seek like-minded supporters to help us ensure basic needs are met.



“From Casual Donors to Dedicated Advocates”: Elizabeth and Steve's Food Finders Journey

When Drs. Elizabeth Taparowsky and Steve Konieczny moved to Greater Lafayette in 1986, they discovered a handful of non-profits to support. Like many professionals balancing careers and family life, as their children grew up and eventually left home, Elizabeth and Steve began to reconsider their approach to community involvement.

According to Elizabeth and Steve, what distinguished Food Finders Food Bank from other worthy causes was the organization's commitment to transparency and education. Every interaction with staff included stories and information that helped the couple understand not just what Food Finders did but why it mattered. "Everyone we met from Food Finders always shared a story," Elizabeth noted. "It wasn't just about the money. It was more like looking for collaboration, advice, and ideas."

Perhaps most compelling to the couple was Food Finders' holistic approach to ending food insecurity, highlighting the organization's commitment to addressing the root causes, not just symptoms. "We're really impressed by Food Finders' Resource Coordination (RC) Program," Steve explained. The RC Program works one-on-one with neighbors to identify and remove barriers, using a dignity-first approach that values each person's strengths and choices.

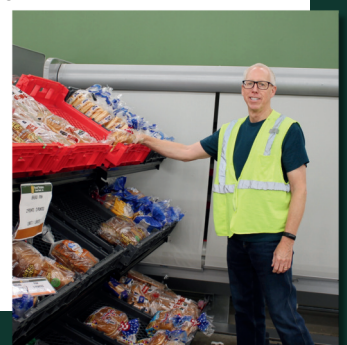
This discretionary fund allows resource coordinators to address urgent needs through sometimes small yet timely interventions that can prevent a manageable challenge from spiraling into a much more difficult situation.

As Elizabeth and Steve's understanding of the complexity of food insecurity in their community grew, so did their resolve to help end it. They made a deliberate decision to allocate a specific percentage of their income to Food Finders, building it into their budget as a non-negotiable expense. "It's very easy to not consistently donate because you can say, 'Well, we have to buy a car,'" Steve explained, "but what we really try to do is treat it almost like rent." This disciplined and heartfelt approach ensures their support remains consistent regardless of other financial demands. Their involvement has expanded beyond financial contributions, as both serve on various Food Finders' committees and volunteer at the Fresh Market pantry. The couple offers simple advice for anyone considering supporting Food Finders: come see it for yourself. Through their journey from casual supporters to dedicated advocates, Elizabeth and Steve exemplify how education, transparency, and meaningful engagement can transform philanthropy from a passive activity to a passionate mission. Their story invites others to discover not just the 'what' of Food Finders' work, but the 'why'—creating a community where no one faces hunger alone.



Alongside helping neighbors navigate applications for financial, housing, and nutritional support, resource coordinators meet the immediate, material needs of neighbors experiencing food insecurity by utilizing the Helping Hands fund.

For those inspired by their journey, contact Food Finders to discover how your unique gifts might become part of a community-wide effort to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food.



Food For Today,

Mobile Pantry

Mobile pantries deliver one or more truckloads of food each month to each county (except Tippecanoe) in our service area to supplement food distributed by agency partners.

A senior neighbor from a rural county shared with our mobile pantry team that health issues and medical expenses make it difficult for him to purchase fresh produce. Mobile pantries provide him access to nutritious food.

Education Program

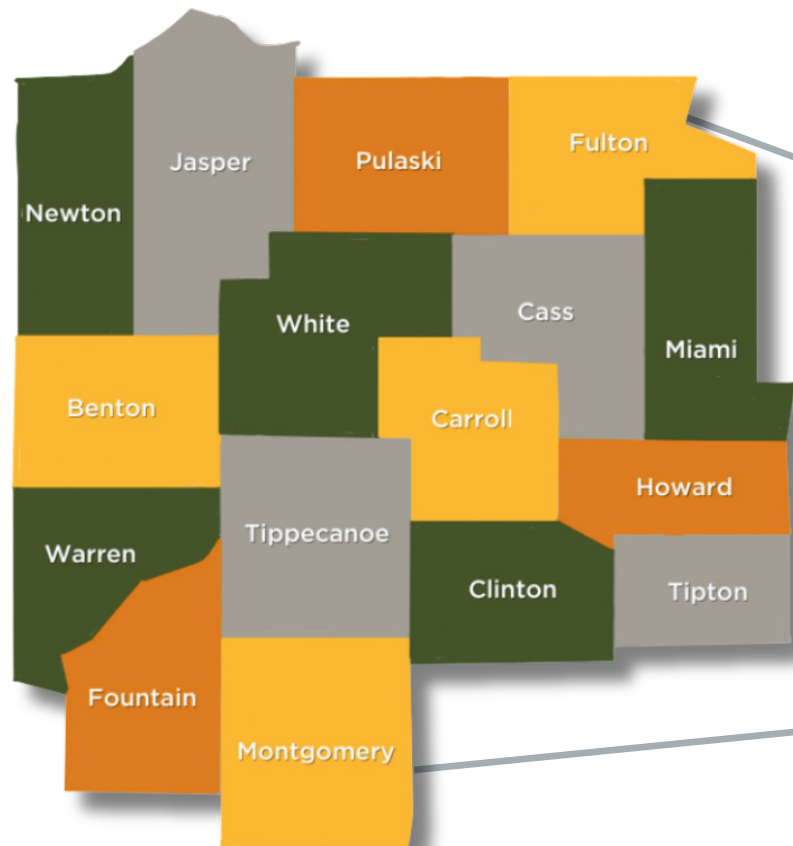
Classes provide ongoing learning on topics including meal preparation, finance, job readiness, budgeting, and wise shopping to maximize SNAP and all available food resources.

Our education classes connect neighbors beyond just teaching skills. During a cooking class, two participants formed a meaningful friendship while learning to prepare hot meals for others in their community.

Senior Grocery Delivery

Food Finders offers free home grocery delivery to qualifying seniors in select counties. This program provides groceries; including protein, dairy, and fresh produce options.

A retired teacher, residing in a low-income senior housing complex, faced significant mobility and transportation barriers. Through the Senior Grocery Delivery program, she was able to receive fresh produce, protein, and shelf stable essentials.



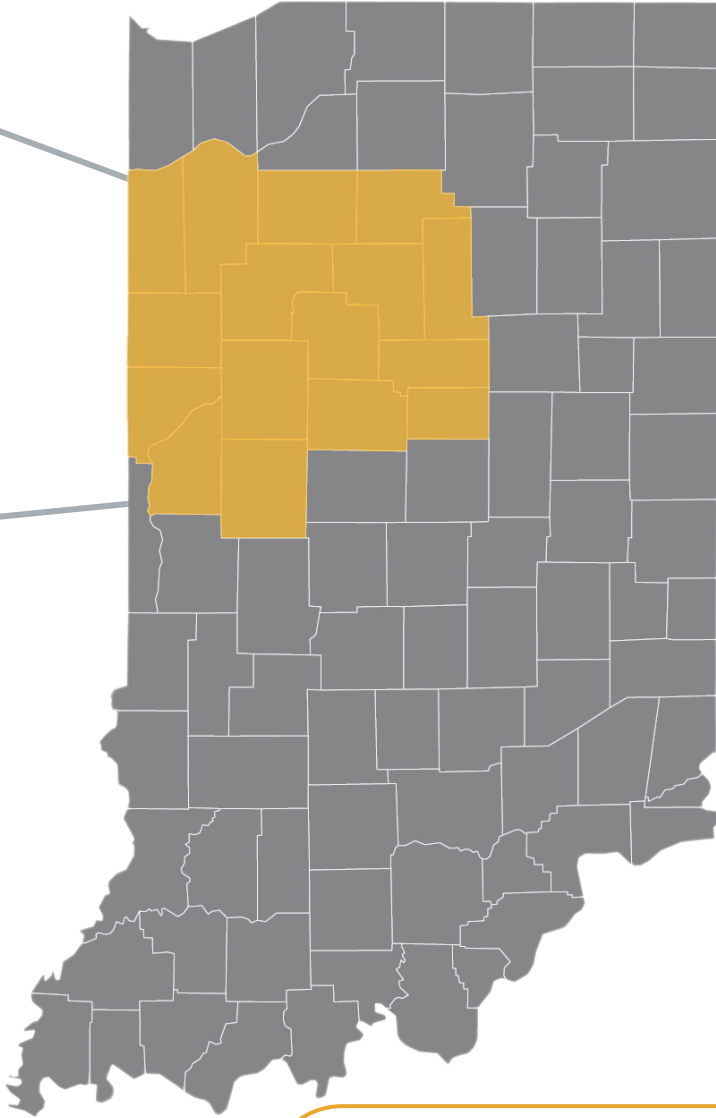
SNAP Outreach

The SNAP Outreach Program sends coordinators to strategically selected community centers, faith-based organizations, and residential housing facilities to help eligible Hoosiers sign up for SNAP benefits.

Our resource coordination team met with a retired veteran who was surviving on less than \$900 a month. Through the SNAP Outreach Program, they were able to help him apply for SNAP benefits so he could receive more food while living on a fixed income.

Hope For Tomorrow

Programs making a difference across 16 counties.



Agency Partners

We work directly with over 100 agency partners across a 16-county service area. These agencies help to distribute food quickly, efficiently, and effectively to the more than 84,000 residents in our service area experiencing food insecurity.

A pantry director at an agency partner shared that a young neighbor creates delicious meals from pantry items and shares his recipes with fellow neighbors.

BackPack Program

A backpack filled with supplemental, nutritious food is sent home with over 2,600 children each weekend during the school year in over 70 schools.

A local pastor recalled meeting with a family after a life-altering tragedy. As the mother offered for her children to skip school the next day, one child insisted on attending, not wanting to miss their 'food bag'.

Resource Coordination

Resource Coordinators help connect neighbors to local resources, such as healthcare, childcare assistance, job training, employment, and more.

A new mother who had recently undergone a C-section was unable to work for six weeks, leaving her struggling to pay her gas bill. One of our resource coordinators utilized the Helping Hands fund to ensure she and her newborn could keep their heat on during this challenging time.

Fresh Market

Fresh Market is a low-barrier, grocery store style pantry in Tippecanoe County that provides meat, fresh produce, dairy, eggs, and more.

A mother of three with limited resources shared that the Fresh Market pantry has been essential in helping her put meals on the table. This family was able to access masa flour and beans, comforting staples to their family.

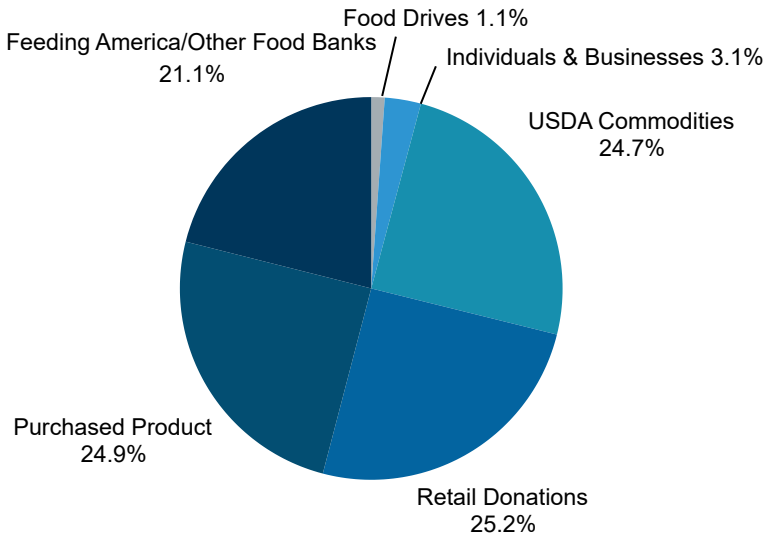
FY2024 Impact*

43,351 Hours
Volunteer Hours

Meals Served
10.5 Million

12.7 Million
Pounds Distributed

Sources of Food



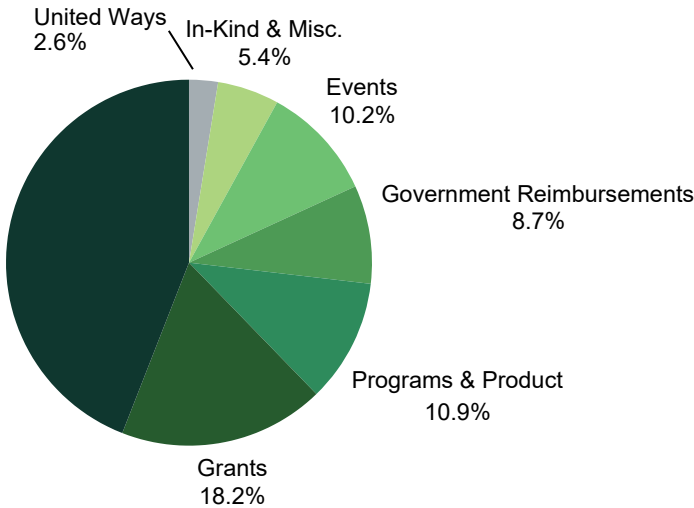
1 in 7


People in our 16-county service area are facing hunger.

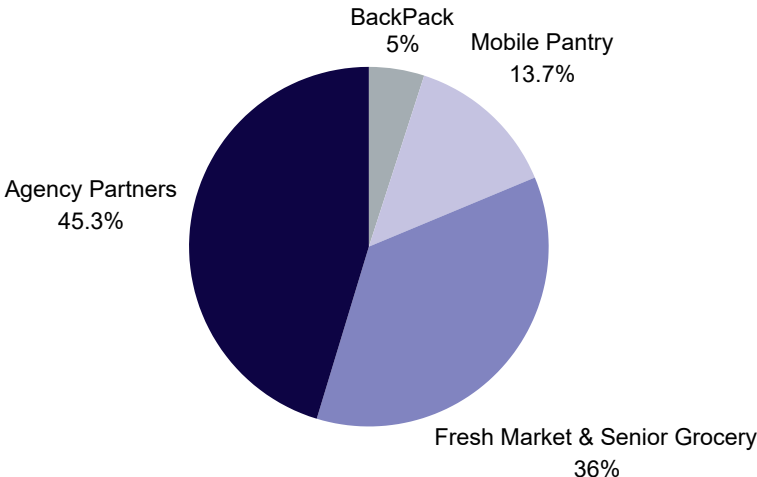
1 in 6


Children in our 16-county service area are facing hunger.

Sources of Funds



Distribution of Food



Expenses

Programs **92.6%**
Admin/Development **7.4%**

***Numbers are unaudited**

MAJOR GIFTS

The following individuals, corporations, and organizations supported Food Finders Food Bank with major gifts between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024

INDIVIDUALS

Don Amsden and Kelly Goebel
Sheilla M. Anderson
Dennis and Donna Barket
Carol Barrett
James Barton
Nels and Betty Bergmark
Matt and Lisa Burke
Pamela V. Byers
Cheryl Coffin
William and Hanni Cramer
Connie Deerman Eckard
James J. Erdman
Sarah and Solomon Hartman Family Trust
Thomas J. Fuson
Alex and Roselea Gonzalez
Hope Gulker
Cherise Hall
David and Tanya Hummels
Jeffrey C. Ince
Jack Kelley
Gary and Jacqueline Kerkhoff
Phil and Nancy Kerkhoff
Stephen Konieczny and Elizabeth Taparowsky
Andrea Kuipers
Susan Larsen
Susan Lisack
Peter and Stephanie Logan
Judith Marten
Cecilia May and Martha May
David and Nicole McMillin
Melissa and Michael Blanding
Thomas and Star Meyer
Frederic Mowle
Laura Penney Bade
Jay and Melissa Prochnau
Katy and Erik Props
Justin Rismiller
Dennis and Sharon Schlott
Marsha Selmer
Alan and Maureen Senesac
Ginger Stalcup
Bryan Steffen
Melinda Stolz

ORGANIZATIONS

American Reformed Church of Demotte
Area Five Agency On Aging & Community Services
Area Four Agency on Aging
Bringinghurst Community Church
Brook United Methodist Church
Carroll Buddy Bag Program
Caston Education Center
City of Lafayette
City of West Lafayette
Delphi Methodist Church

Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Fairfield Township Trustee
Feeding America
First Reformed Church of Wheatfield
First United Methodist Church of West Lafayette
Friends of Downtown, Inc.
Grace Fellowship Church of Demotte
Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Indiana State Department of Health
Lewis Cass Buddy Bags, Inc.
Logansport High School
McGrawsville United Methodist Church of Amboy
Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau
Northview Church
Purdue Research Foundation
Rensselaer Area Ministerial Association
Rochester Community School Corporation
Rossville Community Backpack Program
Seeger High School
SUMC BackPack Blessings
Tri-County Junior/Senior High School
Trinity Wesleyan Church of Tipton
United Way for Clinton County, Inc.
United Way of Cass County
United Way of Greater Lafayette
United Way of Howard County
United Way of Miami County, Inc.
Warren Central Elementary School
West Lafayette Community Schools
West Street Christian Church of Tipton
White County United Way

FOUNDATIONS

Alfred J. McAllister & Dorothy N. McAllister Foundation
Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation
Community Foundation of White County
Community Foundation Serving Howard, Clinton, and Carroll Counties
Indiana University Health Foundation
James K. and Mary Jo Risk Family Foundation, Inc.
Lafayette Life Foundation
Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation
Montgomery County Community Foundation
Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation
Northern Indiana Community Foundation, Inc.
Scheumann Foundation Inc.
Tennant Foundation
The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette
Tipton County Foundation
Western Indiana Community Foundation

CORPORATIONS

7-Eleven
Anthem
Archer Daniels Midland (ADM)

Arconic Foundation
Bayer Fund
Cargill Incorporated
Caterpillar Foundation
Caterpillar, Inc.
Chick-Fil-A
ConAgra Brands Foundation
CVS Health
Duke Energy Foundation
Farm Credit Mid-America
Huntington Bank
Image Orthodontics, PC
Indiana Packers Corporation/Indiana Kitchen
Indiana University Health
Kirby Risk Corporation
Meijer
Old National Bank Foundation
Pipestone Veterinary Services
Primient
Sea Foam Sales Company
Subaru of America, Inc.
Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.
Susan's Freeman Bay
Tate & Lyle Solutions USA LLC
The Andersons Marathon Holdings LLC
The Glick Fund
The Kroger Co. Foundation
TJX Foundation
Valero Renewables
Wabash
Walmart Foundation



Jim and Janet Beaty
Jeanne+ and W. Dale Compton+
Barbara Cook+
Gary Davidson+
Ned Derhammer+
Lucille Haines+
Sara+ and Solomon Hartman+
Deborah and James Knapp
Wilford H. Lahr+
John and Marjorie Martin
John and Prella McBride
Judith McCoy+
Robert Perkins+
Ruthie Shook
Kumares Sinha
Mary Jo and Fredrick Sparrow
Michael Wallpe+
Robert Henry Perkins+
+ deceased



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1204 Greenbush Street
Lafayette, IN 47904

www.food-finders.org



Volunteers are vital to our organization and the fight to end hunger, and we would love for you to join our team of compassionate, community-minded volunteers.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Food Finders, please visit food-finders.org/volunteer, call us at 765-471-0062, or scan the QR code below.

