



# NTFB VOICE Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

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SPECIAL REPORT: The White House Conference on Hunger, Health, & Nutrition - September 28, 2022

## A Bit of History

In 1969, President Nixon's White House hosted the first conference on Food, Nutrition, & Health. The timing for this event was on the heels of a national outcry brought about from the 1968 Peabody Award winning CBS Special Report "Hunger in America". If you have never watched this special, but work or care about anti-hunger work, [I challenge you to do so](#). I believe it should be required viewing for all.

From the 1969 Conference:

Some 3,000 participants from diverse interest groups were organized into 20 working groups that met simultaneously over three days (December 2-4), and more than 5,000 attendees voted on the final recommendations.

The final report, delivered to President Nixon by Dr. Jean Mayer on December 24, 1969, contained over 1,800 recommendations that spurred tremendous progress in federal food and nutrition policy (historical records cite 1,600 recommendations completed after only two years). Key accomplishments include major expansions of the Food Stamp Program and School Lunch Program, authorization of the Supplemental Feeding Program for Women Infants and Children, and improvements to nutrition labeling and ingredient labeling.

The 2022 version of this conference was a much smaller convening than what occurred in 1969. With only approximately 700 invited and taking place on only one 7-hour day, it was definitely the hottest ticket in town. In order to maximize coverage and input, the majority of the work and reports were done before the conference actually took place in DC. The White House had multiple listening sessions and encouraged local and national organizations to do the same. Out of the listening sessions came multiple reports and policy recommendations for our nation. Pour a cup of coffee or relax in this fall weather with a latte and read through [Feeding America's report](#). It's impressive.

## Choosing a Neighbor to Represent North Texas

Back in the spring, Feeding America reached out to the network of 200 food banks, asking for nominations for a person to attend the live conference. Metrocrest Services, partner agency of the North Texas Food Bank, had recently held their Keyholder Breakfast. There, neighbors bravely stood up to speak about what a gift Metrocrest was to their community and to their lives. Mary Beth Snyder

took the microphone and delivered passionate thoughts on solutions, why change is needed, and provided a voice for older Americans who didn't expect to find themselves needing a food pantry. Mary Beth was also featured in an ABC World News special telling her story about what it means to ask and receive assistance. Thanks to Metrocrest Services, the choice of who to nominate was clear.



Each month, NTFB hosts a morning meeting for leaders of our Partner Agency network. During this call, we hear that as numbers continue to climb for all neighbors who need support, another common trend has emerged. More senior citizens are needing help. With the cost of everything on the rise from food to medicine, to housing costs, seniors living on a fixed income are finding themselves in stressful positions. We knew it was vital that we bring the voice of our senior citizens to DC.

## The DC Experience

After Mary Beth and I checked in, the Conference began with a pep talk and heartfelt speech from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack about the efforts their Department has been putting in place to help farmers, nutrition programs, and our climate. Next up was President Biden's announcement and proclamation of their goal to End Hunger by 2030 in the United States.

Following the opening session, the rest of the day was filled panel speakers who dove into the five pillars that centered the conference and highlighted the \$8+ billion in public-private partnerships aimed at tackling hunger.

If you'd like to review the full strategic plan, [you can find it here](#).

A few highlights include:

**Chobani** pledges to help schools meet nutrition standards and to pay all workers at least \$15/hour to help reduce hunger within their organization.

**DoorDash** plans to expand the model, already mobilized here in Dallas, to provide free food delivery services to 18 more cities across the US.

**Publix** commits to donating \$3.85 million to 22 Feeding America food banks to establish free, mobile food pantries for stocking local fruits and vegetables. It will provide these mobile pantries with at least 500,000 pounds each of produce in their first year of operation.

By 2030, the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** and the anti-hunger nonprofit Share Our Strength commit to offering training to all 67,000 AAP member pediatricians on both screening for nutrition insecurity and referring patients to federal and community nutrition resources.

**Wellory**, a startup with a mission “to make nutrition care the norm,” will provide free, 1:1 nutrition counseling to up to 10 million uninsured Americans by 2030.

In 2023, **Albertsons Companies**, through its Foundation’s Nourishing Neighbors program, will help 50,000 eligible community members enroll in SNAP and WIC benefits.

Over the next 7 years, **Tyson Foods** will invest \$255 million into anti-hunger charities to expand access to nutritious protein products, with a focus on rural and underserved areas.

By 2030, **Walgreens** commits to increasing the selection of fresh food in its stores by 20% to include a greater variety of fresh produce and other healthy choices, on top of existing dairy and shelf-stable packaged fruits and meats.

## Photo Show & Tell



Mary Beth Snyder, Carrollton, Texas. "I am hopeful that as changes are made and as policies are implemented, across every part of our society, we will see results. Ending hunger is noble but it is also necessary. It will take daily action across the board and on many levels. Every person will need to answer the call. I know I have a great deal to learn about a great many things."



Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborating to increase affordable food options in underserved communities.

Left to Right:

- Kamau Witherspoon, CEO, Shipt
- Mindy Woods, Human Services Program Manager, City of Edmonds, WA
- Mary Blackford, Founder, Market 7
- Diana Tellefson Torres, Executive Director, United Farm Workers Foundation
- Erin Fitzgerald, CEO, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action (moderator)



Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Ambassador Susan E. Rice in conversation with Joshua Williams (Founder, Joshua's Heart Foundation) and Avani Rai (Healthy Living Advocate, National 4-H Council).



Ag-loving women, Left to Right:

Erin Fitzgerald, CEO, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action

Valerie Hawthorne, PhD, Director Government Relations North Texas Food Bank

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, US Senate Agriculture Committee

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin, The Native American Agriculture Fund, Spokane, WA



With Stacy Dean - US. Department of Agriculture, Undersecretary of Food and Nutrition Services

## Wrap Up

Thank you for reading through this special report on a special event. It was an honor to attend and an honor to bring the voice of our North Texas seniors to change makers in Washington, DC.

Do voices make a difference? Mary Beth Snyder thinks so. She says, "Yes! I believe that by having learned to advocate for myself in these first few years of retirement that I can add my voice, along with strong support and action, to all the others who are helping our senior citizens to live out their lives in peace and purpose."

Please let us know if you have neighbors that are interested in advocacy and action-oriented opportunities to speak with their decision makers. We'd love to meet them.

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Questions or Comments?

Early voting begins on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) to find polling locations and ballot information.

[North Dakota has no registration & other voting fun facts](#)

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Don't want these updates any longer?

Email [policy@ntfb.org](mailto:policy@ntfb.org) and we'll remove you quickly but with melancholy and infinite sadness

