



Fiscal Year 2023
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



A Message from Leadership

Closing the Hunger Gap Together

We know that together, the impossible is possible. That was the guiding message for the North Texas Food Bank and its Feeding Partners during fiscal year 2023. We set out to focus on unity throughout the year, knowing that we are better when we work together toward shared goals and a shared understanding of our purpose.

As a team, we put that principle into practice through our Nourish North Texas strategic plan and the guiding knowledge that food alone is not enough. Instead, we strive to provide Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow through new and expanded partnerships that support our neighbors in becoming healthier and more financially secure. At The Storehouse of Collin County, one of the about 500 partners in our Feeding Network, this looked like utilizing an NTFB Hope for Tomorrow Grant to support The Academy, which offers classes to develop language, job and life-skills that can lead to long-term transformation. We also launched a SNAP Mobile program that is expanding access for SNAP application assistance to high-needs, rural areas, and we advocated for meaningful change in support of hunger relief at the Texas Legislature.

While we worked with our partners to provide nourishment, we also saw more demand for food than we experienced even at the height of COVID-19. Just as many pandemic-era government assistance programs expired, inflation meant sustained higher costs for things like groceries, rent and fuel. And while more of our neighbors were back to work in FY23, their paychecks were not enough, and we saw many neighbors, including middle-class families and seniors living on fixed incomes, seeking food assistance for the first time. They were being forced to make the kinds of choices we wish no one had to make - whether to buy food or pay for medicine, childcare and other necessities.

Texas is now the second-most food-insecure state in the nation and our 13-county service area in North Texas has the fourth-highest level of food insecurity in the country, with nearly 640,000 neighbors facing hunger, one-third of whom are children. That is unacceptable.

Thanks to our generous supporters and partners, the North Texas Food Bank was able to meet the growing need and provided access to 144 million meals in FY23 - up 5 percent from the previous year and the most-ever food distributed in our history. This included more than 46 million meals accessed through the SNAP program and over 97 million through distributed nutritious food. We distributed those meals while increasing efficiencies and focusing on the health of our neighbors, including providing access to more fresh produce than ever before.

We're proud of what we've accomplished together, and we stand committed to closing the hunger gap in North Texas by working toward more connected, self-sufficient, food-secure communities.

Gratefully,



Trisha Cunningham
NTFB President and
Chief Executive Officer



Jerri Garison
NTFB Board Chair,
FY23-FY24



Our Vision

A hunger-free, healthy North Texas.

Our Mission

To close the hunger gap in North Texas by providing access to nutritious food.



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Maurice Wilson II, Chief Operating Officer
Erica Yaeger, Chief External Affairs Officer
Bill Garza, Chief Financial Officer
Suzanne Drotman, Chief People Officer
Anne Readhimer, Vice President of Community Impact

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Tom Black, Community Volunteer
Jerry Ellis, Community Volunteer
Anurag Jain, Access Healthcare (NTFB Chair Emeritus)
Teresa Phillips, TPHD, LLC
Stephan Pyles, Stephan Pyles Concepts

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Michael Brookshire, Bain & Company (Immediate Past Chair)
John Beckert, Community Volunteer
Jeff George, Maytal Capital
Calvin Hilton, Bread Financial
Mabrie Jackson, H-E-B/Central Market
Ginny Kissling, Ryan, LLC
Retta Miller, Jackson Walker, LLP
Adam Saphier, Trammell Crow Co.
Priya Sarjoo, Grant Thornton, LLP

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Mike Preston, Community Volunteer
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Tameka Sadler*, Junior League of Dallas
Todd Yoder, Fluor Corporation
**Ex-officio member*

By the Numbers



640,000

People in the NTFB's 13-county service area face hunger.



The NTFB service area has the **4th highest** level of food insecurity **in the nation** out of Feeding America's network.



218,970

Children face hunger.

Out of 200 nationwide Feeding America food bank service areas | Source: Feeding America *Map the Meal Gap 2023*

144 Million

Nutritious meals provided, including 97.5 million physical meals and 46.5 million that were accessed through SNAP.

38 Million

Pounds of fresh produce distributed.

26.2 Million

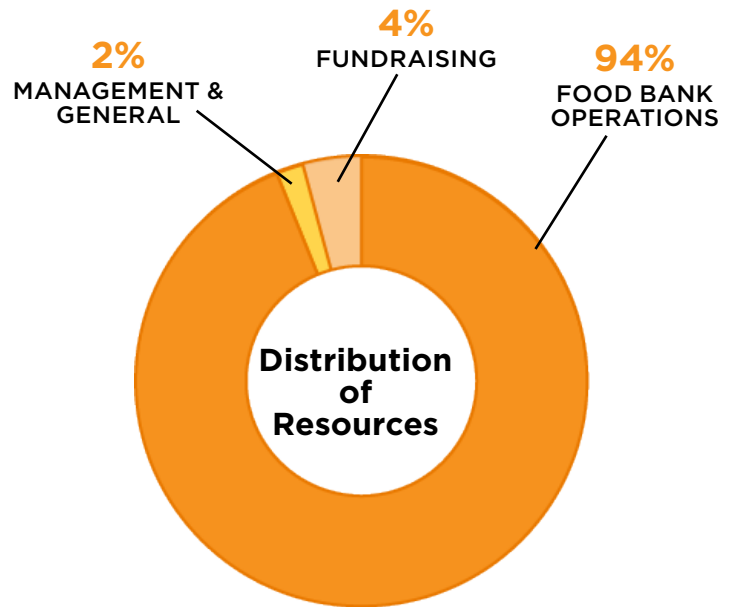
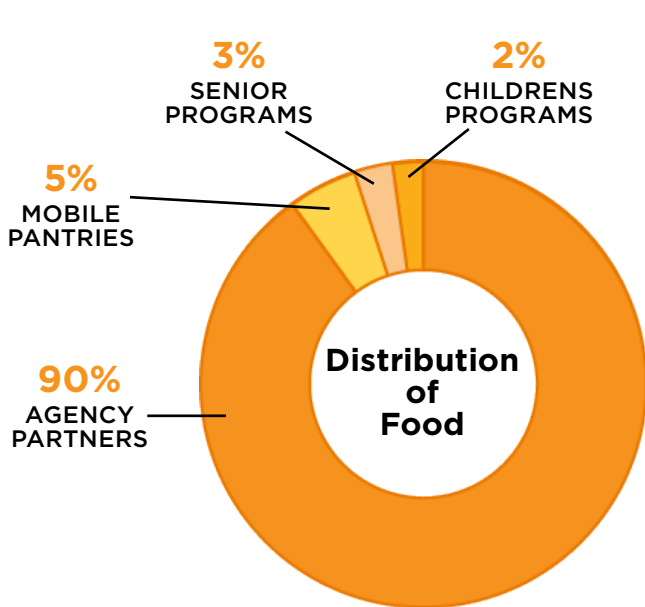
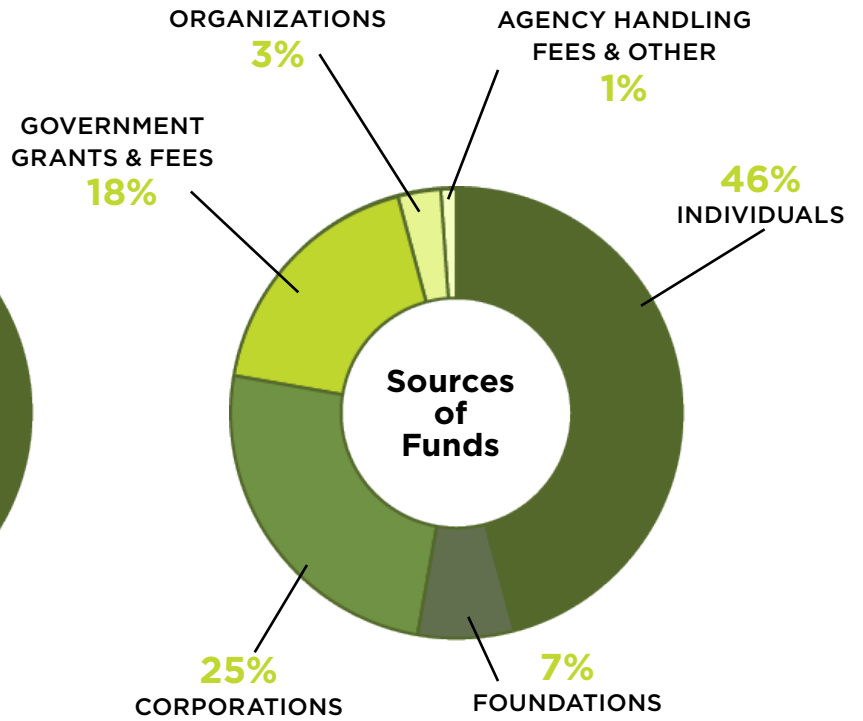
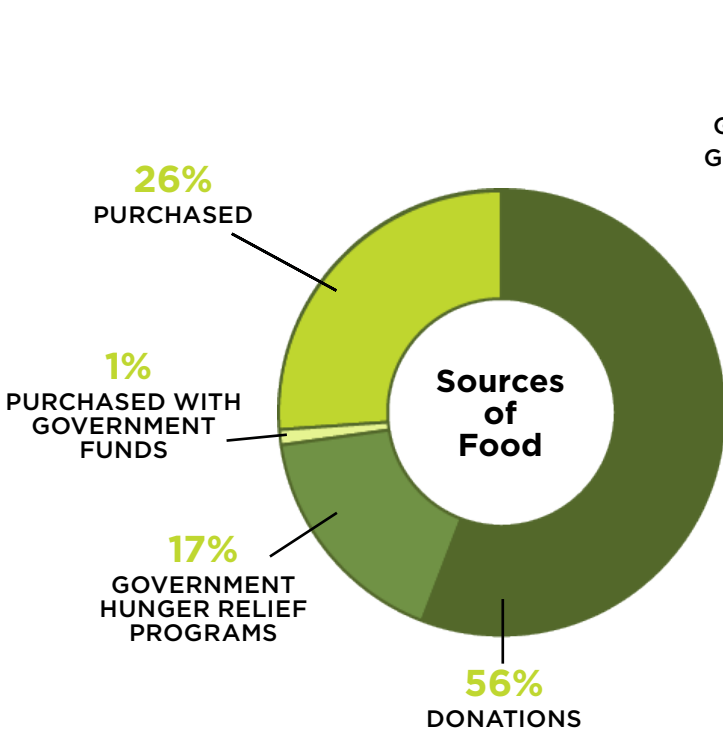
Meals provided to seniors.

50.2 Million

Meals provided to children, including 1.8 million through our School Pantry program and nearly 730,000 through the Food 4 Kids backpack program.

500

Food pantries and community organizations partnered with the NTFB to distribute food. The NTFB distributes 90% of its food through its Feeding Partners.



SOURCE OF TIME

92,299 hours

were given by volunteers in FY23, equating to a value of almost

\$1.4 million.

To see the North Texas Food Bank's latest audited financial statements, please visit ntfb.org/financials.

Food For Today

Meeting the need over a 10,000-square-mile, 13-county service area.

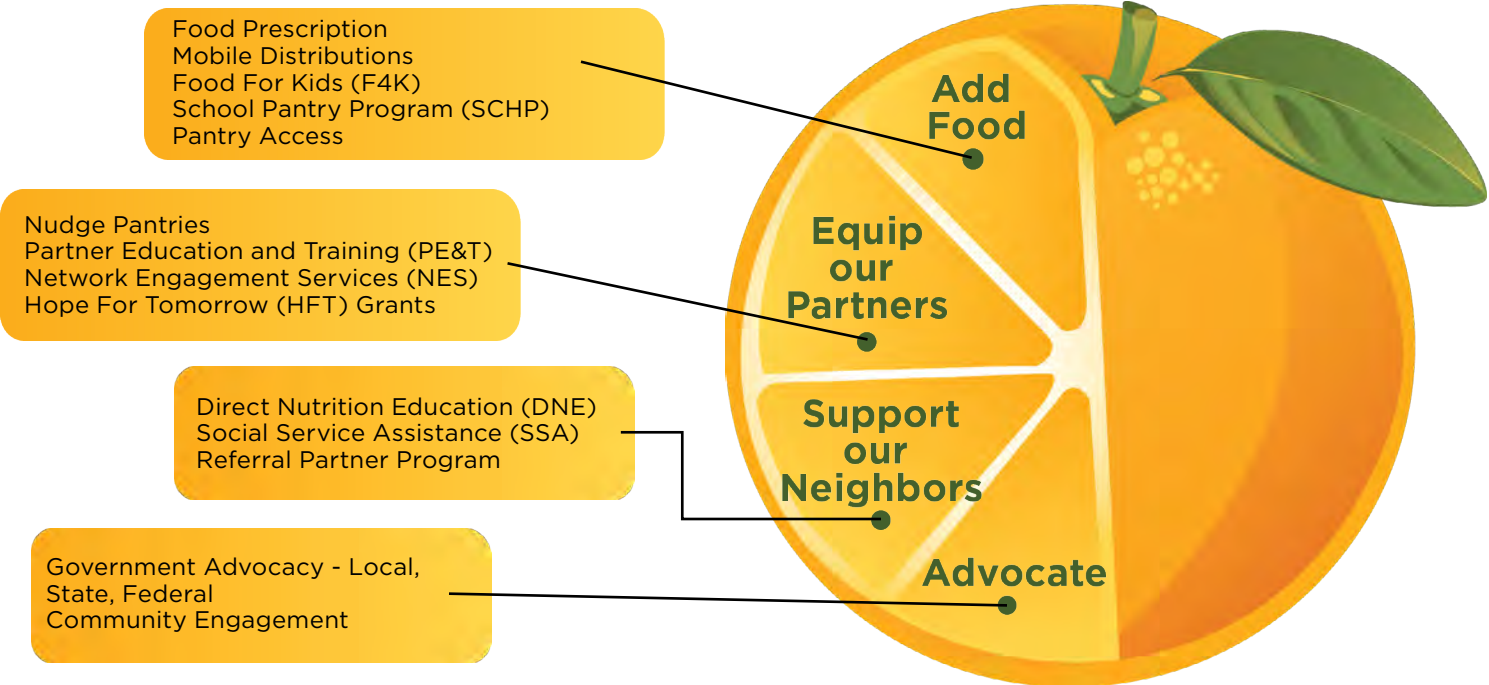


We focus on closing the hunger gap by:

- Maximizing distribution of nutritious food through members of our Feeding Network.
- Building relationships to increase the amount of food donated.
- Increasing access to food by meeting neighbors where they live.
- Investing in our partners so they can grow in their missions and service to neighbors.

Hope For Tomorrow

More Connected, Self-Sufficient, Food-Secure Communities



Maximizing Resources

The NTFB distributed 90 percent of its food through 500 food pantries and community organizations that serve neighbors in the communities where they live.

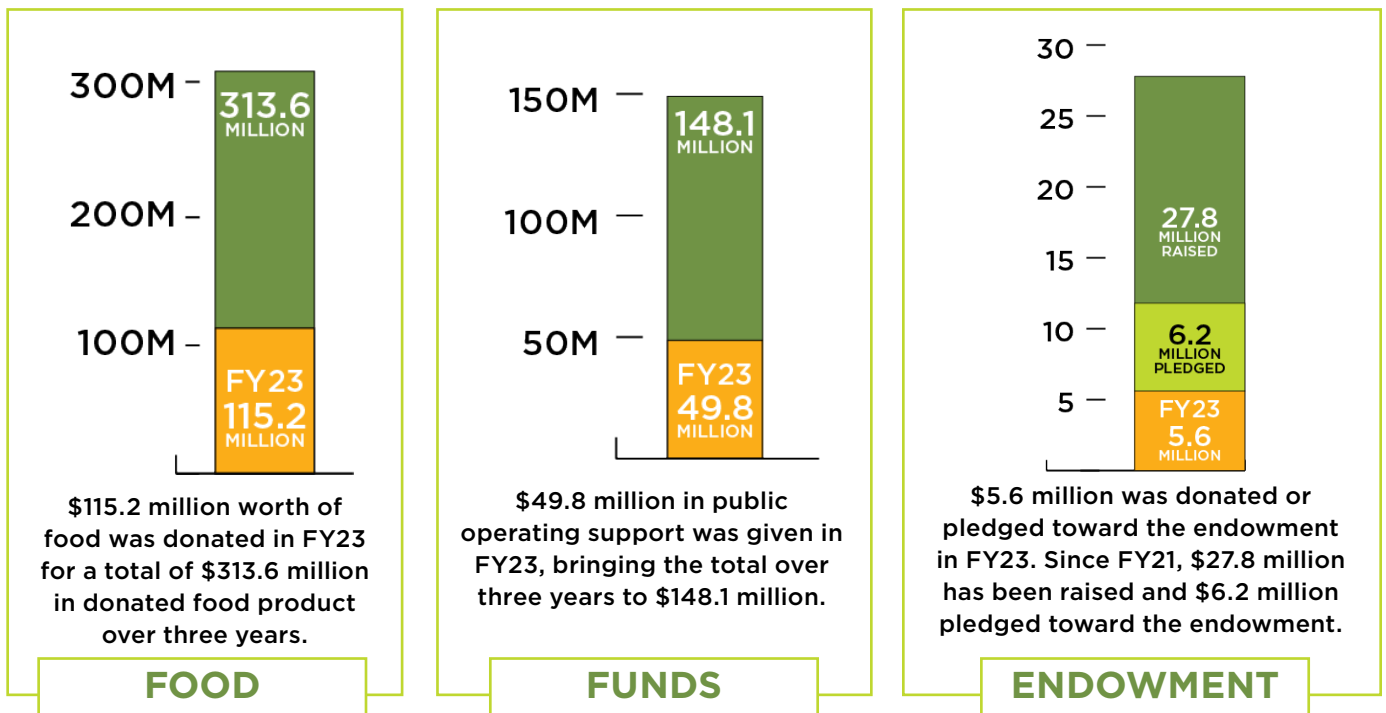
We set out in FY23 to increase the amount of food donated by retail partners. Our Food Sourcing team surpassed its goal of 40.01 million nutritious pounds, bringing in 42.96 nutritious pounds and doing so under budget.



The NTFB relies on a wide array of retailers to help meet our food donation goals. Kroger was honored with Retail Partner of the Year at our annual Golden Fork Awards after it opened a new Fulfillment Center that led to an increase of in-kind donations of 1.75 million pounds of food, bringing its total donated nutritious food for FY23 to more than 4.1 million pounds.

Nourish North Texas

A comprehensive campaign and strategic plan, Nourish North Texas guides us in providing Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow through funding the critical operations and growth of the NTFB and its Feeding Network, as well as supporting innovative programs and partnerships meant to address the underlying barriers to food security. In FY23, we met our goals for operating donations and donated food, while we continued to work toward our goal of raising \$50 million for the endowment. Those gifts will support our growth at a time when the number of people seeking food assistance is higher than ever. Here's a look at what was raised through the campaign:



A critical component of Nourish North Texas is the \$50 million the Food Bank seeks to raise through cash and planned giving commitments for the endowment. If the pandemic and inflation have taught us anything, it's that we need to be prepared not only to meet the need today, but also to be able to provide access to food for our neighbors facing hunger regardless of what external, economic or environmental factors arise. Those who do make a commitment to include the NTFB in their planned giving are invited to join our Full Plate Society, which is a unique opportunity to be recognized for your generous support and to attend special events.

The Face of Hunger is All Around Us

Hunger exists in every zip code — and impacts neighbors all around us, including children at your kids' school, peers in your workplace and families in your community.



“Without the people here, I wouldn’t make it,” says Terry, who received food from one of NTFB’s Feeding Partners after struggling to afford food following his wife’s death from cancer and his own medical challenges. “Before I came here, I was going downhill – but now I think I’m starting to go back up, little by little.”

Texas has the ninth highest rate of senior food insecurity in the nation. In addition to its regular distributions serving seniors, NTFB continued its partnership with DoorDash in FY23. Through DoorDash, **36,000 food deliveries** were made to seniors who, due to mobility or health issues, could not access a **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** distribution site.

Along with serving children facing hunger through school and summer meal programs, NTFB works with educators to identify chronically hungry kids so it can send them home on Fridays with backpacks full of nutritious, non-perishable food to get them through the weekend. Known as the **Food 4 Kids program**, the backpacks are distributed at more than **250 schools** and served up to **11,000 children** a week in FY23.



“This helps my budget go further. The money I would spend on food can go to a bill, such as water,” says Toni, whose grandson enjoys fresh produce that’s distributed by a partner food pantry. “Food banks are so important right now because a lot of us cannot afford enough food, especially right now with prices going up. I’m grateful for this place.”

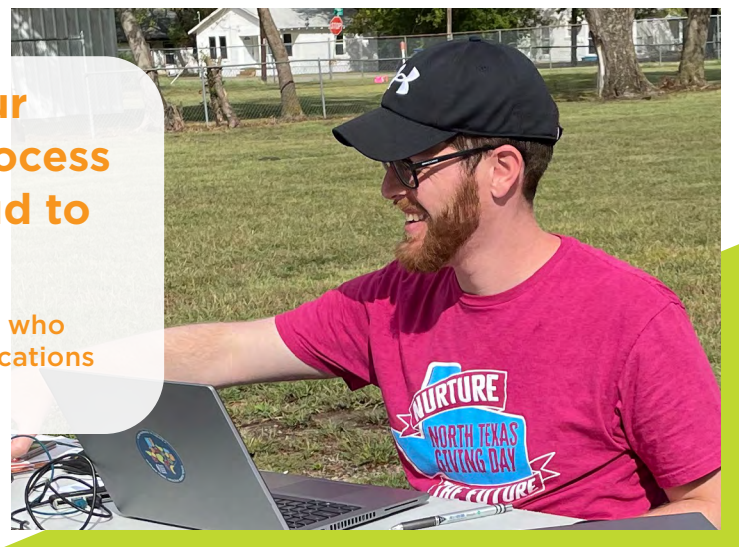


For each physical meal NTFB and its partners can provide, SNAP is able to provide nine. Yet, 25 percent of eligible Texans do not participate, according to data from UTHealth School of Public Health. NTFB's Social Services Assistance (SSA) team already works with partners to help neighbors on-site and over the phone with applications. Now, thanks to the SNAP Mobile, those services have expanded even further.

A mobile office unveiled in FY23, the SNAP Mobile is equipped with private desks and Wi-Fi and travels to isolated communities experiencing high rates of food insecurity. The unit is staffed with SSA team members who meet with neighbors and help them with applying for or completing forms for SNAP, Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Plan and other programs. In its first six months, SNAP Mobile helped provide access to more than 250,000 meals. Throughout all of SSA's SNAP support services, FY23 was a record year with 46.5 million meals enabled by SNAP.

“ Being someone who has (our neighbors’) backs in this process is something I’m really proud to be a part of.”

Jonathan Brooks, SSA Program Coordinator, who assists neighbors with SNAP and other applications during SNAP Mobile visits.



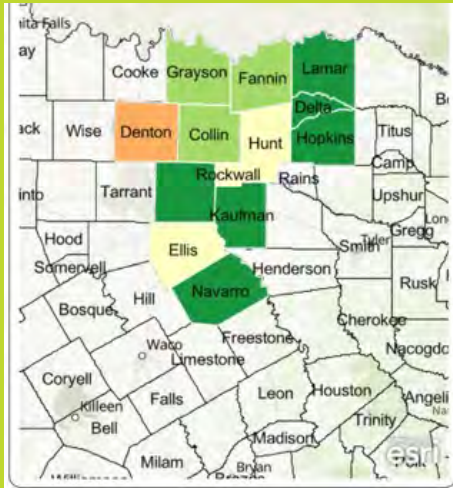
Partner Agencies



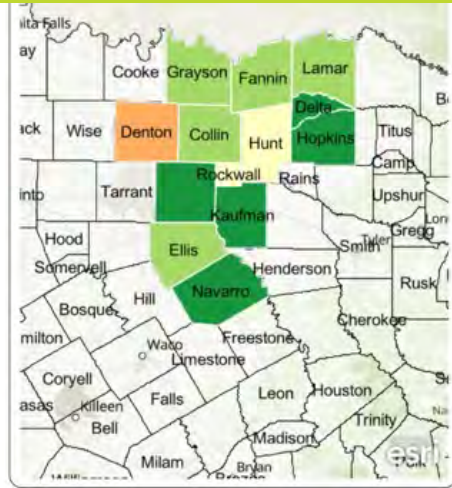
“We serve a diverse community and partnering with so many different food pantries that are familiar with their own neighborhoods allows us to bring foods that reflect those specific neighborhoods’ tastes and cultures,” says Jacob Taylor, Director of Operations. “It’s not just about the pounds but providing them with dignity and respect.”

Sharing Life, which works to end hunger and poverty in Dallas, Rockwall and Kaufman counties, has provided access to more than 40 million meals for those facing hunger since its inception nearly 25 years ago. It acts as a hub for NTFB, which means along with supporting neighbors, it helps distribute NTFB food to smaller pantries. In addition to providing food, Sharing Life offers important wraparound services that address the underlying causes of hunger, including financial coaching, workforce development and rent and utility assistance. In FY23, the agency was preparing to move to a new location, funded in part with an NTFB grant, so that it can better serve neighbors.

Partner Impact in NTFB’s 13-County Service Area



FY21



FY22



FY23

It is important for us to know not just that needs exist, but also to understand precisely where neighbors facing hunger live so that we can work to ensure they have access to food. Using the Hunger Action Map, a comprehensive report developed in partnership with Bain Consulting, we can look at regional demographic information and work with our Partner Network to distribute food in zip codes with high unmet needs. Progress from FY21 to FY23 is shown above. In counties that are dark green, 99% of needs have been met.

Closing the Hunger Gap Together

FY23 represented the NTFB's largest grant cycle to date, with more than \$6 million awarded to nearly 70 partner agencies. This included \$745,000 provided to Agency Partners through our pilot Hope for Tomorrow Grant program that aims to support the addition or expansion of wraparound services that address the underlying barriers to food security.



“It is clear that in The Academy – more than any other program – we have the opportunity to really know our neighbors and develop deep relationships,” says CEO Candace Winslow. “It is through these relationships that we can help our neighbors access other social services, and moreover, identify their readiness for transformation and employment opportunities.”

The Academy at The Storehouse of Collin County aims to come alongside neighbors as they work to build health, finance and job readiness skills. With a nearly **\$90,000 Hope for Tomorrow Grant**, The Academy helped to fund salaries and benefits for its staff who together offered 683 classes in FY23 that impacted 357 neighbors. Some of the classes offered included ESL training, health management and automotive certification – all of which are meant to help neighbors achieve long-term transformation.



In FY23, the NTFB launched Network Engagement Services, which provides education and training opportunities in fundraising, marketing, volunteer management and advocacy. Geared toward staff at the 500 food pantries and community organizations in our Feeding Network, the training includes in-person classes, virtual discussions and distributed materials, all in an effort to support the sustainability and growth of our partners. During its first year, over 70 partner agencies and more than 100 people took advantage of these resources.

Anti-Hunger Wins at the Texas Legislature

This past year's legislative session was Feeding Texas' most successful since food banks came together more than 20 years ago to engage state lawmakers. Some of the biggest successes include:

Updating the SNAP Vehicle Test

With the passage of **House Bill 1287**, the state made a one-time inflationary adjustment to the Vehicle Asset Test to better reflect today's car values. It **increased limits for the first vehicle from \$15,000 to \$22,500 and subsequent vehicles from \$4,650 to \$8,700**. We expect the shift will make SNAP accessible for thousands of additional Texans who need reliable transportation to get to work.



Implementing Pre-Release SNAP Registration

House Bill 1743 provides **immediate access to SNAP benefits for formerly incarcerated Texans** so they can begin rebuilding their lives. Previously, individuals could not apply for SNAP until their release. Now, eligible individuals can apply for SNAP while still incarcerated to have access to food as soon as they've reentered society. Along with supporting these individuals, early access to food can also help reduce the number of people who return to unlawful behavior.

Increasing Funds for Produce Rescue

The Surplus Agricultural Products Grant is a win for Texans facing hunger, farmers and the environment. The grant helps food banks, like the NTFB, rescue surplus or unsellable produce from farmers and distribute it to Texans facing hunger. All program funds go to farmers and transportation providers to offset the cost of harvesting, storing, packaging and freight. **A \$10.2 million increase in funding was approved in 2023**, doubling funds to \$20.4 million for the biennium.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Volunteers span from youth to retirees and are integral to the NTFB's mission.

Thanks to sponsorship by Whataburger, the NTFB hosted its first-ever Kids Camp over the summer, aimed at encouraging compassion and an understanding of the issue of hunger for children ages 8 through 11. Children had the chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at the Perot Family Campus, they were able to volunteer in a mini-Food 4 Kids packing activity and they used play money to understand how budgets can be stretched thin.



“Kids Camp was so fun,” says Ben, 9, one of nearly 120 campers. **“In a short time, we packed 1,258 meals. That’s pretty cool.”**



Our Kernels, or volunteers who dedicate time each month and lead other volunteers, are crucial to our operations. In FY23, 38 Kernels contributed 9,164 hours in the warehouse while nine Kernels gave 555 hours in Jan's Garden.

“I’m making a significant contribution to the community with every box that I pack and load,” says Kenn Stokes, a Production Kernel and warehouse volunteer. **“I feel good about myself, knowing that I’m making a difference in someone’s life.”**

Affinity Groups

A new cultural affinity group, SinHambre, was founded in November 2022 to bring together the Hispanic and Latino communities to increase awareness around hunger, which disproportionately impacts Hispanic persons in North Texas. They join HungerMitao, NTFB's Indian American affinity group, and Nihao, the Chinese American affinity group. In FY23, HungerMitao donated 80,413 pounds of food through a partnership with Om Produce while also volunteering 900 hours and raising \$279,886. Nihao has an active youth group and together volunteered 916 hours, raised \$187,714 and donated 5,047 pounds. NTFB also has growing Young Advocates and Young Professional groups that bring together high school students and young adults to volunteer, fundraise and donate food.



Focusing on Nutrition

Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice

A program from our Nutrition Services Team, Nudge Pantries provide partner agencies with resources —such as signs, recipe cards and tags — that help provide “nudges,” or subtle cues, to encourage neighbors to select and use nutritious items. In FY23, 24 new Nudge Pantries were established, including the first at a college pantry, bringing the total to 64 across our 13-county service area.

“It’s good because there are some items that we can’t afford and we can find them here at the pantry. And thankfully, it’s healthy food.” -Miriam Salas, partner nudge pantry food recipient



College Hunger

The North Texas Food Bank is partnering with area colleges and universities to meet the increasing number of students facing hunger through on-campus pantries, pop-up distributions and other creative initiatives. With more non-traditional students, including parents who've returned to school, first-generation students and those who are working full-time while attending college, the need for food assistance is also growing, with at least 34 percent of college students across the U.S. reporting that they face hunger, according to a National Center for Education Statistics study. By the close of FY23, the NTFB had established 15 college programs in its 13-county service area, including at Dallas College, which has nine pantries across its campuses. Chris, a full-time student and veteran who is studying to become a substance abuse counselor after recovering from addiction himself, is among those served by the Dallas College pantries.

“Growing up as a male, I was always told that you don’t cry, you don’t do this, you don’t do that, you don’t ask for help. But growing up, now I know there’s nothing wrong with asking for help, there’s nothing wrong with needing a little assistance. It’s a great benefit to have at the end of the day,” says Chris, who relies on the pantry when his finances run short. **“You’re helping out a lot of students, and not just that but you’re helping out a lot of families.”**



Special Events



The NTFB closed a year of 40th anniversary celebrations with a community party in September 2022 at Klyde Warren Park. Sponsored by Cigna, the event recognized donors, volunteers, community partners and community members for their decades of dedication and support.

That was just the start of the fun in FY23. Our signature events highlighted our mission and went a long way toward supporting neighbors facing hunger. Empty Bowls returned in February after a two-year hiatus. Featuring celebrity Chef Uno Immanivong and sponsored by Kroger, the event at the NTFB's Perot Family Campus raised money to provide access to nearly **762,000 meals**. In June, Ashley presented Taste of the Cowboys at The Star in Frisco. Hosted by Dallas Cowboys legends Chad Hennings and Preston Pearson, the event generated **1.5 million meals** to support NTFB's Child Programs.

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Teresa Phillips, Strategic Equipment & Supply Corporation, Co-Chair
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Liz Minyard, North Texas Food Bank Co-Founder, Founding Co-Chair
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Christina Durovich, Community Volunteer
Tom Black, Black, Mann & Graham, LLP
Jeanne Clark, Community Volunteer
Janet Cobb, Cobb Companies
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Looking Ahead: A Sustainable Future

We all hoped that FY23 would be a year in which the needs of our neighbors might level out following the pandemic and three years of economic uncertainty. Instead, we saw sustained higher costs that again meant more people were seeking food assistance for the first time, including middle class families who never expected to visit one of our partner food pantries.

In FY24, we know the demand is persisting – and increasing. To ensure we can continue to provide nourishment to our neighbors now and in the future, we’ve aptly selected **The Year of Sustainability** as our guiding theme.

A strong foundation of sustainability has already been set and we will work to enhance that in FY24. For our NTFB team, it means perfecting our day-to-day operations to ensure we can continue to support our neighbors with the resources we have. It also requires investing in our future through strategic planning, professional development, financial stewardship and sound practices that will allow us to create lasting change in the fight against hunger.

We are focusing this fiscal year on meeting our endowment goal to ensure we’ve built a reserve of funds for future growth.

As part of our effort to Provide Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow, we will also continue to build relationships with those who are passionate about hunger relief, and addressing the underlying factors that lead to food insecurity. That will mean adding food in places where neighbors already are utilizing healthcare or other services. It also looks like supporting partners as they provide financial empowerment, workforce development and other resources, and it means continuing to build our Nutrition Services so that neighbors are empowered to make healthy choices.

Above all, we continue to be humbled and grateful for all of our supporters, volunteers, Feeding Network partners, public officials and the hardworking NTFB team. We look forward to continuing to work with you all as we strive for a hunger-free, healthy North Texas.





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