

Rising to the challenges of 2020.



Denver Broncos Football Club (Ben Swanson)

Together.

— Responding to the unimaginable



When someone goes through a time of hardship, their friends and loved ones say things like “you’re so resilient” and “you’ve met this head-on.” Often the reply is along the lines of “I didn’t know I had it in me” or even “I didn’t have a choice.” This, on a larger scale, encapsulates 2020 for Food Bank of the Rockies and the communities with whom we work.

This year has contained countless moments of personal and organizational hardship, from rates of food insecurity not seen since the Great Depression, to a national moment of reckoning for racial justice, to wildfires challenging our distribution systems and increasing food assistance needs, to endless supply chain challenges. And in these moments, it has been imperative for us to show up on the front lines like never before – with courage and with our heads held high, despite fears about safety and challenging personal demands.

We couldn’t be more proud of how our staff, volunteer teams, and partners have met this moment. We have worked diligently to support our team as people first. We’ve encouraged and celebrated creativity, fostered collaboration, made space for failure, and have done everything in our power to meet this moment with grit and grace. And wow...our staff and volunteer teams, alongside our partners and generous donors, have done just that.

Food Bank of the Rockies increased food distributions beyond what we thought possible—50% over last year with some months at more than 80% over pre-COVID levels throughout 53 counties in Colorado and Wyoming. We doubled home deliveries to older adults sheltering in place, shifted distributions to drive-through mobile pantries, added a night shift, rented refrigerated trailers, formed new partnerships, created a culturally responsive food initiative distributing highly requested items like tortillas and masa flour, engaged in equity work, shared financial resources with hundreds of Hunger Relief Partners to fortify their efforts, acquired two additional facilities to accommodate increased volume, and spent millions of dollars on additional food purchases.

We didn’t know we had it in us.

Together, we have met the challenges of 2020. And just like anyone recovering from personal hardship, we are stronger for it. Thank you for being there with us. Together, we truly are capable of more than we imagined.



Patricia Person
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Person".



Erin Pulling
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Pulling".

Four journeys. A singular hope.



Facing hard decisions

With five children, one income and reduced hours due to COVID-19, Lesly and her partner were struggling to put food on the table. No caregiver should have to make decisions like prioritizing dinner over electricity, but Lesly and her partner didn't have a choice.

At St. Augustine Food Pantry, a Food Bank of the Rockies Hunger Relief Partner, Lesly found essentials such as fresh produce and meat, as well as diapers and baby supplies for her three youngest, including twins.

Her partner is back to full-time work but, like many other community members, they are still making up for weeks of lost wages. Thankfully, now the money they save at the grocery store can help pay utilities. "We greatly appreciate that you exist to help families like us."



Always more work to do

Paul has been a Food Bank of the Rockies volunteer for 23 years. He was striving for his volunteer goal of helping to provide 1 million total meals (he just crossed the 500,000 meal milestone) when the pandemic forced him to take a 4-month hiatus because he's considered high risk.

Once our COVID-19 safety precautions to keep volunteers and staff safe were fully enacted and Paul felt comfortable, he returned as soon as he could. "This is my second family. Everyone wants to be here, and everyone is driven by a similar passion," he said. "We know we accomplish something together. We know we make a difference in some little way."



A shared experience

Growing up, Connie experienced what 1 in 5 children face throughout Colorado—food insecurity. Joanne, Connie’s mom, worked a local cosmetics counter to provide for her family, but many times, it wasn’t enough. Through the care and generosity of their community, Joanne managed to put food on the table for her children.

Connie’s lived experience inspired her to support Food Bank of the Rockies. “People helped my family all of our lives, and now, I can give back to help another family that needs assistance.”

Alongside her husband Charlie, Connie has contributed to Food Bank of the Rockies for more than 20 years, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.



First-time support

“I was apprehensive about visiting a pantry,” said Joel, a first-time recipient this year after losing his job as an accountant due to the pandemic.

Joel was concerned about taking resources away from someone who might need them more. But, quickly realizing he couldn’t go without food assistance, he visited the drive-through pantry at Integrated Family Community Services, a Food Bank of the Rockies Hunger Relief Partner.

Hunger Relief Partners make the process easy and safe, reducing barriers to access so that every community member can access food equitably.

OUR FISCAL YEAR 2020 NUMBERS TELL THE STORY OF
Soaring Need & Inspiring Support

People facing food insecurity:



Colorado



Wyoming

Children facing food insecurity:



Colorado



Wyoming

Meals distributed in FY20:

66,556,676

75%

of food we distribute is
meat/protein, fruit and
vegetables, dairy, and grains.

Total service area covered
in Colorado and Wyoming:

147,412
sq mi

Clients served in FY20:

572,066 & 219,099
adults children

96.5%

of total contributions are
directly invested in programs.

Total volunteer time logged in FY20:

152,194 = 6,314 = 17
hours days years

How We Help

While COVID-19 has dramatically impacted every facet of how we serve communities across Colorado and Wyoming, here's a quick look at how our overall process functions.



Funding
fuels operations through donations and ongoing foundational support.

4-STAR RATING: Charity Navigator, 11 years running



Food
comes from grocery rescue and donations. We also buy in bulk to help funds go further.

\$1 HELPS PROVIDE 4 MEALS



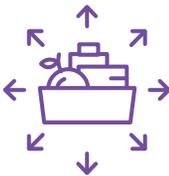
Staff & Volunteers
work every day to organize and distribute food to our partners and programs.

18,000 VOLUNTEERS help sort and distribute food and necessities in a typical year



Hunger Relief Partners
(like food pantries) sign up to receive our food and distribute directly to people in need.

840+ HUNGER RELIEF PARTNERS



Direct Programs
include mobile pantries, food for kids, deliveries for homebound older adults, emergency relief and more.

80+ MOBILE PANTRY SITES bring food and necessities where they're needed



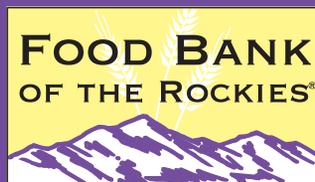
Our hopeful look ahead

Despite the challenges 2020 has thrown at us all, we will continue to work hand-in-hand with people like you to mobilize resources and keep pace with the increased need for food and necessities.

Through our fantastic network of 840+ Hunger Relief Partners, we will safely and equitably reach people

through this pandemic, even during the cold weather months. With our drive-through mobile pantries, we will show up in communities that need our support most, even if it means driving across all 23 counties in Wyoming. With home deliveries, we will ensure older adults get the essential food they need to flourish. With our kids' programs, we will provide nutritious food to families so caregivers can rest a little easier.

We will be there, day in and day out, unwavering in our commitment to meet all people where and when they need us most. We hope you'll be right there with us.



Donate today at [foodbankrockies.org](https://www.foodbankrockies.org)