



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 which 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—59% 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



Erin Pulling
President & CEO

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

Adults projected to be food insecure
in 2020 as a result of COVID-19:



Colorado



Wyoming

Children projected to be food insecure
in 2020 as a result of COVID-19:



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.

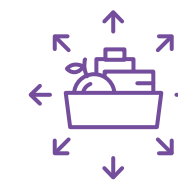
18,000 VOLUNTEERS help sort and distribute
food and necessities in a typical year



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

2020 Financials

Throughout 2020, the need in our communities for food and necessities has skyrocketed. Thankfully, so have contributions. As a result, our financial realities are dramatically different from past years. So while

we look forward to the day when the pandemic ends, our economy recovers, and the severe strain put on us all lifts even a little, we will never forget how our community has risen to answer this historic challenge.

INCOME

Total Revenue \$144,088,533

EXPENSES

Programmatic Expenses \$122,990,725

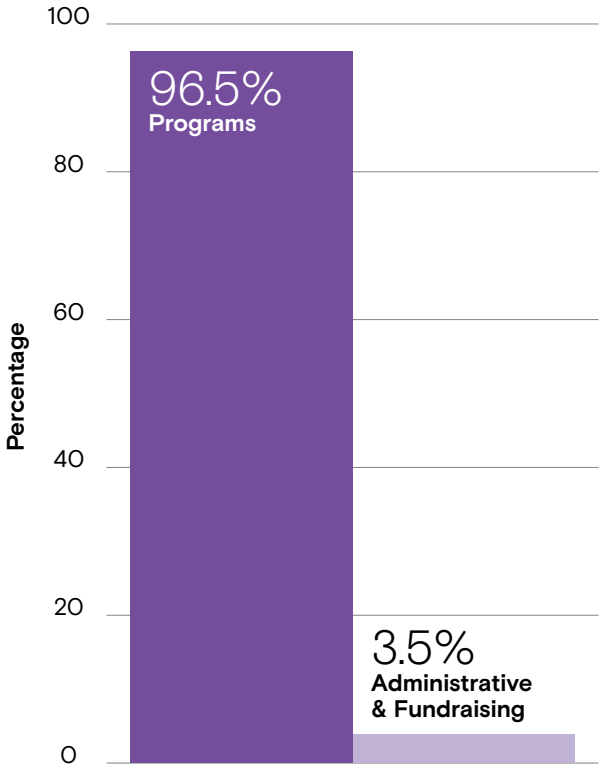
Administrative & Fundraising Expenses \$4,488,188

Total Expenses \$127,478,913

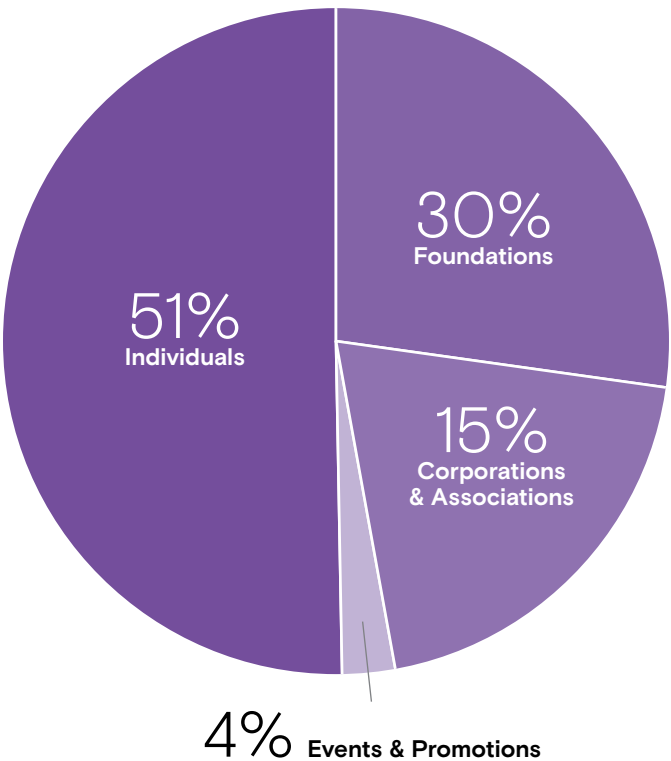
Change in Net Assets \$16,609,620

Revenue and expenses, above, include audited values of in-kind goods and services. We are committed to responding boldly to heightened food insecurity in 2021 and beyond, necessitating ongoing increased expenses including a projected 47%+ expense increase in fiscal year 2021.

Where Our Expenses Go



Philanthropic Revenue by Source



Adapting to the Unforeseeable: Operational Updates



Denver Broncos Football Club (Ben Swanson)

When the pandemic hit, we adapted immediately, veering into the unknown with no roadmap. With ingenuity and help from our supporters, we showed up to meet the increased need alongside our Hunger Relief Partners.

“We can do a lot more than we think we can, especially with a creative team. We took the approach that anything was possible if we were determined to remove the obstacles,” said Steve Kullberg, Food Bank of the Rockies Chief Operating Officer.

In Colorado, we increased warehouse capacity with donated space, borrowed and leased new vehicles, added staff and a night shift, launched a cooler expansion project to increase the amount of fresh foods we can store and distribute while reducing waste, and worked with groups like Boys & Girls Club to keep pace with the increased need for food assistance. Most importantly, we listened to the needs of our community during a time like no other.

An example of quick organizational pivots was with a large, temporary USDA program. “When the USDA Farmers to Families food box program launched, we found out on a Thursday afternoon that the program was coming and that it would not include direct delivery to our Hunger Relief Partners. This left us with

a huge logistics challenge—we had already agreed to receive 20 truckloads of food each week that would start arriving the following Tuesday,” said Steve. Quickly, his team reached out and through a former board member acquired a pro bono facility by the end of the day. “This new facility was key to us expanding our shipments by over 160,000 food boxes a month,” he said.

In addition to changes in our own operations, a number of Hunger Relief Partners adapted to host Saturday food distributions to ensure that people who work during the week have a way to get food on the weekends. We came up with a plan and were able to distribute food to partners like Kaizen Food Rescue, which upped its food distribution by 2000% over the same period last year.

“As we all learn to be more agile and adapt during this health crisis, great collaborative partnerships are key for us to collectively ride this wave,” said Thai Nguyen, founder of Kaizen Food Rescue. “Food Bank of the Rockies was, and remains, instrumental to our rapid response capacity pivot into food apartheid communities.” (Thai uses the term food apartheid instead of food desert, because deserts are naturally occurring and apartheid is more deliberate.) In addition to these Saturday distributions, we work to ensure the foods we provide to groups like Kaizen are culturally responsive and include food items like tortillas, beans, jackfruit, and other nutritious produce appropriate to the needs of the clients we serve.



“Many of our partners saw their number of people served swell to three times the number served prior to the pandemic,” said Steve Kullberg. “Partners like Kaizen Food Rescue, Metro Caring, and the Action Center started completely new models for serving the community and made sure that nutritious food was available to people experiencing food insecurity.”

On the Western Slope, unlikely partnerships helped us rise to meet the moment with renewed energy and capacity. Groups like Chick-fil-A in Grand Junction and the Aspen Skiing Company’s events team, which manages logistics for X Games Aspen, filled a gap by providing staff to help us run mobile food distributions and prepare food boxes. The Aspen Community Foundation facilitated a loan program with loan forgiveness to local growers if they donated half of their produce to Food Bank of the Rockies and other local partners.

These collaborations were, and are, critical to increasing our output in the region. “We have had extraordinary partners that have been helping us get



food to nearly 800 families each week in the Aspen to Parachute region,” said Sue Ellen Rodwick, Food Bank of the Rockies Western Slope Director. “I was awestruck when I saw the same professionals who direct traffic for the X Games direct four car lanes, and it was inspiring to see executives humbly putting food boxes into cars at our mobile pantries.”

In Wyoming, the 10th largest state at almost 98,000 square miles, serving the entire state during a pandemic was, and continues to be, no easy feat. We leveraged existing partnerships and initiated new alliances to rise to the occasion. Since April, we have hosted mobile pantries in all 23 counties, driving vast distances to reach people who need us most in this moment.

“We’re reaching out to these families and offering them a safety net of sorts so they can get back up on their feet,” remarked Tony Woodell, Food Bank of the Rockies Wyoming Director. “This growth necessitated more space, so we even expanded into an adjacent building.”

With initiatives like the Food from the Field and Food from the Farm programs, we are solving a pressing issue of food insecurity in the state with a Wyoming-based solution. Not only are we able to provide

nutritious and fresh sources of protein to clients, we are also able to offer culturally responsive foods to communities who have historically enjoyed staples, like venison. Collaborating with Wyoming Fish & Wildlife Service, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Hunger Initiative, and meat processors, we were able to bring this program to life.

“We are honored to receive this meat on behalf of our partners and those that will have Wyoming protein on their tables as a result,” stated Tony. And we are growing these types of partnerships to do even more in the coming months and years by taking a whole-of-society approach to strengthen our work in the region.

We didn’t know if we could do it. But the past few months have shown us that with hard work, determination, creativity, and community support, we are able to be the organization the community can lean on during tough times. We consistently said yes, even if that meant needing to change operations overnight and driving hundreds of miles to deliver food. And we’re not letting up.



Our Stories

Recognitions: Volunteering with Heart



Hamza Syed — Volunteer Coordinator

“It was definitely hard at the start,” Food Bank of the Rockies Volunteer Coordinator Hamza Syed noted on the changes made to volunteer operations at distribution centers in the wake of COVID-19. “A lot was changing at once. It hasn’t gotten easier, but it has become more routine and much more efficient.”

“Staff and volunteers are persistent and love what they do,” he said, praising volunteers for their dedication and motivation to continue serving even through a pandemic. “People do this because they believe in the message and support the organization.” This year’s volunteer award recipients are a testament to this spirit of giving back to the community with heart.

In total, volunteers contributed over 152,000 hours this year, even with safety precautions limiting volunteer group sizes. “We are so grateful for each and every volunteer who helps us accomplish our mission,” remarked Hamza.



Mike Kenyon — 2020 Betty Van Hook Memorial Award Winner

Food Bank of the Rockies honors a volunteer with the annual Betty Van Hook Memorial Award. Recipients emulate the spirit of Betty, a long-time volunteer who gave her time tirelessly, even while battling cancer. This year, we were delighted to present the award to Mike Kenyon. His years of dedication and service to Food Bank of the Rockies have uplifted the entire organization.

“I grew up in a family that didn’t have much. At that time, I didn’t know the term ‘food insecurity,’ but that’s what we faced pretty much every day. My mom would ask us to see if we could eat at our friends’ houses. I hated the feeling of being hungry, but I also hated asking my friends if I could stay for dinner or have something to eat. It really stunk,” said Mike.

“The need to give back to the community is a very strong feeling I have. It is what drew me to work for the YMCA for 40 years, and it is what drew me to begin volunteering at Food Bank of the Rockies.” Mike has served over 1,200 hours in the past three years and he is an essential part of our team.



Jean Gradoville — Volunteer of the Year

As schools shifted to virtual teaching in response to the pandemic, the need for replacement lunches, snacks, and afterschool meals became critical, and volunteers like Jean have been there to help fill the need. “After retiring from my nursing career of 45 years, I wanted to volunteer my time. I chose to work in the kitchen at Food Bank of the Rockies and help make meals for the children who need them. Before the pandemic, we were making large quantities of hot meals for schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc. Now, with the increased need, we make 400–500 sandwiches daily in addition to prepping individually packaged fruit and veggies.”

Tireless volunteers like Jean make this increased meal production possible. Without them, we could not have scaled up operations enough to serve more children in the community. Food Bank of the Rockies served over 467,000 meals and almost 121,000 snacks in the past fiscal year alone.

“I work with amazing people. At the end of my shift, I am happy to have contributed my time to the community. I am honored to receive the Volunteer of the Year award.”



Volunteer Group of the Year

What better combination is there than working with good friends for a good cause? Our volunteer group of the year decided that volunteering together at Food Bank of the Rockies was a great way to do good in good company. Beth, Beverly, Dawn, Joan, Joann, JoAnne, and Sandy have been friends for years, and wanted to try something new together.

“We all wanted to volunteer for something worthwhile; we are doing something necessary,” said Joan. “The added benefit is we are all like-minded and enjoy the work and our time together!” Volunteer groups like these help food banks work efficiently to get food out the door. And their dedication and support are invaluable to us especially during this challenging time.

Our Stories

Fighting Hunger & Loneliness One Box at a Time



Peggy Nelson — Staff Driver



Team Rubicon — Volunteers



Home Delivery Service for Older Adults

“A lot of the people we deliver to are scared to leave their homes because of the pandemic,” noted Peggy Nelson, Food Bank of the Rockies staff member. “I think this is a huge help to them right now.”

Peggy delivers grocery boxes as part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, a USDA funded program designed to provide nutritious food to clients over the age of 60. Eligible clients receive milk, juice, fruits, vegetables, and cheese along with recipes and nutritional resources each month. During the past fiscal year, we distributed over 78,000 boxes.

We have several distribution sites throughout our service area, and our Hunger Relief Partner agencies also host sites to distribute these grocery boxes to ensure no older adult goes hungry. Prior to the pandemic, Peggy delivered boxes to clients who were unable to pick up provisions. But with the onset of COVID-19, the demand for home deliveries has skyrocketed as clients who are high-risk shelter in place.

To meet this increased demand, we needed support. And Team Rubicon was the perfect partner to help scale delivery efforts. A service organization that matches veterans with communities in crisis, Team Rubicon mobilized volunteers with skills honed in the military to help Peggy deliver food boxes safely, efficiently, and quickly.

“The boxes are pretty heavy, but I don’t really care. I’ll deliver them all day long just because it’s helpful to people,” said Amy Jorgenson, a volunteer with Team Rubicon. “There’s nothing too small and no help too small for someone that’s in need.”

Though not a veteran herself, Amy joined the Team Rubicon ranks at the beginning of the pandemic. She is the mother of a veteran and wanted to connect with those who shared similar experiences with her son. The “Marine Mom” delivered food boxes as part of her volunteer deployment.

As a public health expert, Amy knows the importance food has on a person’s life. “Food insecurity is a

problem in a number of different ways,” she said. “From a mental health perspective, having food insecurity means you do nothing but worry about where your next meal will come from. You cease to worry about nutrition and focus on having a full stomach.”

A number of the people Amy met during her deliveries told her how much they relied on the 40-pound food boxes as their cupboards were bare. “Especially today, in the middle of a health crisis, to be able to provide someone with a little more food gives them a little more strength and a little more hope to fight off whatever happens to them,” she said. “It takes away that mental barrier of feeling like you are not capable of caring for yourself. What Food Bank of the Rockies is able to do is incredible.”

During the pandemic, we more than doubled the number of food boxes we deliver to high-risk, older adult clients, and this expanded service is still ongoing. “The program would not be possible without

the leadership of our Government Programs team, support from people like Amy and other volunteers, who conduct monthly wellness calls and perform direct delivery, and passionate staff like Peggy. This is the definition of community. Being there to support each other during a time of need,” remarked Cindy Mitchell, Vice President of Programs.

And dedicated staff like Peggy make this incredible work possible while serving up more than food. Prior to the pandemic, Peggy loved getting to know each person on her delivery route. Although things are very different now, Peggy still takes time to check in on folks.

“I try to check in with as many clients as I can, even if it’s just through the door,” Peggy said. “So many of them want to talk, but they know they have to stay safe. They still yell thank you through the door.”

Even though Peggy’s interactions with her clients have changed, their appreciation for the monthly food boxes remains.



In partnership with the Denver Broncos at Empower Field at Mile High, we held our largest food distribution to date. We distributed more than 91,000 pounds of food to more than 1,400 households. Volunteers, board members, and staff have been on the front lines at these drive-through mobile pantries since the pandemic hit, ensuring we provide food smoothly and efficiently at scale.



Johnny recently attended a food distribution at Arapahoe County Human Services in Aurora, where he received two grocery bags of food. He was most grateful for the fruit. Johnny is currently experiencing homelessness and the food assistance is critical for his well-being. “Everybody needs help at some point, whether they’re rich or poor. The main thing is we’re all humans. We’re all alike. We still have to eat.”

Our Stories

Keeping the Lights On & Hope Alive



Connie & Charlie — Supporters

Donors and Drive-Throughs

Growing up in Florida, Connie experienced what 1 in 5 children face throughout Colorado—food insecurity. Connie’s mom Joanne worked a local cosmetics counter to provide for her family. Even though she did her best, her paycheck could only go so far. Not enough food in the house and electricity turned off due to unpaid bills, these experiences marked Connie’s childhood. Her mom had to make choices no parent should have to make when prioritizing the health and wellbeing of their family over what she could afford in that moment. But through the care and generosity of their community, Joanne was able to nourish her children and make it through.

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. I’m glad to be in a place where I can help another family that needs assistance. I can’t imagine anything worse than

not being able to feed your children. Families facing food insecurity are already dealing with a lot. They shouldn’t have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.” Alongside her husband Charlie, Connie has contributed to our mission for more than 20 years.

Supporters like Connie are more impactful than ever as we scale our distribution efforts to meet the increased need for food assistance throughout the pandemic. And we work hand in hand with over 840 Hunger Relief Partners to distribute food safely to people who need it most.

Like Connie’s mom, community members like Lesly needed a little extra support to get through these historically challenging times. With a single income, reduced work hours due to COVID-19, and children to nourish, Lesly and her partner didn’t know where to



Lesly & Melanie — Clients

turn. Struggling to put food on the table, Lesly said, “It was a scary and stressful time.”

No caregiver should have to make decisions like prioritizing dinner over electricity, but Lesly and her partner didn’t have a choice. Then she visited St. Augustine Food Pantry, a Food Bank of the Rockies Hunger Relief Partner, with her six-year-old, Melanie. From essentials such as fresh produce and meat to diapers and baby supplies for her three-month-old twins, Lesly’s family is getting the resources they need to make it through this pandemic. “We’re grateful to receive a wide variety of food and other items from the food pantry.”

Although Lesly’s partner is back to work full-time, like many other community members they are making up for weeks of lost wages. During this time, Lesly is particularly thankful to be able to prepare fresh meals

for her loved ones without having to worry about her other bills. Instead, she’s able to use the money she saves at the grocery store on essential utilities like their electric bill. “We greatly appreciate that you exist to help families like us,” she said.

Thanks to caring supporters like Connie and Charlie, families like Lesly’s are able to weather unforeseen difficulties like the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. “A society is judged by how you treat the most vulnerable and you have to help people who need it,” remarked Connie. “When I give money to Food Bank of the Rockies, I know that it will be used in the best way possible to help people. I want to make an impact and it feels like that happens at the food bank.”

Our Stories

Mobilizing Resources Safely



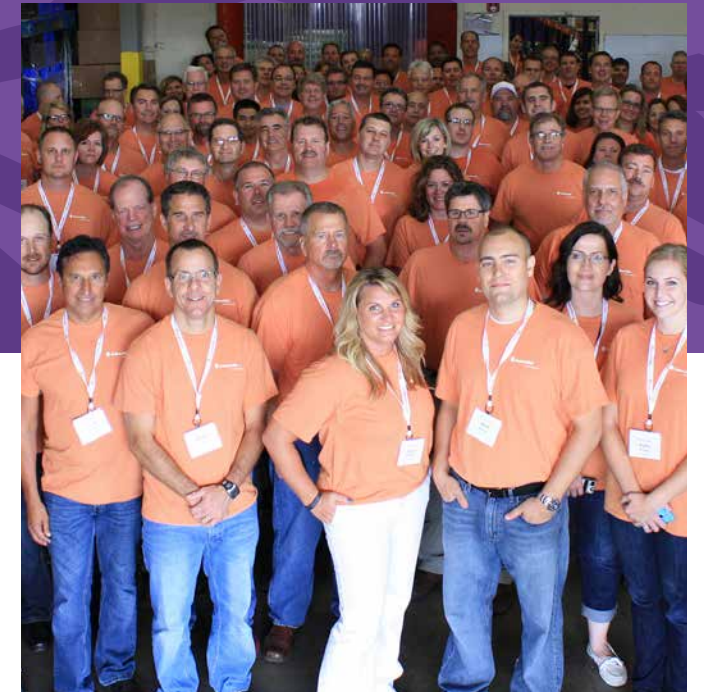
Hannah — Client



Lucia — Client



Sean — Volunteer



Ardent Mills — Volunteers

Mobile Pantries / Corporate Sponsors / Clients / Volunteers

Since the pandemic hit in March, we've ramped up efforts to serve communities safely with our mobile pantries. Using a drive-through approach, mandating masks, social distancing, and following additional safety protocols, we operate from 80+ mobile pantry sites.

More and more community members, laid off or working less due to COVID-19, are attending pantries for the first time in order to put food on the table and care for themselves and their loved ones.

Hannah's entire life as a graduate student was upended by the pandemic. Classes canceled, internship put on hold, job shut down. To get by, Hannah visited a Food Bank of the Rockies mobile pantry. She had visited this pantry before, but the overnight changes to her life and livelihood exacerbated her situation, and food assistance became critical.

Like Hannah, the pandemic impacted Lucia's livelihood. She saw her hours as a cashier reduced due to COVID-19. "I'm only working 15 hours a week, and I need help. This is my first time coming to a mobile pantry like this. The food and supplies I get today will be shared between two families—6 adults and 3 kids. I'm so thankful for this community support right now." That Saturday, we distributed 40,000 pounds of food to 843 households like Lucia's.

These fast-paced, large-scale distributions are made possible by passionate volunteers like Sean. For the past four years, he has spent many Fridays volunteering at the Food Bank of the Rockies mobile pantry site at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. He loves having fun with fellow volunteers, getting to know the clients who roll through the line, and building bridges across barriers to connect with everyone he meets through humor and kindness. He encourages

everyone he meets to sign up for a shift and see the impact volunteering can have on the community. "It's better than happy hour," he quipped. "It's a beautiful thing." And now that his daughter attends school remotely, he brings her with him to volunteer.

In addition to dedicated volunteers like Sean, financial support is critical to pulling off these distributions. And these types of events provide an opportunity for companies like Ardent Mills to show up for communities. As North America's leading flour supplier, Ardent Mills uses innovation and imagination to tackle challenges. And that was more evident than ever in how they pivoted to support Food Bank of the Rockies through the pandemic to positively impact the communities we serve together.

In the past, Ardent Mills has hosted an annual charity golf tournament to raise funds for Food Bank of the Rockies. In 2019, they raised more than \$200,000. In 2020, they were forced to cancel due to the pandemic. But they didn't blink an eye. Instead, Ardent Mills contributed \$250,000 directly to Food Bank of the Rockies, their biggest gift to date that helped provide enough food for 1,000,000 meals. "We can only feed our neighbors who face hunger with help from our community," said Ardent Mills CEO, Dan Dye.

Ardent Mills recently received the National Philanthropy Day Award, and it is well deserved. We're grateful for their ongoing partnership during one of the most challenging times in our nation's history where food insecurity is a pressing reality for many.



Sandy, an Aurora School District employee, now regularly attends Food Bank of the Rockies mobile pantry food distributions. With schools closed during the pandemic, Sandy said the food assistance has allowed her to prioritize paying for utilities and other necessities. "It really helps a lot, especially the nice fruits and vegetables."



At a Saturday mobile pantry distribution at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, we served more than 800 households and distributed approximately 40,000 pounds of food. Volunteers, staff, and board members loaded cars all day, ensuring fast and smooth service.

Our Stories

Caring for Community Families



Clayton Early Learning — Partner School

Totes of Hope® / Partner School

Jonelle struggles to find time to shop while juggling her job as a social worker with single-handedly parenting her kids. And her income only goes so far when trying to feed her children including a son with dietary restrictions. “Having access to fresh foods has been challenging at times. In my situation, vegetables are really important. I have a 16-year-old who eats like two grown men,” she said.

Fortunately, her daughter’s school is one of our Hunger Relief Partners. Clayton Early Learning distributes Totes of Hope® weekly to children and their families, a program created in 2006 to assist children with nutritious, kid-friendly food to sustain them when school isn’t in session. With our partners over the past fiscal year, we distributed 185,000 Totes and served 468,000 meals and almost 121,000 snacks to children through our kids’ programs. “It’s nice having that stability. If I couldn’t make it to the store or if I

didn’t have the money, then I know there’s a reliable source for me,” Jonelle said. “It makes me happy. Every time I get food, I’m smiling.”

In her role as a social worker, Jonelle works with families who are food insecure. She knows the critical role access to fresh, nutritious food has on one’s life. “Food is really important. How could you go to work? Or how could you take care of your kids if you’re not feeling well because you haven’t (eaten),” she said. “Food is essential.”

The food Jonelle receives in the weekly tote provides more than just nourishment. It gives her peace of mind and a way to bond with her children. “Food brings families together. It brings people together.”

Partners like Clayton Early Learning make weekly distributions to families like Jonelle’s possible. “When



COVID-19 closed Colorado in early March, we had families in need of food right away, families who’d lost their jobs and their source of food. Through this partnership, we’ve been able to meet the needs of our families,” said Becky Crowe, President & CEO of Clayton Early Learning. “The shift from being able to provide some basic needs here and there to a weekly drive-through where families were able to garner an entire week’s worth of food was a game changer for us. It’s been a shoulder-to-shoulder community partnership from the day we started. We had hundreds of cars coming through our food bank line the first week we set this up. We’ve been able to serve families every Friday afternoon since early April, meeting their most dire needs in terms of their food insecurity.”

“The totes are helpful for families by ensuring they don’t have to worry about where their meals are going to come from,” remarked Maricela Palomares, Director

of Community Partnerships at Clayton Early Learning. “The way we’ve structured this partnership, it helps alleviate stress for families. They know they can pick up a phone and say ‘I need some food...’ and they’ll receive nutritious and healthy food that’s going to get them through the weekend. We know that children who eat nutritious meals thrive; it helps their brain development and focus,”

With food insecurity rising, partnerships like this are critical for us. They help us serve children, which in turn helps them focus on learning, playing, and being kids instead of worrying about their next meal. When every child has enough to eat, the entire community can thrive.

Our Stories

Strengthening Partnerships



Action Center — Hunger Relief Partner



Hunger Relief Partners / Capacity-Building / COVID

Food Bank of the Rockies works hand in hand with Hunger Relief Partners to ensure they can all effectively and equitably distribute food across the service region, which is the largest coverage area of any food bank in the contiguous United States. We couldn't do this alone, and we collaborate closely with 840+ partners.

These partnerships were at the center of our ability to pivot to meet increased need during the pandemic. Not only did we have to scale up, we worked with partners to ensure they had the resources they needed to grow their operations and capacity to keep pace with the increased demand for food assistance. We leveraged fundraising to share more than \$4 million (and counting) in credits toward purchased food costs, waived partnership fees, and secured and dispersed capacity-building funds.

Through the CARES Act, Food Bank of the Rockies received federal funding to increase our capacity as part of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to better respond to the pandemic. We also obtained a commitment from the Colorado Department of Human Services to reimburse expenses for additional capacity-building through CARES Act funding. Of this, we shared more than 70% of this funding with Emergency Food Assistance Program partners to purchase and install items like walk-in freezers, refrigerators, and other warehouse equipment in their facilities. Fortifying partners' efforts ensures that our entire network is strong, resilient, and able to meet these challenging times head-on.

"We had to spend the CARES Act money by a hard deadline, and we had doubts in the beginning about whether we could do this so quickly. We thought it

would be really difficult, but once we got into it, we knew we could do it," remarked Walter O'Toole, Food Bank of the Rockies Government Programs Manager.

From supporting the purchase of walk-in freezers and refrigerators to warehouse equipment, partners now have more capacity for taking fresh products like dairy, meat, and produce. The Action Center could only store a small amount of fresh food product in their facility prior to getting new walk-in cooler units. The one to two pallets they could take previously had to be hand-loaded, which required time. After their storage upgrade, the Action Center can now take nine pallets of frozen meat, eggs, and fruit and load them directly into the coolers within minutes. "We will be able to at least double the amount of frozen food we will be distributing, and it will be much safer for our volunteers and staff to handle. We are very confident

that our new units will allow us to always take in refrigerated and frozen donations and purchased products, knowing we are getting the best possible nutrition and variety of foods to our participants," said Carolyn Alexander, Senior Director of Operations of the Action Center. "Our numbers in COVID have tripled and are continuing to go up, so the new capacity allows us to expand and still provide a lot of food to each household."

"Not having cold storage like a walk-in freezer is a limiting factor for our distribution efforts with partners. They can only take a pallet of product instead of multiple pallets. This capacity-building effort will help us in the long-term to distribute more fresh items like vegetables and dairy. It will also help us reduce our waste and get more nutritious food out the door," said Walter.

Board Members

Serving on the board as of December 2020

Officers

Patricia Person, Chair
Nick Benham, Vice Chair
Jack Pargeon, Treasurer
Tiffany Todd, Secretary

Members

Dan Ball	Amy Diaz	Raju Patel
Gordon Banks	Reid Galbraith	Bart Pugh
Garry Beaulieu	Nick Morris	Michael Tousignant
Dana Benfield	Ethan Nkana	Doug Wilhelm
Christina Bowen	Katie O'Connor	

Leadership Team

Heather MacKendrick Costa, Chief Financial Officer
Aditi Desai, VP of Marketing & Communications
Steve Kullberg, Chief Operating Officer
Jennifer Lackey, Chief Development Officer
Cindy Mitchell, VP of Programs
Erin Pulling, President & CEO
Sue Ellen Rodwick, Western Slope Director
Lorena Toland, VP of People & Culture
Tony Woodell, Wyoming Director



Just a few months ago, Mia, a 19-year-old student at UC Denver, worked three jobs to support loved ones including her mother, brother, and nephew. Since the pandemic hit, she lost two of those three jobs. To get by, Mia relies on the mobile pantry that rolls onto campus each month. “Although I have a job, I can’t afford consistent groceries for myself,” Mia said. Having food resources available on campus gives Mia a reprieve from the anxiety that comes with food insecurity.



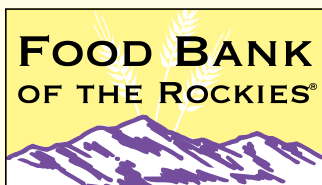
Our hopeful look ahead

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 dedicated 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)

