

Hunger **HEROES** *on the* **FRONTLINE**

"Our families have so many things weighing on them right now. To be able to tell them that, no matter what, they don't have to worry about food is such a relief for them."
-Renata, Washoe County School District

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to impact our community, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada is committed to being here every step of the way.

Read more about some of the heroes working alongside us to make sure no one faces hunger during this time.

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President's Report



Nicole Lamboley
President and CEO

A word of gratitude from Nicole

I know I am not alone when I say we are experiencing unprecedented times. For all of us the future is uncertain; but for many in our community, this crisis has created an immediate concern about how to provide for life's basic needs such as shelter and food. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is here now more than ever to help put food on the table for those who are facing food insecurity, even for the first time. We are immensely grateful that with your support we are able to respond. When businesses close and the community stays home to slow the spread of COVID-19, the need for emergency food assistance rises quickly. Never before have we seen such sharp and immediate increase in those who need our help.

At the same time, we have faced interruptions in our regular supply chain, as the rest of the country has, and therefore, we have to be diligent about planning and anticipating the needs of the community so we are ready to serve. You, as always, have been generous in providing us with the resources to plan and prepare for what is ahead.

While forecasting the future is not easy, we anticipate this crisis will have a long-term impact on our community. We all hope for the time when we can return to a "new normal", but we know that so many Nevada families will continue to need our help.

Your continued support of our mission will help us nourish our neighbors while we all get back on our feet. The outpouring of volunteers and monetary donations helps us breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that we will face this crisis together. Thank you so much for your partnership today and always.

With gratitude,

Nicole Lamboley, President and CEO

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Our Families are Scared Right Now

Like the Food Bank, Renata and her co-workers in the Washoe County School District's Intervention Department are committed to serving their community throughout the COVID-19 crisis. When Nevada schools closed in mid-March, Renata tried her best to prepare for what she knew would be an increase in families in need. Almost immediately, they saw a significant increase in the number of parents reaching out to their child's teacher or school counselor seeking assistance.

"The Food Bank is doing such an amazing job serving our families. When we tell them about all the ways you are here to make sure they have food for their children and for themselves, they are so, so thankful."

Many have lost most, or even all, of their monthly income, and panic has set in as they struggle to meet their basic household needs and worry about the mounting bills they can't afford to pay.

Often times, parents are so overwhelmed by the fear caused by the financial hardships they're facing that they haven't even

begun to think about worrying about their health.

Families are able to find some assistance with rent or power bills through the District's Family Resource Centers. Each week, Renata and her co-workers at the FRC open their School Pantry, sponsored by the Food Bank, and families are able to schedule a time to pick up food. They're also provided with information about other Food Bank programs like Mobile Harvest and Kids Cafe. *"Knowing that food will be available? That's huge for our families."*

With your support, even in these uncertain times, families can find a sense of peace in knowing they will have the food they need. Thank you!

Adam's Story

When Adam first started volunteering with the Food Bank's Mobile Harvest program in fall of 2018, he was impressed to find himself helping to distribute beautiful fresh fruits and vegetables, rather than the canned goods he'd expected to find. It didn't take long before he was volunteering at Mobile Harvest several times a month.

As Food Bank distributions have quickly evolved and changed due to the COVID-19 crisis, Adam's

"I've found in my life as long as you've got a roof over your head and food in your stomach the rest of it's a luxury."

presence at our Mobile Harvest distributions has remained consistent. In fact, he has been working alongside us nearly every single day. You can usually find him working the drive-through at Mobile Harvest, loading bags of fresh produce and boxes of non-perishable pantry staples into cars that line up by the hundreds. There are a lot of new faces coming through the line these days, and Adam says he has noticed a change in the demographics of those who are seeking food

"There's a new sense of desperation from the people coming through the line. Even in those few moments while you're loading the groceries into their car, you can feel it. I'm glad I can be part of easing this worry for them." -Adam

assistance. *"There are a lot of people who just last month had a good paying job and all the security that's supposed to mean. I'm sure they never expected to be in this situation."*

That's a feeling that Adam certainly understands, as he watches his own group of friends, many of whom work as independent contractors or in the service industry, face the same circumstances. Like so many of their neighbors, they face long delays for unemployment payments and worry about how they'll cover their expenses.

Thanks to your generous support, our community can rest assured that feeding their families is one thing they don't have to worry about during these uncertain times.



Program Spotlight

Kids Cafe - Serving Children in a New Way

It was supposed to be the regularly scheduled Spring Break for the Washoe County School District, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada was set up to help provide meals to students and siblings who were out of school. The program was quickly changed in response to social distancing guidelines that made a congregate meal program a difficult option. Kids Cafe continued to operate, offering grab-and-go style meals to children at more than 20 sites around the district.

More than half of the children in Washoe County School District qualify for free or reduced school lunch so the program is a vital tool in getting meals to kids who are not in the classroom.

During the first month of the shutdown, with your help, more than 115,000 meals were distributed to children in the Reno/Sparks area!



You Support Is Vital—Now More than Ever

The toll on families right now is staggering. Over night, thousands of people found themselves suddenly out of work and they are still trying to recover.

As we all try to figure out what normal has changed to, many are dealing with the struggle of meeting their family's basic needs.

It takes the whole community to deal with a serious crisis, and we are so grateful for your partnership in continuing to serve our community. You are the ones there for us day in and day out making our work possible.

In just the first weeks of this crisis, the Food Bank has seen an average of 50% more people needing emergency food services. These numbers are difficult to keep up with, but we've been able to meet these significant increases in need because of your support.

The recovery for many will be slow and we appreciate your donations to help us meet this need. If families

have enough nutritious food, they can deal with the other problems they face.

We are grateful for your commitment to helping families through these tough times. You are making such a difference in their lives.

Every \$1 donated helps to put three of these vital meals on to the table for the families we help.



"So many are telling us they don't know where they'd have turned if it wasn't for the Food Bank. People need us, and they are really thankful we're here."

Thank You

We're grateful to the following organizations for their generous hunger-fighting grants:

- **NV Energy Foundation:** \$40,000, COVID Response & Emergency food boxes
- **United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra:** \$25,000 for COVID Response
- **Nell J. Redfield Foundation:** \$20,000 for COVID Response
- **Anthem:** - \$10,000—COVID Response & Mobile Harvest

Planned Giving

A Legacy of Hope

Consider the values you hold dear. Do you believe that no child should go to school on an empty stomach? Do you believe that no senior should skip a meal in order to pay for medication? Will your legacy reflect these core beliefs?

Ensure your legacy by leaving an estate gift to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

For more information, please contact the Development department at 775-331-3663.

Stay connected to the work you support at these sites and on our website at fbnn.org



Yes, Nicole! I want to provide nutritious foods for struggling families in our community.

☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Please sign me up for the Hunger Fighting Champions Monthly giving program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MY PHONE NUMBER IS: (_____) _____

Please make your check payable to:

Food Bank of Northern Nevada
550 Italy Drive | Sparks, NV 89437

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send you a receipt for your records.

Please charge my gift on my credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

May we email you periodically about the Food Bank of Northern Nevada?

@ _____

To charge your gift by phone, please call (775) 331-3663.

It's easy! Give online at fbnn.org

Food Source May2020

Feeding the hungry today and solving hunger for tomorrow through community partnership.

