

Bringing **HOPE** to the Table



When Angelica lost her income due to COVID-19 business closures, the Food Bank helped her make sure her kids had enough food to eat.

Read more inside about Angelica and the ways we're working every day to make sure no kid goes hungry.

**"Knowing people care about your family?
That is the greatest blessing of my life."
-Angelica**

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President's Report



Nicole Lamboley
President and CEO

A word of gratitude from Nicole

The changing color of the trees, leaves falling to the ground, and crisp mornings signal a change of season. It is difficult to believe that the holiday season is nearly upon us with all that we have experienced this year. As we think about how we traditionally spend our holidays and the joy of gathering with family and friends, we know that this holiday season will be different just as much of 2020 has been. For many of our neighbors, uncertainty persists and there are many more worries this holiday season. Whether there will be the money for a Thanksgiving meal at all or whether rent and food are both on the menu. Families are facing choices that seem unthinkable to us, but it is a reality that a basic necessity like food seems a luxury in the budgets of many of our community members.

Throughout this trying year, you have been there for these families. We are grateful that, with your support and despite the increase of those seeking help, we haven't had to turn anyone away. We know that this holiday season and the months ahead will be challenging for the thousands of people still dealing with the economic hardships that the pandemic has created. We want to make sure that we can take the worry of providing nourishing food off the minds of families so they too can enjoy their loved ones and deal with the difficult times ahead.

You are a great partner in our fight against hunger. While we know that there were many families facing hunger before the pandemic started, the fact is that those needing food assistance has grown even more. People who were close to the edge and needed occasional assistance may need more of our help now. This Thanksgiving and beyond, I remain thankful for you and your spirit of generosity.

With gratitude,

Nicole Lamboley, President and CEO

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I'm So Thankful to Know My Kids Are Getting the Food They Need

My name is Angelica, and I'm a single mom with two children. I work full-time at a restaurant in one of the local casinos. Before the pandemic happened, I would sometimes visit the Food Bank's Mobile Harvest to help stretch my food budget. When businesses closed in March, I was out of work for 3 months. Even now that I'm back to work, I'm

"I was so thankful to get the call to return to work, but the reality is my income now is still much lower than before. I'm working less hours, and the tips we often rely on are just not like they were before."

having a much harder time making ends meet than I was before. I'm trying to catch up on the bills that I couldn't pay while I wasn't able to work, and my income is fluctuating a lot more than it did before. That's why I'm so thankful to know that I can depend on the Food Bank to be here to help me so that my kids don't have to go without the meals they need. I've been going to

Mobile Harvest every week since the spring, and having that healthy food has been really incredible. I also visit the pantry at my son's school each week to get other staples. Even during the summer break, the coordinator there checked in to make sure that we had what we needed so that my son could come back to school ready to learn in the fall. Knowing that I am surrounded by so many caring people really takes so much of the worry and stress off of my shoulders. Thank you.

Now more than ever, our community needs us. With so many uncertainties in the day-to-day and in this school year, knowing that there will be meals on the table is such a blessing to children and their parents.

This Means Everything to the Families at My School

As a coordinator with Communities in Schools of Western Nevada (CIS), Carolina wears a lot of hats. She spends her days working hard to connect students and their families to the resources they need to be successful in school.

"If we want kids to be able to be here focused on learning, we have to make sure their basic needs are met." That means helping with school supplies, having a clothing closet on site, and running the school's food pantry, which is open weekly to school families.

Almost immediately, families who had never reached out for food assistance were relying on the extra groceries they were able to get thanks to the school pantry.

Throughout the summer, Carolina checked in regularly with her families and even delivered food to their doorsteps when needed. And as the new school year began, one of her first priorities was to ensure those families knew that she and the school are here and ready to help in any way they can.

It's no surprise that this year has put parents under a tremendous amount of stress. For families that were already struggling, having the support of a food pantry nestled into their child's school may make all the difference in feeling comfortable with reaching out to ask for help. Carolina knows that as families begin the long recovery from the financial hardships that COVID-19 brought with it, the school pantry will continue to be a vital resource for many of them.

When schools first closed in March, Carolina and other CIS coordinators throughout Washoe County school sites saw a dramatic increase in the number of families turning to their pantries for help.

"Our families are facing so much uncertainty right now. I think it's really important for them not only to be able to get the food they need but to just have that stability of knowing that, yes, we're going to continue to be here helping them through this no matter what." -Carolina



Programs Spotlight

Full Tummies and a Helping of Hope

At the Food Bank, we believe that child hunger is one of the most serious issues that we face as a community. There are so many developmental and health concerns when a child isn't getting the healthy food they need as they grow.

Even before the economic impact of the pandemic took its hold on Nevada, 1 in 4 of our children didn't have enough food to eat. We know that's important to you, and it's very important to us, too. That's why we work hard throughout the year to provide a variety of programs designed to make sure that kids and their families are able to access the healthy meals they need.

With each new school year, we continue to expand our School Pantry program, and we now have 35 pantries established with others scheduled to open this year. Our Mobile Harvest program focuses on providing nutritious fruits and vegetables, along with other fresh foods, to ensure the meals kids are eating are both filling and healthy. During school closures, we worked closely with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and school districts in our communities to ensure that students weren't missing meals they rely on, and we've continued to do that into the current school year so that our Kids Cafe programs can continue to provide free meals to kids after school and when they are on school breaks.

The COVID-19 crisis may have changed the way we approach serving kids and their families, but our commitment to ensuring they get the meals they need to thrive is as strong as ever.



Your Support Keeps Kids from Going to Bed Hungry

Families are working hard to make ends meet and provide for their children. Unfortunately, the problem is simple math, and when the bills are paid there is often not enough for the nutritious food necessary to keep the family healthy. We hear all the time how parents skip meals to make sure that there is enough food for their kids to eat.

We are so grateful that with your support, parents don't have to make such difficult choices and possibly sacrifice their own health. We all agree that it is of utmost importance that children receive the food they need. Without proper nutrition, children struggle in school and may be sick more often.

During this difficult time, YOU are making it possible for us to rush food resources to partners and neighborhoods so our neighbors can take a deep breath and know that food will be on their family table.

As the weather gets colder and the holiday season is upon us, families will struggle even more with their very limited budgets. Thank you so much for understanding that every donation counts in the fight against hunger, and for helping us to get kids fed!

Every \$1 provides 3 nutritious meals for kids right here in our community. Thank you for filling hungry tummies so our kids can grow and thrive.

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



Save the Date

September - Hunger Action Month

11/22 - Pie It Forward Bake Sale at Peppermill

12/11 - KTVN Share Your Christmas Drive-By Food Drive

For more information about these events, please visit our website at fbnn.org/events.

Thank You

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

- **Marguerite Wattis Peterson Foundation** - \$25,000
- **Whitt Family Foundation** - \$25,000
- **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation** - \$20,000
- **Save Mart Cares** - \$5,000 for Produce on Wheels

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.

Yes, Nicole! I want to provide nutritious meals for children and their families.

☐ \$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 Nov2020

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