

Delivering MEALS & Peace of Mind Across Our Region

"Being the person who needs help is incredibly humbling, but I'm so thankful to know there are people in our community who care enough to help us." -Nicole

Nicole dedicated her life to helping others. After an illness left her disabled, she and her husband struggled to adjust to the impact on their finances. Then COVID turned their worlds upside down.

Read more inside about Nicole's story and all of the ways we continue to help families like hers.

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President's Report



Nicole Lamboley
President and CEO

A word of gratitude from Nicole

It is hard to believe that as I pen this note, it has been a year since the pandemic first took hold, turning our lives, and that of our communities, upside down. We expected it would pass quickly, but as we all know too well, it has been twelve months of uncertainty. The only certainty has been supporters like you who have made it possible for us to offer food and hope to those families across our region who have faced economic hardship. Hunger was very prevalent in our community before the pandemic and with all that has happened, it is even more common. We continue to see new faces each month and the number of people needing assistance remains high.

We know that access to nutritious food is vital for the health of our community and its future. Children are now more than ever at risk of food insecurity, and this can lead to academic challenges and health issues. We are committed to providing these children and their families access to food resources through our partnerships with schools and community organizations.

For those who do not know where their next meal will come from, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada can help put their minds at ease with the knowledge that our generous supporters are ready to help their family through this tough time.

Thank you so much for being our partner in this fight against hunger. By working together, we can connect people to the food resources they need as we continue to improve our community's overall health and food security.

Together, we can solve hunger.

With gratitude,

Nicole Lamboley, President and CEO

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I Never Expected to Be in This Position

My name is Nicole. My husband and I have two children. I worked so hard to get my Master of Social Work Degree and loved spending my career helping others. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder that eventually forced me to leave my job. It took a long time for my husband and I to adjust to the significant change in our income, but we have slowly rebuilt since then.

"Most days, we only have food on the table because of the Food Bank. As hard as it is to seek out the help, I am so, so thankful for this. It really makes all the difference for our family."

My husband was out of work for several months when the pandemic first started, and our world was flipped upside down again. We only had my small disability check for income. His unemployment didn't process until after he was already back to work, and even now that he's working again, he's working a lot less hours than he was before this started. It's going to take a long time for us to recover from the financial strain this has put on our family.

I feel like I'm constantly making impossible choices with the very little money we have now. Trying to decide whether to buy the things my kids need for school, pay the power bill or rent, or have insurance and gas for the car my husband needs to get to work is incredibly stressful. It's such a blessing to know that having food doesn't have to be on that list of choices. I'm used to being the one helping others, and asking for help from the Food Bank was very humbling. I really appreciate how kind and caring everyone is when we visit. Thank you.

For the thousands of families we serve each month, the struggle to put food on the table is just one of a long list of concerns they're facing every day. Your support means facing one less impossible choice.

It's an Honor to Serve These Communities

When Mike first joined the Food Bank team as a Nutrition Educator three years ago, he often had the opportunity to travel with our programs staff to Food Bank distributions across our entire service area. Mike found that he really enjoyed being able to see and learn more about the small, rural communities we serve, and he was excited to transition to the role of Programs Specialist when it came available.

Now, Mike spends most of his work week visiting communities throughout northern Nevada with our Mobile Harvest program. As Mobile Harvest continues to grow and expand into more communities, Mike says it's an honor to be able to be part of bringing this important resource to those who need it most.

"A lot of the communities we visit have so few resources. Some of them are lucky if they have even one grocery store. So, when we roll into town with the Mobile Harvest truck, you can see that it is really impactful for them to have access to these great, healthy options:"

When Mike asks clients how the pandemic has effected their financial situation, most say it's put tremendous strain on their already stretched budgets. Not having to worry about feeding their families brings so much peace of mind. Mike says he's proud to be part of an organization that is always ready to rise to any challenges we may face.

"The people I work with all have such a heart for those we serve, and it makes me really proud to be part of this team. I've known that as long as I've worked here, but the past year it's been even more apparent."



"I hear a lot from people who say they don't know what they'd do without the Food Bank. The need in many of our communities is very high, particularly right now, and the people we see come through our distributions are so appreciative that we're there." -Mike

Programs Spotlight

Mobile Harvest: 90,000 Square Miles of Fresh Produce and Hope



For so many of the families we serve, Mobile Harvest is a vital program that allows them to access the healthy, nutritious foods that can often feel out of reach. The Mobile Harvest program focuses on delivering fresh produce. For parents with a limited to no grocery budget, knowing that they are able to still provide the kinds of foods that their children need to grow and thrive is an incredible blessing.

Over the past two years, our Mobile Harvest program has seen significant growth, and this year our programs team is working hard to bring this fresh food to more rural communities than ever before. Since October 2020, the program has expanded into six new rural communities, including two tribal communities. We know that access to fresh produce can be especially challenging in the rural areas we serve, and we're so thankful to be able to provide this resource.

Already, we're seeing a lot of new faces at each monthly distribution as clients have been eager to share this new resource with neighbors and friends.

"People's eyes just get wide when they see how beautiful the produce is. For a lot of those visiting us, this kind of good, healthy food has been out of reach for a long time." -Mike

Your Kindness Makes All the Difference in the Lives of So Many

It's been a long, tough year for so many in the communities we serve. We hear frequently from families who are often forced to make tough choices with their limited financial resources, and the pandemic has made this a stark reality for more people than ever before. Neighbors who were already struggling to make ends meet, and thousands more who never expected to find themselves needing to ask for help, have carried the stress of wondering how they'll pay for life's most basic necessities.

This past year has found so many in our community struggling with the uncertainty and fears brought on by

the COVID-19 pandemic. During a time when so much was unknown, you made it possible for us to bring a sense of security and peace of mind to families across our region. Never has your support been more vital than it is now, as we all set out together on the long road to recovery from the financial impact of the pandemic.

Please know that every \$1 donated helps us to provide three meals for families all over our 90,000 square mile service area who would not otherwise have a meal on the table.



Thank You

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

- **The Albertsons Companies Foundation** - \$130,360
- **Share Our Strength** - \$103,900
- **E.L. Cord Foundation** - \$100,000
- **The Hearst Foundations** - \$100,000
- **The Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation** - \$50,000
- **The Jack Van Sickle Foundation** - \$40,000
- **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation** - \$35,000
- **Delta Dental Community Care Foundation** - \$25,000
- **Dermody Properties Capstone Award** - \$25,000
- **The Nell J. Redfield Foundation** - \$20,000
- **Centene Management Company LLC** - \$15,000
- **Charles H. Stout Foundation** - \$10,000
- **The Kroger Co. Foundation** - \$10,000

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



Save the Date

April - National Volunteer Month

5/8 - National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

5/19 - CANstruction Design/Build Competition

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

Yes, Nicole! I want to provide nutritious foods for 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 March 2021

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