



October 2024

Dear Food Bank Friend:

It's my pleasure to share with you our FY 24 Impact Report highlighting our contributions to advancing efforts to reduce food insecurity. Our community played an integral role in helping us distribute food, deliver services and launch new initiatives to support our neighbors throughout our 90,000-square-mile service area in northern Nevada and the eastern California Sierra.

With your generous support, we kept pace in meeting the growing need for food assistance. On average, we are now feeding 155,000 neighbors every month—a 70% increase from pre-pandemic levels and an 11% increase compared to just a year ago.

As food insecurity continues to rise, our mission—and your support—is more urgent and necessary than ever before. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and together, we are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors, ensuring food and nutrition security for all.

United Hand in Hand Against Hunger,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Lamboley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Lamboley
President & CEO

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FOOD BANK
OF NORTHERN NEVADA

40TH
ANNIVERSARY

FY2024

**IMPACT
REPORT**



Sustaining Community.
Sharing a Table.



Nourishing Hope.

Unprecedented Need Results in Record-Breaking Year of Food Distribution

The Food Bank tracked a growing increase in families and individuals turning to our organization and our network of 155 partner agencies for food assistance during FY2024. FBNN currently serves an average of 155,000 people per month—a 70% increase compared to just before the pandemic hit. Continued high housing costs along with the persistent elevated grocery prices and other expenses have made it challenging for families to make ends meet. FBNN distributed a record 25.2 million pounds of food in FY2024, and with meals provided via Kids Cafe and through SNAP Outreach benefits, a total of 21.7 million meals were provided to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.



Stefanie, a mother of two, was introduced to Mobile Harvest by her mom. With only one income and rising costs, her family struggled to afford healthy meals. Once passionate about cooking, one of Stefanie's favorite hobbies now felt stressful. Since visiting Mobile Harvest, she and her husband now have access to fresh produce and staples, allowing them to provide nutritious meals and snacks for their daughters. This has eased their financial burden and brought hope back to their kitchen.

Commemorating 40 Years of Feeding Our Neighbors

In October 2023, donors, volunteers, and Food Bank staff gathered for a lively celebration marking 40 years of service. The Imagine Ending Hunger Experience, held at Reno's Renaissance Hotel, featured chefs Mark Estee and Sean Munshaw preparing fresh tapas in the R/Lab demonstration kitchen. Guests enjoyed bocce, arcade games, and explored a pictorial timeline showcasing the Food Bank's key milestones over four decades.

The event also included a vibrant silent auction, adding to the excitement of the evening. Together, attendees raised an impressive \$50,000 for The Oddie Project, a community resource hub in partnership with The Children's Cabinet. These funds will support the design phase of the project, helping to expand the Food Bank's impact in the community.

The night was a wonderful blend of fun, reflection, and generosity, all aimed at building a brighter future for those in need.



Nicole Lamboley, president and CEO, with Cherie Jamason, who served as president and CEO for more than 30 years.

Strategies to Tackle Nutrition Security

The USDA defines nutrition security as consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food essential for optimal health. At the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, we understand that access to the right foods is crucial for community well-being. That's why we focus on sourcing fresh produce, lean proteins, and other nutritious options. Last year, 32% of the food we distributed was fresh produce—a significant shift from the early days of mostly non-perishable items. Over 6 million pounds of fresh produce reached our partner agencies, with an additional 2 million pounds distributed through programs like Mobile Harvest, Produce on Wheels, and the Senior Nutrition and Wellness program.

To promote healthier choices, our SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries) initiative empowers 32 partner pantries to prioritize nutrition education and access. Additionally, the Prescription Pantry program collaborates with healthcare providers to connect patients with health conditions to nutritious foods at 14 participating pantries. Through these efforts, we aim to make nutritious, fresh food accessible to all, improving the health and lives of our community members.

Innovation & Partnership to Better Serve Communities

During FY24, the Food Bank launched two key initiatives: The Oddie Project and Rural Food Access. These efforts aim to enhance resources for communities with high food insecurity, supporting families in becoming healthier and thriving.

In partnership with The Children's Cabinet, a leading Nevada nonprofit, we are developing a vibrant neighborhood center. This center will offer quality childcare, workforce development, a commercial kitchen, a food pantry market, meeting spaces for nonprofits, and more. The project is currently in the design and early construction phase, and we look forward to updating the community and supporters as it progresses.

With a \$3 million grant from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, we're addressing challenges in rural areas, such as food deserts and long distances between towns. After consulting with rural communities and partners, we are in the process of purchasing a building in Elko to serve as a food distribution hub and support services center.

Symposium Focuses on Food as Medicine

The Food Bank, Nevada Chapter of the American College Cardiology, Renown Health, and the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine hosted a symposium on June 20th focused on the connection between food and health. Healthcare, diet, and social service experts discussed dietary risk, nutrition security, and the broader context of health equity.

With nearly 50% of deaths from cardiovascular disease linked to dietary risk, this was an important topic for our community and one we will continue to spotlight. The Food Bank's growing Prescription Pantry program was highlighted during the event held at the William N. Pennington Health Science Building at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC, Associate Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine and (by courtesy) the Stanford Prevention Research Center. Dr. Letitia Anderson, MD, the Food Bank's Vice Chair and Governor of the Nevada Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, spearheaded the planning for the Symposium and served as emcee.

Produce on Wheels Expansion

Since its launch in 2020, Produce on Wheels has been a lifeline, delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to seniors 60 and up. The program's success led to the addition of a second truck and expanded routes, now reaching 43 sites each month and serving nearly 2,000 seniors throughout Washoe County and 18 rural northern Nevada communities.

Ann, a retired VA hospital employee who is proud to have served those who served their country, has been visiting Produce on Wheels since the program first began visiting her neighborhood. On a fixed income, Ann struggles to afford nutritious food. Thanks to Produce on Wheels, she enjoys fresh produce she might not otherwise afford. She shares, **"I wonder if I'd be standing here without this help. I rely on it for fresh, healthy food."**

For many seniors like Ann, navigating fixed incomes while covering rising living costs can be challenging. Your support makes it possible for Produce on Wheels to continue providing essential, nutritious food to those in need.



"The reservation is 15 miles from town, so this resource is a huge win for the tribal citizens. With this new resource, they are well on their way to a sustainable food source located right on their homelands."

-Amber Torres

Better Serving Our Tribal Communities

In June 2024, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada celebrated the grand opening of the Toi Ticutta Food Hub in Fallon, marking a key step in expanding food access for underserved communities. Last year, the Food Bank and its partners served over 42,500 Tribal community members, highlighting the need for greater food resources to combat regional food insecurity.

Amber Torres, tribal liaison for the Food Bank, attended the ribbon-cutting, thanking the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Council and staff, including pantry director Cathryn Foote and emergency management director Jackie Conway. The Toi Ticutta Food Hub will provide critical food access to the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the broader Fallon community. The Food Bank's partner agencies, like this one, are essential in distributing nutritious food across the service area, ensuring that all families have the healthy food they need to thrive.

Our vision for the future is **healthy food, every person, every day.**
Thank you for making that a reality for so many of our neighbors.

With your partnership, last year we...

Delivered **21.7 million meals** through partner agencies and direct service programs, serving an average of 155,000 people each month.



Supported children with 436,822 meals through school pantries and Kids Cafe Meals

2.1 million meals of fresh food to more than 45 neighborhoods through Mobile Harvest

186,305 meals were provided through Prescription Pantry

413,999 meals through SNAP Outreach



1.3 million meals to seniors through Senior Nutrition & Wellness and Produce on Wheels Programs

32% of all food distributed was fresh produce

Many Hands Make Light Work

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is supported in such an incredible way by so many people, who offer their most valuable resource, their time, to help support nutritious food access in our communities. Volunteers at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada work in the warehouse to sort and pack food donations to be distributed to partner agencies, bag produce for school pantries and more. They also help pack and hand out food at our direct service programs, which are generally facilitated outside, regardless of weather.

Last year, the Food Bank had 4,298 individuals offer 24,522 hours of volunteer time, which is the equivalent of nearly 12 full-time employees.

UNITED HAND IN HAND AGAINST HUNGER

FOOD BANK OF NORTHERN NEVADA
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