

**TRI-STATE
FOOD BANK**
A member of **FEEDING
AMERICA**

**FOOD ON
THE MOVE**

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES BY EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH FOOD AND HOPE.

A Message from Glenn



“We Supply Food Where It’s Needed Most” is not just a catchy motto, it’s the driving force that shapes Tri-State Food Bank’s activities and programs. In October, 2023, we successfully launched our newest initiative called **FOOD ON THE MOVE** – a client choice, mobile pantry program serving families in isolated, rural southern Illinois communities with high food insecurity rates and very low access to nutritious food – a prime example of ‘where it’s needed most’. Tri-State Food Bank has partnered with members of the University of Illinois Health Equity Achieved Together (HEAT) Team to develop the **FOOD ON THE MOVE** program. Following a balanced nutrition policy, **FOOD ON THE MOVE** provides fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, bread, meat, canned goods and dry staples to families facing hunger.

In its pilot year, **FOOD ON THE MOVE** will make monthly visits to two communities in rural southern Illinois – one in New Haven (Gallatin Co.) at the New Haven Community Building, and one in Ullin (Pulaski Co.) at the First Baptist Church. Assisted by on-site volunteers, the **FOOD ON THE MOVE** mobile pantry trailer sets up in a parking lot to provide a grocery store shopping experience in which the participants walk through and select items at no cost to take home and enjoy. The twenty-eight foot mobile pantry trailer is customized with shelving, coolers, portable freezers, and other features to make for a comfortable shopping experience.

Glenn Roberts, Executive Director

TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES.

YOUR SUPPORT MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN 2023...

Over **15 MILLION POUNDS** of food was distributed to our Tri-State neighbors in need.

TSFB'S MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM PROVIDED OVER 400,000 MEALS IN HIGH POVERTY AREAS

During 2023, we held 139 Mobile Food Distributions (MFDs) throughout our 33-county Tri-State service area, distributing 480,533 pounds of food to 16,000 households. For each MFD, we load up one of our refrigerated box trucks with pre-packed boxes of food staples, supplemented with available perishable items such as fresh produce, milk, eggs, and protein. The truck then goes to a partnering site at a scheduled time, and local volunteers help load the food into vehicles as they arrive over a 2-hour time period.



Volunteers prepare to distribute food at one of the MFDs held monthly in the parking lot of Bosse Field in Evansville.

NEW PROGRAMS HELP COMBAT LOCAL HUNGER

OVER 8 TONS OF FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED IN FIRST YEAR OF NEW FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

Launched in August 2023, Pop-up Produce Giveaways is one of Tri-State Food Bank's newest programs. On occasion, we will have surplus fresh fruits and vegetables that we wish to give away to neighbors in need quickly before it spoils. This program serves low-income communities in the Evansville area — mainly apartment complexes, residential neighborhoods, and housing developments — which can provide a parking spot for the TSFB truck and enable us to distribute the fresh produce directly to individuals and families, with the help of volunteers. This program serves as an excellent way to recover surplus produce so it ends up in the homes of those in need, instead of ending up in dumpsters and going to waste.



TSFB staff and Green River Kiwanis volunteers distribute fresh fruits and vegetables at a Pop-up Produce Giveaway at Village Green Apartments.

NEW MOBILE PANTRY TRAVELS TO RURAL 'FOOD DESERTS' IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Since **FOOD ON THE MOVE** was launched in October, over 15,000 pounds of food has been provided to 250 households in rural southern Illinois. Clients have the opportunity to enter the **FOOD ON THE MOVE** trailer to select the items needed by their families. This project is supported in part by a USDA Emergency Rural Health Care grant which covered the cost of purchasing and customizing the trailer, plus the purchase of a new Ford F-250 pickup truck to haul it. The first year's operating expenses are covered by a generous grant from Builders Initiative. The success of **FOOD ON THE MOVE** is attributed to the collaborative work between Tri-State Food Bank staff; the University of Illinois Extension; students from Vienna High School (Johnson Co.); community volunteers in New Haven and Ullin; Arrowleaf; and Jeremy Ming, Facility Manager of TSFB's Fresh Produce Distribution Center in Vienna, IL.



The **FOOD ON THE MOVE** trailer is stocked with fresh food and pantry staples during a November giveaway in New Haven, IL. (See cover for additional **FOOD ON THE MOVE** details.)

IMPACTING MORE LIVES THROUGH GROWTH...

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

In 2005 Tri-State Food Bank launched the Weekend Backpack Food for Kids Program, which provides children on the National Free School Lunch Program with healthy meals and snacks for the weekend when school lunch is not available. Volunteers at Tri-State Food Bank assemble and carefully pack the nearly 6-pound bag of entrees and snacks. Backpack bags are delivered to students by teachers or staff on the last day of the school week in a discreet manner that varies from school to school.

During 2023, **76,000 food bags** were distributed to students enrolled in this program, providing 456,000 total meals to help them make it through the weekend and back to school on Monday mornings, ready to learn.



The Weekend Backpack Program had a 32% increase in enrollment in 2023 compared to the previous year, and is now offered at 111 Tri-State schools and agencies.

OPERATION FULL PACK NOW SERVES OVER 3,000 VETERANS



Launched locally in 2022, Operation Full Pack provides monthly food boxes for low-income veterans, active military, and their households through our partnership with military-serving organizations. Once a month, TSFB sends bulk food items and supplies to our partnering Operation Full Pack sites, where volunteers pack the food in boxes.

During 2023, we expanded Operation Full Pack into Morganfield, KY in partnership with Griggs-Alvey American Legion Post # 48; and into Owensboro, KY in partnership with VFW Post 696. Both of these new Operation Full Pack sites have seen a large turnout of veterans signing up for the program, with a steady growth each month. We also established partnerships to launch Operation Full Pack in Daviess County, IN in February 2024.

Through a total of 55 Operation Full Pack distribution events held in 2023, nearly 65,000 pounds of food was distributed to deserving veterans last year, providing well over 50,000 meals to 3,216 veteran and military households. As we receive additional funding for this program through grants and individual donations, we hope to gradually roll it out in each of the 33 counties in our Tri-State service area.

EXPANSION OF SENIOR FOOD PROGRAMS



Through a generous grant from Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, we were able to further expand our Senior Grocery Program in 2023, adding 4 new program sites in KY and IN to bring the total to 14. Because of this expansion, the number of seniors we are able to serve each month through this program increased from 1,000 to 1,540. We provided more than 15,000 bags of groceries to low-income seniors during 2023. Each Senior Grocery Program bag is packed with food that includes fresh fruits and vegetables, protein items such as canned chicken and tuna, peanut butter, canned beans, oats, rice, pasta, soup, and milk. The donations we receive from individuals and businesses are vital to sustain this program so we can continue to help seniors thrive.

Furthermore, we added 7 new partnering agency sites for our federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program, enabling us to provide this service to 37 additional seniors. During 2023, our 46 partnering CSFP sites distributed nearly 35,000 boxes of food to seniors, equaling nearly 1.5 million meals.

By providing these programs in our community, we seek to improve the health of our low-income elderly population by supplementing their diets with nutritious foods.

We could not do all that we do without the help of our many supporters throughout the community.
Thank You!



During 2023, over 9,000 volunteer hours were provided at Tri-State Food Bank by 1,400 individual community members from area businesses, civic groups, clubs, local high schools, and universities!

WE SUPPLY FOOD TO OVER 160 PARTNERING AGENCIES, IN INDIANA, ILLINOIS, AND KENTUCKY INCLUDING PANTRIES, SHELTERS, AND SOUP KITCHENS

A member of the Feeding America network of food banks, Tri-State Food Bank collects, stores, and supplies food to non-profit feeding organizations throughout a 33-county service area which includes 9 counties in Indiana, 8 counties in Kentucky, and 16 counties in Illinois. Partnered feeding programs, or 'agencies', order and pick up nutritious food and fresh produce from Tri-State Food Bank's main warehouse facility on Lynch Road in Evansville, and also from its Fresh Produce Distribution Center located in Vienna, Illinois. Tri-State Food Bank utilizes a fleet of trucks to deliver throughout its service area as well. It is through these valued partnered agencies that individuals in need receive food assistance.

WE'RE ON A MISSION...

To improve the quality of life for our community's food-insecure families and children by providing adequate food and nutrition through our network of local charities and organizations feeding the hungry.

Give Funds

Become a recurring monthly donor. It's an easy and convenient way to give and support Tri-State Food Bank's work year-round. Set up a recurring gift and we will take care of the rest. If you are interested in making a planned gift, such as a bequest or gift of stock, please call our **Development Director, Denise Rodgers, at (812) 303-3595.**

Donate Online

Right now, 1 in 6 people in the Tri-State don't have enough to eat. Your gift will help provide food and hope to hungry children, families, and seniors right here in our community.



www.tristatefoodbank.org
or scan this code!

By Mail

We also accept gifts by mail. Please make check payable to Tri-State Food Bank and send to:

Tri-State Food Bank • 2504 Lynch Road • Evansville, IN 47711

By Phone

If you would like to make a gift by phone, you can do so by calling:

Mardi File, Donor Relations Manager • (812) 303-3590

Give Food

Food from industry partners and community food drives is vital to helping us provide food for better lives each year. To learn more about hosting a food drive, visit our website at www.tristatefoodbank.org or call Keith Lehman, Operations Director, at (812) 303-3575.

Give Time

Volunteer your time and talent individually, or as a group, to help feed our neighbors in need. Volunteers may sign up on our website: www.tristatefoodbank.volunteerhub.com. To learn more about volunteering, contact Kimberly Thomas, Development & Volunteer Coordinator, at volcoord@tristatefoodbank.org or call (812) 303-3589.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!