

We could not begin to accomplish all that we do without support from the community.

Thank you!

During calendar year 2024, an amazing **11,846 volunteer hours** were provided at Tri-State Food Bank by 1,620 volunteers from area businesses, civic groups, clubs, local high schools, and universities!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Each volunteer is crucial to the mission of Tri-State Food Bank. Some volunteers go above and beyond. One such volunteer is **Julie Gaisser**. Since she began volunteering at Tri-State Food Bank in November 2022, Julie has participated in nearly 200 shifts and events — contributing over 700 hours of service. She enthusiastically helps where needed — whether in the Volunteer Center, at a Mobile Food Distribution, special event or during fund drives. When our need for volunteers turns urgent, Julie not only answers the call, but also actively recruits others to join her. Julie’s generosity also extends to her fellow volunteers. She frequently brings in treats for those working in the Volunteer Center. Julie is always quick to welcome new volunteers and show them the ropes. Because of her remarkable dedication, we extend heartfelt thanks to Julie for all she does for Tri-State Food Bank and her community.



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Tri-State Food Bank is blessed to have many businesses, organizations, schools, places of worship and clubs volunteer their time and talents to Tri-State Food Bank. Many groups return to support us multiple times a year. Several groups are committed to volunteering on a monthly basis. We express our deepest gratitude to these dedicated, monthly volunteers:

AARP of Indiana, Celanese, Eastland Mall, Evansville North Civitan Club, Evansville Green River Kiwanis, Methodist Temple United Methodist Church, and OneMain Financial (Corporate Office, IT, and Facilities)



Cold Storage Warehouse in Vienna, IL



2024 IMPACT REPORT

TRI-STATE FOOD BANK

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**



Max Albritten, start-up pig farmer, makes his first delivery of pork.

In 2024, Tri-State Food Bank was awarded the largest single grant in its 42 year history — \$1.1M — and was selected as a Lead Agency to implement a new program in southern Illinois called **Illinois Equitable Access Towards Sustainable Systems (IL-EATS)** designed to increase access to high-quality, local foods in underserved communities. Funded by the USDA’s Local Food Purchase Assistance program (LFPA), IL-EATS is transforming Illinois’ food system by sourcing fresh, local foods from socially disadvantaged farmers in Illinois and delivering them to underserved communities across the state. Farmers are paid market value for their products, and neighbors in need can access high-quality produce, proteins, dairy, and grains at no cost through food pantries, soup kitchens, mobile pantries and food box programs. The program aims to:

- Support local food producers, especially socially disadvantaged farmers
- Enhance access to fresh, local foods in underserved communities
- Build and expand market opportunities for local farmers
- Develop sustainable partnerships between farmers and community partners

Tri-State Food Bank kicked off the program in April, 2024 utilizing its 3,500 square foot satellite cold storage warehouse in Vienna (Johnson Co.) located in the heart of southern Illinois. In the first nine months (April – December, 2024), Tri-State Food Bank distributed **210,424 pounds** of fresh, locally grown food to **21 community partners** including food pantries, soup kitchens, and its *FOOD ON THE MOVE* client choice mobile pantry. Local farmers received a combined total of **\$1,030,393** for their products which included a bountiful mix of:

Fresh vegetables: squash (butternut and yellow), zucchini, cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes (heirloom, cherry, grape) cauliflower, cucumbers, green onion, collards, kale chard, lettuce, peppers (bell, habanero, poblano, jalapeño and Hungarian), green beans, russet potatoes, sweet potatoes, leaf rosemary

Fresh fruits: Apples, peaches, strawberries

Meat and protein: Ground pork, pork chops, pork ribs, beef roasts, ground beef, whole chickens, and whole turkeys, fresh eggs

Minimally processed items: Applesauce, honey

Thousands of our neighbors in southern Illinois continue to be exceedingly grateful to receive such high quality, locally grown produce and protein items in abundant amounts to mitigate food insecurity. We appreciate the partnership we have with the University of Illinois Extension and the Illinois Dept. of Human Services to make this program a success.

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 Michael O’Brien, 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!

TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES.

YOUR SUPPORT MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN 2024:

Over **16.5 MILLION POUNDS** of food was distributed to our neighbors in need.

TSFB'S MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM SUPPLIES FOOD WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

In 2024, TSFB held 79 Mobile Food Distribution (MFDs) throughout its 33-county service area distributing 305,689 pounds of food to 10,774 households and 23,502 individuals. For each mobile food distribution, TSFB staff load up one of our refrigerated box trucks with pre-packed boxes of non-perishable food staples, supplemented with available perishable items such as fresh produce, milk, eggs, and protein items. The truck travels 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.

One variation of TSFB's mobile food distribution is our **POP-UP PRODUCE GIVEAWAY PROGRAM** which serves low-income communities primarily in the Evansville area. Sites include apartment complexes, residential neighborhoods, churches, and housing developments that can provide a parking lot on short notice for the TSFB truck and enable us to distribute fresh produce directly to families with the help of volunteers. This program is designed to quickly distribute fresh produce which has been rescued from local grocery stores to our local neighbors in order to prevent food waste. In 2024 the Pop-Up Produce Giveaway Program distributed 63,819 pounds of food to 1,978 households and 3,644 individuals.

TSFB'S CLIENT CHOICE, MOBILE PANTRY — **FOOD ON THE MOVE** — SERVES TARGETED COMMUNITITES IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Launched in October, 2023, **FOOD ON THE MOVE**, a client choice, mobile pantry made 22 distributions and distributed 68,458 pounds of nutritious food including non-perishable pantry staples, fresh produce, milk, eggs, and meats including pork, chicken, and beef. The trailer made monthly visits to New Haven (Gallatin Co.) and Ullin (Pulaski Co.) supported by volunteers and the University of Illinois Extension. A total of 1,402 households representing 3,391 individuals benefitted from this customer focused program.



WE SUPPLY FOOD TO OVER 160 PARTNER 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 ("agencies") order and pick up nutritious food and fresh produce from TSFB'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 facing food insecurity 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.

OPERATION FULL PACK SERVED OVER 10,000 INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS

Launched in 2022, Operation Full Pack provides monthly boxes of food for Veteran households through our partnerships with military service organizations. Once a month TSFB sends non-perishable bulk food items and supplies to our partnering OFP sites where volunteers pack the food in boxes. Our partners include:

- Abe Lincoln American Legion Post 444 in Dale, IN
- American Legion Post 366 in Saint Meinrad, IN
- Bloomfield Wesley Chapel in Chrisney, IN
- Worsham American Legion Post 40 in Henderson, KY
- Griggs Alvey American Legion Post 44 in Morganfield, KY
- VFW Post 696 in Owensboro, KY
- Union County Senior Services in Morganfield, KY

In 2024, Operation Full Pack performed 68 events distributing 97,628 pounds of food to 5,972 households representing over 10,000 individuals.



WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM FILLS WEEKEND MEAL GAP FOR CHILDREN

Now in its 20th year, Tri-State Food Bank's Weekend Backpack Food for Kids Program provides children on the National Free School Lunch Program with healthy meals and snacks for the weekend when school lunch is not available. Backpack food packages are delivered discreetly to students by teachers or staff on the last day of the school week. In 2024, Tri-State Food Bank distributed 65,074 Backpack food packages and a total of 352,604 meals through its 104 partner schools and sites.



PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Tri-State Food Bank continues to focus on overlooked populations and that includes our senior citizens. TSFB participates in the federal Community Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois in through which eligible recipients receive a 30 lb. monthly box of food. In 2024 TSFB distributed 33,236 boxes — **the equivalent of 1,606,112 meals** — through this program to low-income seniors. TSFB has also established its very own, grant-supported program called the Senior Grocery Program and through this endeavor distributed 13,305 bags of food providing over 240,000 meals. The Senior Grocery Programs includes fresh produce which is greatly appreciated by the senior clients.

