The early months of the pandemic were rough. Find out how we responded.

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A record-setting 16.35 million pounds of food was distributed in 2020. Here’s our year by the numbers.

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It was more important than ever for us to get food into our communities but we didn’t have our volunteers.

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A Message From the CEO

Year of Challenges Gives Way to a Year of Hope

The phones rang as mothers, grandparents, veterans, and young families called, not knowing where to go to put food on their tables. As schools and businesses closed or reduced operations, many of our neighbors found themselves with nowhere to turn for the basic need of food. The early months of the pandemic were extremely worrisome for not just us, but food banks across the country. Will we run out of food? Will the truckload of chicken noodle soup be delivered on time? How high are prices going to rise? How long can we continue this heightened response? Those were just a few of the many questions we faced in 2020.

Fortunately, our staff, agencies, volunteers, and donors stepped up to ensure we could meet the increased need — a need that, in the early months, more than doubled in many of our communities; a need that has seen gradual improvement, but is still high today. In 2019, we served an average of 63,000 individuals per month through our agency network, mobile food pantries, Backpacks for Friday program, and senior boxes. Over the last five months of 2020, that number leveled but remained an incredible 90,000 individuals per month. An estimated 40 percent were people seeking food assistance for the first time.

This report is just a glimpse of the reach and impact required to meet and sustain the response to the increased need. An astonishing 13.6 million meals were provided to our neighbors facing hunger in 2020. It took immense community support for us to meet this challenge. Without donations of food, funds, and time, many neighbors would have gone hungry. The battle against hunger is far from over, and in a high-poverty area like ours, it will continue to be fought on a daily basis.

Our hope is we can get back to normal sooner than later. Our hope is all individuals can be fully employed again, or find a job that can meet their family's needs. Our hope is to be able to feed people facing hunger as we continue our recovery. Our hope is for a healthier and happier 2021.

Mission

To end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities.
Revenue
Total: $29,041,195

Food
$21,562,916

Financial Contributions
$1,405,158

Grants
$4,959,833

In-Kind Contributions
$3,772

Shared Maintenance & Membership Fees
$660,772

Other Income/Net Gain on Investments
$448,744

Revenue Sources
Total: 16,352,815 pounds of food

Federal Assistance Programs
7,430,047 lbs.

Donated Products
7,373,731 lbs.

Food Purchase
1,549,037 lbs.

2020 Expenses

Programs & Services
97.19%

Fundraising
1.21%

Administrative/Management
1.60%

Income*

Total Income
$29,041,194

Food/In-Kind
74.25%

Cash
25.75%

Expenses*

Total Expenses
$24,718,687

Program Services
97.19%

Fundraising
1.21%

Administrative/Management & General
1.60%

*According to Southeast Missouri Food Bank’s Unaudited Financial Statement for the calendar year ended December 31, 2020.
One in five of our neighbors goes hungry. Hunger rates vary across our 16 counties, ranging from a low of 15 percent in Perry County to a high of 36 percent for child hunger in Pemiscot County. Job losses related to the pandemic caused a surge in the number of people needing food assistance.

432 mobile food pantries were held last year — nearly double the number held in 2019. Mobiles were a key component of our coronavirus response because we could target high-need communities throughout our service area and deliver the boxes in no-contact, drive-through distributions. More than 3.36 million pounds of food were distributed through mobiles.

A record 16.35 million pounds of food were distributed last year through our network of 140 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile food distributions, and other programs. This was an increase of 27 percent over the previous year.

2.57 million pounds of produce, dairy, and protein were distributed through the federal Farmers to Family program created specifically to address the pandemic’s double whammy of increased food insecurity and market losses to food producers.

67 A Better Childhood (ABC) mobile food pantries were held. ABC mobiles focused on providing food to school families and reached an estimated 16,750 families. Because of the pandemic, child hunger in Southeast Missouri rose to 30 percent — almost one in three children.

611,890 pounds of fresh produce were made available to our neighbors in need because of the generous support of Southeast Missouri farms. (See page 6 for a list.)

3.15 million pounds of additional food were distributed through TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program).

774 SNAP applications were completed to link people to an important resource to obtain food on a regular basis. Every $1 of benefits provided in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) generates $1.70 in economic impact.

3,370 donors contributed to the food bank last year — and for that we are incredibly grateful. Each dollar received can help provide four meals, and 96.6 percent of donations are put back into programs.

5,350 CSFP senior boxes were distributed each month. One out of 12 seniors in Southeast Missouri is food insecure. Commodity Supplemental Food Program boxes provide about 35 pounds of nutritious USDA commodities each month.
Fear and hope. Those two words probably best describe the impact of COVID-19 and the food bank’s response for families — especially those who were already struggling.

As businesses were forced to close and workers lost their jobs or had their hours reduced, the food bank saw a massive spike in the number of people needing food assistance.

Edgar was laid off from his farm job. With no income, he feared how his family was going to survive.

“I tried to find another job, but now it’s very hard, you know,” Edgar said in April. “I don’t know [when I’ll be able to work]. I don’t know what will happen tomorrow.”

After hearing about food pantries in his area, he and his wife found the food they needed to survive. They also started volunteering at the pantries.

“These kinds of events help so many people, so I just want to say thank you for your help,” Edgar said.

Even people who kept their jobs had trouble making ends meet. Ashley, a working mother with four children, said she sometimes sacrificed meals so the kids would have more.

“Sometimes you are taking it day by day trying to figure out how to make a meal, and sometimes you don’t have a meal,” she said. Ashley also found hope with the food she received from her local pantry in New Madrid.

“I appreciate what everyone is doing to help families in need,” Ashley said. “It’s a hard time right now with COVID-19.”

When schools closed during the pandemic, some parents struggled to provide extra food for their children.

Ruth is raising multiple grandchildren. With no school breakfast and lunch for the kids, she faced the challenge of spending more at the grocery store.

“They are home and constantly eating, so we try to come to food pantries for help,” she said.

Even those who had never visited a food pantry needed assistance.

Mike, a veteran who served 17 years in the Navy, started visiting a food pantry in Benton after two people in his family of four lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

With their only source of income being Mike’s small disability check, they were thankful it was available.

“It’s a variation of your lifestyle, but to a lot of these people it’s desperate times,” Mike said. “It’s what’s keeping them going. Without these (pantries), there’d be a lot of kids and people eating less and less.”

COVID-19 may have brought fear to the people of our area, but through our devoted partners and generous donors, the food bank helped spread hope.
Without Volunteers, National Guard Steps up to Pack Boxes, Distribute Food

The food bank relies heavily on its network of volunteers to pack more than 5,300 food boxes for seniors each month. When the pandemic hit, volunteers and the food bank were reluctant to continue for safety reasons. The majority of regular volunteers are older and therefore at higher risk for the virus.

But because the food bank converted to drive-through, contactless distributions at our mobiles, we needed hundreds more boxes prepacked each week.

“At a time when it was more important than ever for us to get food into our communities, we were not able to use our volunteers as we normally would to help us get these boxes out to those in need,” said Camille Peters, Partner Relations and Compliance Director who oversees the food bank’s 140 partner agencies.

Missouri Foundation for Health stepped up with a grant to allow the food bank to hire temporary displaced workers to pack boxes for several months. When that arrangement was over, the Missouri National Guard came to the rescue. Guard members were deployed to help with COVID-19 relief efforts statewide, including at the food bank where they have been packing boxes and helping distribute food.

“With the help of the Missouri National Guard, we didn’t miss a beat packing and moving these boxes from our food bank into the hands of our monthly clients as well as new clients who needed a little extra help during the pandemic,” Peters said.

Top 10 Foods Distributed (in pounds)

- Produce: 3.71 million
- Meats/Fish/Poultry: 1.88 million
- Dairy: 1.71 million
- Mixed & Assorted Food: 1.49 million
- Vegetables (canned/frozen): 1.14 million
- Beverages: 1.01 million
- Meal Kits/Entrees/Soup: 895,988
- Juices: 694,197
- Protein (non-meat): 635,061
- Fruits (canned/frozen): 503,696
Thank You to Our Donors!

**Gifts of $25,000+**
- Buzzi Unicem USA
- Care to Learn
- Community Foundation of the Ozarks
- David Tepper Charitable Foundation
- Enterprise Holdings
- Greenway Equipment
- J.R. Albert Foundation, Inc.
- Mary Kay McAllister
- Midwest Sterilization Corp.
- Missouri Foundation for Health
- Randol & Charlotte York
- Tetra Pak, Inc.
- Tyson Foods
- Wells Fargo

**Gifts of $10,000-$24,999**
- Adam & Tamara Morgan
- Bayer Fund
- Cargill, Inc.
- Creve & Company
- Dr. Linza & Julie Killion
- Farmers Insurance
- Harps Food Stores
- James & Teresa Maurer
- Joe & Tommie Tidwell
- Matthew & Marissa Mills
- Missouri Farmers Care
- Nutrien
- Red Nose Day Fund
- Thomas Luttrull
- TJX Companies
- Walmart Foundation

**Gifts of $5,001-$9,999**
- Arvil Adams
- Barbara C. Glackin
- Big Stuff Preschool 
  & Child Care
- Bonnie R. Poythress
- David & Gail Crader
- Donny & Kaki Beasley
- Joyce Luttrull
- Liberty Utilities
- Lori Moyers
- MFA Charitable Foundation
- Naomi Wahl
- Nestle Purina
- Peter & Toni Martin
- Prevention is Key Foundation
- Spire, Inc.

**Gifts of $2,501-$5,000**
- Amazing In Home Services
- Ameren Missouri
- Andrew Bullinger
- Ann Ritter
- Anthem, Inc.
- ANW Refrigeration Services
- Bank of Missouri
- Banterra Bank
- Bill & Shirley Pullen
- BNSF Railway
- Centene Management
- Corteva
- Craftsmen Trailer
- Dawn Moynihan
- Debbie Toney
- Dexter BPO Elks Lodge 2439
- Donna Morgan
- Drury Southwest
- First State Community Bank
- Floyd Family Foundation
- Fred Schuerenberg
- General Mills
- Great Southern Bank
- Infinity Recycling Solutions
- Johnny Cloud
- Julie McGrath
- Kraft Heinz Company
- Kroger
- Kyle & Calli Thoma
- Lutesville Ford
- Macy’s
- Marilyn Weaver
- Mary Dyer
- Midwest Dairy Association
- MLW Holdings
- Neil & Dina Casey
- Paul & Leola Douglas
- PepsiCo
- Realty Executives Edge
- Roman & Alyssa Burleson
- Shelby Spray
- Sikeston Jaycees
- Tom & Cheryl Dameron
- Toyota Coad Park West
- Trevin & Fallan Mayabb
- Tweedy Law Office

**Gifts of $1,500-$2,500**
- Altrusa Club of Sikeston
- Amber Miller
- Amelia Essman
- Becky Brown
- Bernalda Greene
- Bettina S. Mosley
- Brenda C. Witt
- Campbell Soup Co.
- Carla Latourette
- Casey’s General Stores
- Century Casino
- Christopher Dittmer
- Cornelius & Barbara Fisher
- CVS Health
- Darrell & Connie Ulrich
- Donald & Jane Rosenbarger, Jr.
- Douglas Nanna
- Eastwood Memorial United Methodist Church
- Ed & Jackie Cowan
- First Liberty Missionary Church
- First Midwest Bank of Piedmont
- Frederick & Connie Biondini
- Frederick & Susan Janzow
- Jeffie’s Choice
- Jerry Stone
- John Richbourg
- Johnny Vavak
- Jon & Erin Ezzell
- Josepahine Baer
- Kate Nichols
- Larry & Dorothy Green
- Laverne Schaefer
- Lavina B. Owen
- Linda Burns
- Luke Small
- Macy’s Inc.
- Mark Leibold
- Mary Abts
- MH Equipment
- Michael & Linda Myers
- Michael & Sharon Eck
- Missouri Employers Mutual
- Naomi Atkinson-Newman
- Orthodox Anglican Church
- Patricia P. Abell
- Peter & Cindy Maher
- Produce for Kids
- Richard & Christine Montgomery
- Save A Lot
- Scott County Farm Bureau
- SEMO Electric Cooperative
- SERVPRO of Cape Girardeau & Scott Co.
- Sheila & William Boyer
- Shelter Insurance Foundation
- Stephen & Vicky Dowdy
- Stephen Gold
- Steve Gehl
- Stonebright Foundation
- Subaru
- Theo Rogers
- Thomas C. Thomsen
- Tim & Linda Sue Garner
- Tim & Sarah Allen
- Toyota Dealer Match Program
- Vernon Cross
- Walmart Sikeston
How You Can Help

Volunteer
Volunteer with a group or as an individual.
Ask about our open volunteer days. Call 573-471-1818.

Donate
Make a one-time gift or sign up for a recurring donation.
Sponsor a child to receive a weekend backpack of food.
Include SEMO Food Bank in your estate planning.
Donate food or host a food or fund drive.

Get Involved
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
Contact elected officials to support hunger-related issues.
Sign up for our newsletter at semofoodbank.org.

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Food Insecurity & Pounds of Food Distributed by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of Agencies</th>
<th>Pounds of Food Distributed 2020</th>
<th>Food Insecure Overall pop.</th>
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<td>SEMO Food Bank Service Area</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>16,351,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bollinger County</td>
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<td>Butler County</td>
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<td>Cape Girardeau County</td>
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<td>17.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
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<td>570,587</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Mobilizing for Pandemic Response

“Our agency partners really came through to distribute more food because of the pandemic. Those that pick-up were coming here a lot more frequently to help us get food out quickly. Even just staying open was hard for some because they’re operated by volunteers — many of whom would be at high risk for contracting the virus. I can’t say enough good things about our agencies.”
-Camille Peters, Partner Relations and Compliance Director

“Every open hour of the day, we either ran a mobile or distributed extra food to the agencies. Our trucks were almost running nonstop the whole time until about August. Due to COVID-19 response, we went from having 15 to 20 mobiles a month to 50. It was non-stop. And honestly, all the warehouse staff really stepped it up.”
-Tom Ward, Warehouse Director