

FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Serve with
Compassion



Work with
Purpose



Connect with
Intention

FEEDING
SOUTH DAKOTA

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA



*Madeline Boos, Director of Food Service Center, Inc. in Sioux Falls, puts together a box of food for a client. (1982)
Photo Courtesy of the "Siouxland Heritage Museums".*

AS FOR OUR NEXT 50 YEARS ...

We want to do even better at tackling food insecurity

As we begin 2025, we at Feeding South Dakota have the privilege to acknowledge 50 years of tackling hunger in our communities. Fifty years!

This annual report includes stories and stats that focus primarily on all the good things we've accomplished in the last year — good things that could not have happened without the compassionate support of friends like you.

But in the bigger picture, this report is a nod to not just a half century of service in the past, but also serves as a look forward into our future . . . and how if we're really going to tackle hunger in South Dakota, we've got to do more than just continue doing things the old way. We've also got to come up with new ideas and methods to reverse the rising trends in food insecurity.

Don't get me wrong: The "old way" has been pretty effective! We've gotten better and better over the decades at getting food to the people and communities who need it most. You've made that possible, and on behalf of the countless millions of people served over these 50 years, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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Lori Dykstra has been the CEO of Feeding South Dakota since August 2021.

Feeding Siceca, Feeding the Future

How you're helping kids grow, learn, and thrive in one of South Dakota's most food-insecure communities.

If you were to take a ride through the Crow Creek Reservation in Buffalo County — one of the poorest counties in the U.S. — you'd see a lot of children who don't know where their next meal is coming from.

A staggering 1 of every 3 kids (31.2%) here experience food insecurity. More than 1 in 5 overall (22.7) are food insecure. And the poverty rate is 36.5%.



Aaron Vaughn

But your support of Feeding South Dakota is helping to bring some light — and nutritious food — into this community, including at the Tokata Youth Center (TYC) in Fort Thompson. The center serves about 1,000 meals per month.

“In our community, it can be hard to find a meal,” says TYC director Aaron Vaughn. “A lot of kids have food insecurity, so providing a daily meal is vital.”

Feeding South Dakota partners with TYC by providing food at a greatly reduced rate. TYC also has a



Because of you, kids in Fort Thompson have the nutrition they need to flourish.

garden to supplement what they purchase from the food bank.

Aaron says the whole community chips in as much as they're able, but it's not much, so they rely heavily on donations — including your gifts to the food bank. “Feeding South Dakota makes it possible for us to provide really good meals for the kids,” he says.

Tokota means “future” in the Dakota language, and feeding kids well today helps them to flourish down the road.

“Your daily needs must be met to reach long-term goals,” Aaron says. “Having a safe place to eat a hot meal is important. If you think past today and toward tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, you've got to have a full belly.”

Feeding South Dakota provides nutritious food and meals for thousands of children across our state. Your ongoing support makes it all possible and helps create a brighter future for us all.

FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA TIMELINE

1975

The Sioux Falls Ministerial Association formed a community food pantry.

1983

The Black Hills Regional Food Bank, Inc. was established and The Sioux Falls Food Pantry partnered with America's Second Harvest (now Feeding America) and changed its name to the Food Service Center, Inc.

2004

The Food Service Center, Inc. in Sioux Falls and The Black Hills Regional Food Bank, Inc. in Rapid City merged and rebranded to the Community Food Banks of South Dakota, Inc.

An Act of Kindness

Your generosity is giving Bobbi the food and support she needs to keep helping others.



Some days, the pain from Bobbie's arthritis makes it hard to move much at all. Other days, she can get around fairly well.

But every day, Bobbie perseveres through it all, putting others first in her desire to serve.

She's been coming to the McCook County Food Pantry — a Feeding South Dakota partner — for about six years. And when she's not getting food for herself, she's picking some up to deliver to families and seniors in her community.

"I'll help anybody," Bobbie says. "I'll give the shirt off my back. That's just the way small towns are. You gotta cowgirl up and go help one another."

Bobbie needs her own help, too not just because of her arthritis, but because she lives on a limited income.

"Everything is so expensive, you can't even afford ground beef," she says. "But Feeding South Dakota helps."

"Everything is so expensive, but Feeding South Dakota helps."

Bobbie says that when she first started coming to the pantry, she had to put her pride aside.

"It's your self-esteem," she said, "but I swallowed my pride." She says the volunteers at the pantry made that easy, because they're all so kind and welcoming.

The pantry serves about 50-60 households, and also helps distribute to the local school district's BackPack Program, which helps provide children with food over the weekends during the school year.

Beth Skaff, Coordinator of the Pantry, praises her team for its service.

"I have the best volunteers ever!" she says. "This work is very rewarding."

The McCook County Food Pantry is just one of about 260 partners that help get food to neighbors in 66 counties. And it's all made possible by the support of friends like you!



Because of you, Bobbie can help others while receiving the food she needs.

2010

A distribution center was established in Pierre and the Community Food Banks of South Dakota, Inc was rebranded to "Feeding South Dakota."

2020

The COVID-19 Pandemic caused a nation-wide crisis, causing thousands of individuals and families to seek food assistance. Mobile Food Distributions were formed to mitigate spread.

2021

Lori Dykstra became CEO of Feeding South Dakota, as Matt Gassen retired after 23 years of dedicated service.

2025



Feeding South Dakota has been committed to tackling hunger in South Dakota communities for 50 years.

A Small Non-Profit with a Huge Heart

With your help, The Mustard Seed is providing food and hope to South Dakotans who have nowhere else to turn.



The Mustard Seed has a clear mission statement: *Serving the Homeless, Hungry and Hopeless on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in Central South Dakota.*

It's a community made up of little cottages, each 8x12 feet, but they're doing big things for the people they serve. Many of those people have reached the end of their rope, with nowhere to turn. Without those tiny houses, they would have no shelter, and in South Dakota winters, that can be deadly.

"We serve people who fall through the cracks," says Mary Olive, one of the three local women who founded The Mustard Seed and operate it as volunteers. Many of those served struggle with substance abuse, and almost all are unemployed.

Food from Feeding South Dakota is used by residents to prepare meals and provides emergency supplies to 40 very low-income families and home-bound individuals in rural communities. When school is out for summer, up to 300 people are served weekly picnic-style meals in the poorest neighborhood of Eagle Butte.

There are only two small grocery stores within the 4,000 square miles of the



Your ongoing support makes it possible for us to partner with community-leaders like Mary Olive to provide food to those who need it most.

reservation, which covers two counties. Additionally, the community struggles with poverty because jobs are scarce, especially for those with serious chronic illness.

Mary Olive is grateful for the partnership with Feeding South Dakota, which makes it possible to keep their food distributions going.

"We're just small and operating on a shoestring," she says.

Thanks to your support, partners like The Mustard Seed are always ready to lend a neighborly hand to those facing the greatest challenges across South Dakota.



Food & Shelter

Gail is staying at The Mustard Seed, trying to land on her feet after some challenging times in her personal life. She's grateful for the food that's provided by Feeding South Dakota, and she usually prepares her own meals.

"I usually make hamburgers and macaroni," she says. "And the fruit is healthy. I like it here, because they provide food and shelter."

Meanwhile, George and his partner, caring for a teenage stepdaughter and a 3-year-old son, are trying to make ends meet while unemployed and on SNAP benefits. He appreciates the food he received at The Mustard Seed, and said he might combine it with some recently caught catfish to make a meal for his family.

“I Want to Know People Are Getting Fed”

Your support is helping Adelle write the next chapter in her family’s tradition of nourishing their community.

Adelle, one of the regular volunteers at The Mustard Seed (see story on page 4), believes that serving is in her blood.

“My grandfather, Henry White Dog, helped people with food,” she says. “I just believe us White Dogs are here to help people. I believe I was put here for this.”

Adelle knows the feeling of not having anything in the house, including water. She was homeless at the age of 12, and has experienced the feeling of dizziness when going without food. She says there weren’t any resources like The Mustard Seed to help a hungry family.

“We were just on our own,” Adelle says.

So when she’s serving meals to neighbors facing hunger through The Mustard Seed, it warms her heart. And she appreciates the communal vibe of sharing a meal with others.



Thank you for helping empower our neighbors to feed and empower their neighbors.

“It’s not just about the food,” she says. “It’s about the conversation.”

She says they give food boxes freely to anyone in need.

“We give because we love you and care about you and we want you fed,” she says. “Same with your family. We don’t want children going without. I want to know people are getting fed.”

Adelle hopes that when she helps others, they will in turn pay it forward someday.

“Like a chain reaction,” she says. “Everything that has happened in my life, I can use it as gifts to help other people.”

The kindness of people like you has been reaching your fellow South Dakotans for 50 years. Thank you!

As For Our Next 50 Years ...

Continued from page 1

But we need to inject more imagination and creativity into those “old ways” to start moving the needle for our neighbors facing hunger. That begins with community-based partnerships. Over the next 50 years, we’ll be more focused on working closely with the people in local areas to figure what they need, and how to best get food to places where it’s hardest to access.

It’s time for us to set a table for everyone ... like we did recently in one rural area. We sat down with the mayor and other community leaders and volunteers, and came up with a distribution model that was more efficient and effective than the one we had been using.



The community is committed. The locals led the solution. They’re the boots on the ground, and they’re the experts in their community.

As we look to the future we will meaningfully advance our mission by leveraging our strengths to respond to our state’s evolving needs. It’ll be challenging. And it’ll require more resources. So we’re going to need your continued faithful support. We can’t do it without you.

As we head into our next 50 years, I’m so grateful that you’re along with us on this journey. Working together, we can end hunger in South Dakota. Thank you for joining us in that mission.

Lori Dykstra

“Food Is Medicine”

How your generosity is helping nourish healthy lives across South Dakota

When you take Hwy 44 west out of Rapid City you'll find Wanblee, SD a hundred miles down the road. Families Working Together (FWT), a Feeding South Dakota partner in this small town on the Pine Ridge Reservation, is on a mission to build a healthier community.

“We want to teach our community to eat better, to take care of yourself,” says Georgia, a volunteer, noting that many on the reservation have diabetes and high blood pressure. “Even little kids,” says Georgia.

So she helps pack up the food for families with a keen eye on good health. “If you don't eat correctly,” she says, “you are going to be sick.”

As part of educating community members to eat well, the FWT team stresses not only what to eat, but also what to cut down on — particularly fat, sugar, and salt.

“We are trying to find a better way to teach people to cook without salt,” says Georgia. “If we can get people to eat healthier, they can live longer.”

“Without Feeding South Dakota, there would be a lack of food availability.”

“I do believe that food is medicine to take care of your body. Our bodies have an amazing ability to heal themselves, if you do it right.”



A big part of FWT's food philosophy includes fresh produce, much of which comes from its own garden. FWT even holds gardening classes to teach neighbors how to grow their own food sustainably.

But they couldn't meet the local needs without your support.

“Without Feeding South Dakota, there would be a lack of food availability,” says Georgia. “Our partnership helps take away some of that worry.”

Feeding South Dakota is committed to providing not just food to fill empty stomachs, but nourishing food to promote good health for children and families. Your ongoing support makes this possible.



A YEAR OF HUNGER RELIEF

Fiscal Year 2024

11.7%
South Dakota
Food Insecurity Rate.

3.6%
INCREASE

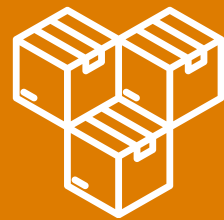
1 in 9 Adults
1 in 6 Children



14
Million lbs. of Food
Distributed.



11.7
Million
Meals
Provided.



66 counties
Served Through Our
Programs & Partners.

78% of Food Distributed
Encourages a Healthy Diet.



1,405
Mobile Food
Distributions Hosted.

27,929
Senior Boxes Distributed.



164,699
BackPacks Distributed
to Students.



620
Students Served Monthly
Through School Pantries.

22
South Dakota Producers
Supported.



18,728
Patients Served Through
Wellness Pantries.

How We Receive Food

The food we distribute comes from a variety of sources, each playing a vital role in nourishing our communities.



12,772
Families Served
Monthly at Mobile
Distributions.



263 Community
Partners Supported.



10,182
Volunteers gave 58,983
Hours to Fighting
Hunger.

FY24 Financial Report

Support & Revenue

In-Kind Donation	\$14,070,032
Commodity	\$8,126,046
Contributions	\$7,339,710
Government Fees & Grants	\$1,066,367
Shared Maintenance	\$1,380,259
Miscellaneous Income	\$860,241
United Way	\$125,939

Total Support and Revenue: **\$32,968,594**

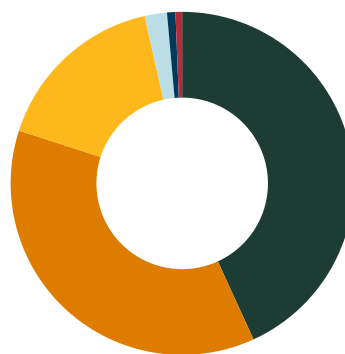
Expenses

Program Services	\$30,551,014
General & Administrative	\$1,155,520
Fundraising	\$1,300,645

Total Expenses: **\$33,007,179**

Net Assets: \$22,401,538

Contributions



Individuals	\$3,168,764
Corporations	\$2,701,268
Foundations	\$1,211,607
Churches	\$154,193
Bequests & Trusts	\$57,813
Civic	\$46,065

93%

of our resources are directly
allocated to our programs.

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