



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 by three women: Alyce McKay, Elenor Frost, and Linda Lea Viken. The food bank moved operations to the National Guard Camp in December of 1983. The Sioux Falls Food Pantry partnered with America's Second Harvest (now Feeding America) and changed its name to the Food Service Center, Inc.
- 1984** The Food Service Center, Inc. distributed over 82,000 pounds of food to 20 organizations in Minnehaha County.
- 1988** The Food Service Center, Inc. moved to North Phillips Ave. and distributed over 166,900 pounds of food in Sioux Falls, a 103% increase in 5 years.
- 1990** Gene Steinley became the Director of The Black Hills Food Bank, succeeding Calvin E. Ackerman who was the food bank director for 7 years.
- 1991** South Dakota Governor George S. Mickelson declared October 16, 1991, as World Food Day. National Food Bank Week (November 3-9, 1991) was signed into Proclamation by Governor Mickelson in recognition of the Food Service Center and The Black Hills Food Bank's fight against hunger. The 4th Annual Hot Air Balloon Rally in Rapid City gathered 1,000 lbs. of food from its estimated 3,000 attendees.
- 1992** The first Potato Giveaway took place in Rapid City. North Dakota farmers donated 45,000 pounds of potatoes that were given away in 100lb bags. The drive-through style line was over a mile long.
- 1993** The 8th Annual KOTA Care & Share Day Food Drive exceeded its goal of collecting 150,000 lbs. of food to over 170,000 lbs. This donated food was distributed locally between Church Response and the Black Hills Food Bank. The Sportsmen Against Hunger Program was established. The group's mission is to encourage and facilitate donation of wild game meat to those facing hunger in South Dakota. Over 1,503 lbs. of meat was distributed to the Black Hills Food Bank that year from the 1993 hunting season.
- 1994** The Food Service Center moved to a new warehouse on North 1st Avenue in Sioux Falls and distributed 1 million pounds of food annually.
- 1995** Over 1.3 million pounds of food was distributed by the Black Hills Regional Food Bank through the work of its 150 non-profit agency partners.
- 1996** The Black Hills Food Bank moved into a 14,000 square foot facility on North Maple Avenue. SHARE South Dakota was established, combining local volunteerism with low-cost food. The Black Hills Food Bank sponsored SHARE & had a space to accommodate for the program in their building.
- 1997** The Black Hills Regional Food Bank became an affiliate of America's Second Harvest.
- 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. This merge brought together a combined 45 years of experience in providing hunger relief to people in South Dakota.
- 2006** The Backpack Program began in Rapid City. North Middle School was the first partner for the program that began by distributing 100 Backpacks a week, increasing to 500 a week by the end of the year.

- 2010** The Community Food Banks of South Dakota, Inc. was rebranded to Feeding South Dakota. The Charles H. Burke Center for Hunger Relief opened in the former Pepsi warehouse in Pierre, distributing one million pounds of food in its first year.
- 2011** The first Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway was held, distributing turkey and Thanksgiving meal fixings to 2,500 families in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City.
- 2012** Feeding South Dakota embarked on a multi-year capital campaign, “Hand to Hand,” aimed at updating and expanding the facilities across the state.
- 2013** The Rapid City Distribution Center relocated to the current facility on North Creek Drive. Feeding South Dakota began its newest program: The Mobile Food Pantry Program with a goal of serving 13 counties.
- 2016** The Pierre Distribution Center moved to its current location, a new facility on Grace Ave. The Sioux Falls Distribution Center moved to its current location, a new facility on North Westport Avenue. Feeding South Dakota received over 2,000 hours of support from volunteers across the state. The generosity of Paul and Mary Ellen Connelly resulted in the first Giving Tuesday donation match campaign.
- 2019** 1,000 volunteers provided support to Feeding South Dakota.
- 2020** The COVID-19 Pandemic caused a nation-wide crisis, resulting in thousands of individuals and families seeking food assistance. Feeding South Dakota expanded the Mobile Food Pantry Program. At the end of June 2020, nearly 4.2 million meals had been distributed through Feeding South Dakota mobile food pantries, serving an estimated 335,000 South Dakotans facing hunger.
- 2021** Lori Dykstra became the CEO of Feeding South Dakota, following Matt Gassen’s retirement after 23 years of dedicated service. The first Year End Match donation to Feeding South Dakota was made possible because of the generosity of Bill and Carolyn Hinks from South Dakota Furniture Mart.
- 2024** The first campaign for Beef It Up, South Dakota began in May 2024, as Feeding South Dakota partnered with the South Dakota Cattleman’s Foundation and the South Dakota Beef Industry Council to provide beef protein to those facing hunger.
- 2025** Feeding South Dakota recognizes its 50th year of partnering with communities to end hunger in South Dakota.