

2016 Community Harvest Fact Sheet

1. **Service area:** Allen, Adams, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, LaGrange, Steuben, Wells and Whitley Counties
2. **Member Agencies:** 393
3. **Amount of Food Distributed Annually:** 11,704,571 pounds.
 - Donated: 9,718,356 pounds
 - Purchased: 281,278 pounds
(Agencies can take advantage of our purchasing and buy food at wholesale prices)
 - Government Commodities: 1,704,937 pounds
(US Department of Agriculture (TEFAP) The Emergency Food Assistance Program)
4. Equivalent to **9,753,809 meals.**
5. **Value of food:** \$19,546,633.57
(According to certified public accounting firm of KPMG, a pound of food is valued at \$1.67)

Established in 1983, Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc. is a nonprofit organization and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c3 entity. Our mission is to “alleviate hunger through the full use of donated food and other resources and to increase public awareness of and involvement in our mission.”

Our board of directors and staff clearly understand that our success depends on partnerships with the food industry and nearly 400 churches and nonprofit groups that constitute our member agencies.

During our most recent fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, we distributed nearly 12 million pounds of food; an overwhelming percentage of the food items were donated by Walmart, Meijer, Kroger, and Target along with other food industry businesses.

As the regional food bank for northeast Indiana, Community Harvest operates a 38,000 square foot warehouse to store and sort donated and purchased food before those items are then distributed by our member agencies, primarily churches and nonprofit groups. They operate food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Community Harvest staff and volunteers operate the following programs:

- **Hope for Heroes** is our newest program dedicated to feeding Veterans and military families who are struggling with food insecurity. These Veterans and their families are eligible for three months of groceries as they go through transitional periods and regain stability.
- **Community Cupboard:** Families are allowed to shop for groceries from our uniquely designed food pantry that resembles a neighborhood grocery store. A visit to shop in Community Cupboard is triggered by the issuance of a voucher by a member agency. During our most recent fiscal year, ending June 30, 2016, Community Cupboard distributed more than 1,500,000 pounds of food.
- **Saturday Morning Helping Hands:** Staff and volunteers distributed nearly 1,600,000 pounds of food last year. A high percentage of food items are fresh produce, bread and dairy items.

Data is for the 12 month period ending June 30, 2016

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- **Farm Wagon** is a mobile pantry program that makes 77 monthly visits to rural communities and central city neighborhoods. High priority locations are those that have been identified as “food deserts” or locations where nutritious food is not readily available
- **SeniorPak** offers low-income seniors the opportunity to receive shelf stable food twice a month. A 22-pound bag of groceries is delivered to homebound seniors; additional food is available to low-income seniors who remain mobile and can visit our Tillman Road warehouse.

Our member agencies also host the following programs:

- **Kids’ Café** offers 550 school children a hot meal after school at several locations in Fort Wayne. Community Harvest purchases the food and plans menus; member agency staff and volunteers prepare and serve the meals.
- **Kids BackPack:** Nearly 250 low-income youth receive food for weekend meals. Teachers and guidance staff select students.

With respect to state and national affiliations, Community Harvest is a member of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry (FIH). There are 11 regional food banks serving Indiana. We retain membership with Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger relief charity. More than 200 regional food banks are members of Feeding America.

STEWARDSHIP:

- **Audit:** Our most recent audit for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015—prepared by the certified public accounting firm of Krouse Kern—uncovered no questioned or disallowed costs. Furthermore, the opinion expressed by Krouse, Kern & Co, Inc. is that our financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our board was most pleased with this financial report.
- Since 2011, Community Harvest has earned a four-star designation from **Charity Navigator**, highly respected for assessing the financial stewardship of nonprofit organizations. Charity Navigator places high importance on the percentage of dollars spent directly on programs rather than administration and fund raising. As reported on our IRS 990 report for last year, we’re pleased to report that more than 97% of our income was spent in support of hunger relief.
- **Volunteers:** One important factor in keeping our overhead expenses to a minimum is our army of helpers. Last year, 6,880 volunteers donated 67,517 hours of service, equivalent to 33 full time employees. Adults and youth embrace our mission to alleviate hunger in northeast Indiana.

LEADERSHIP:

Board President: Ben Williams – Shambaugh, Kast, Beck & Williams LLP

Executive President: Carmen Cumberland

Chief Executive Officer: John Wolf



HUNGER IN INDIANA

Food Insecurity: When food intake of one or more household members is reduced and their eating patterns are disrupted at times during the year because the household lacks money and other resources for food.

KEY STATISTICS:

1 in 6 Hoosiers are hungry.

1 in 5 children is hungry.

20% of our children and seniors are hungry.

HUNGER IS PART OF THE POVERTY PUZZLE:

14.5% of Hoosiers live below the poverty line. 20.5% of those in poverty are children. SNAP usage declined 14%.

Over 50% of clients have at least one member of the family who is working - some multiple jobs.

43% have at least one family member working full time.

SENIORS ARE AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE:

Transportation and a need to rely on others is a factor.

Only 5.6% of seniors are receiving meals from CICOA or Meals on Wheels.

MARION COUNTY IS STRUGGLING:

21% use some form of assistance (SNAP, WIC, food pantries, etc.)

20% of Marion County residents are food insecure.

Nearly 23% of children in the county are hungry.

Families with children make up almost half of those with unmet needs in Marion County.

According to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief charity, one in every five food bank households contains a Veteran.

★ ★ ★ HOPE FOR HEROES

Hope for Heroes is Community Harvest Food Bank's newest program designed to help Veterans and military families in need. Veterans and military families going through transitions such as deployment, release from duty, underemployment, and homeless Veterans transitioning into housing are eligible to receive three months of groceries supplied by the Community Cupboard pantry at Community Harvest Food Bank.

Each month, Veterans will choose 100 pounds of nutritious foods (enough to fill a large grocery cart) while they get back on their feet and regain stability. Community Harvest is proud to serve our heroes and has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other organizations that will refer Veterans and military families in need of assistance.



Community Harvest Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Indiana. Through partnerships with local vendors, we are able to distribute wholesome surplus food and grocery products to individuals and agencies within our nine-county service area.

Community Harvest supplies food to nearly 400 member organizations including soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, rehabilitation shelters, and youth and senior programs. Along with distributing food to local agencies, Community Harvest is ready to respond to urgent situations with emergency food assistance. Community Harvest receives funding through grants, foundations, corporate and local organization donations, and individuals who believe in our mission to alleviate hunger.

A proud member of:





Farm Bill: Congress Must Protect and Strengthen SNAP and Other Anti-Hunger Programs

March 2017

SNAP/Food Stamps:

SNAP is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition and food security safety net, helping to put food on the table for 43 million low-income participants each month. When the number of families struggling to make ends meet increases, SNAP responds quickly and effectively to meet that need.

SNAP Action Needed: Congress should protect SNAP from harmful policy proposals to alter its structure or cut its funding, which would undermine its efficacy. Instead, Congress should strengthen SNAP, including basing SNAP benefit allotments on the low-cost food plan and ameliorating the harsh time limits on benefits for certain jobless adults who are willing to work, but are unable to find sufficient hours.

For more than four decades, SNAP has enjoyed strong bipartisan support and has helped ensure vulnerable low-income people in our nation can put food on the table. The program serves as the nation's first line of defense against hunger. If it is weakened, many millions of older Americans, people with disabilities, children, veterans, struggling parents — working and unemployed — and others will be harmed, and the nation will see more hunger and food insecurity, worse health and educational outcomes, and higher health costs.

SNAP has extraordinary strengths:

- When the national economy or a regional, state, or local economy is in trouble, SNAP is there to help. SNAP's responsiveness to unemployment proved it to be one of the most effective safety net programs during the recent recession, providing struggling families with a stable source of food. As conditions improve, SNAP caseloads fall. In November 2016, SNAP helped put food on the table for 43 million people, over 2 million fewer people than the prior November.
- Because SNAP benefits are so urgently needed by families, they are spent quickly — 80 percent of benefits are redeemed within the first half of the month of issuance, bolstering local economies. A 2011 study from the Economic Research Service found that every \$5 in SNAP benefits generates as much as \$9 in economic activity.
- SNAP is targeted to reach the neediest and most vulnerable people in our country. Eighty-two percent of all benefits go to households with a child, senior, or person with disabilities and the average household has an income of only 59 percent of the federal poverty line.
- SNAP lifted 4.6 million Americans above the poverty line in 2015, including 2 million children and 366,000 seniors. SNAP is as effective as the Earned Income Tax Credit in lifting families above the poverty line.
- More than half of SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult work while on SNAP; more than 80 percent work in the year before or after receiving SNAP. For many of these families, SNAP is an important support while they are between jobs and looking for work.
- Extensive research shows that SNAP plays a critical role, not just in alleviating poverty and food insecurity, but also in improving dietary intake and health, especially among children. One more recent study found that receipt of SNAP in early childhood improved high school graduation rates, adult earnings, and adult health. National food consumption data (as measured by USDA's Healthy Eating Index) show that each additional SNAP dollar increased a household's score for overall dietary quality.
- Still, benefits are less than optimal. SNAP benefits average less than \$1.39 per person per meal, making it difficult for recipients to afford an adequate and nutritious diet.

- SNAP relieves pressure on overwhelmed food banks, pantries, religious congregations, and other emergency food providers across the country that could not begin to meet the need for food assistance if SNAP eligibility or benefits were reduced. SNAP provides roughly 10 times the meals provided by the Feeding America network.
- Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) provides replacement benefits for regular SNAP recipients who lose food in a disaster and extends benefits to many households that would not ordinarily be eligible but suddenly need food assistance. The benefits are delivered via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, which can expedite and mainstream the relief process for victims.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):

TEFAP is a means-tested federal program that provides food commodities at no cost to individuals and families in need of short-term hunger relief through organizations, such as food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters. Nutritious TEFAP food commodities are an essential resource for food banks. As the demand for food remains high at food banks across the country, a reliable and continuous stream of TEFAP is necessary for the provision of a steady emergency food supply.

TEFAP Action Needed: Include additional mandatory funding for TEFAP food in recognition of the sustained high need for food assistance at food banks nationwide. TEFAP mandatory funds should be authorized at \$350 million per year in the next farm bill. TEFAP Storage and Distribution Funds should continue at \$100 million per year and TEFAP Infrastructure Grants should remain at \$15 million per year.

- TEFAP commodities accounted for approximately 18 percent of the food moving through Feeding America's food banks in 2016. Food banks combine TEFAP with private donations to maximize TEFAP benefits far beyond the budgeted amount for the program. In this way, food banks exemplify an optimum model of a public-private partnership.
- TEFAP bonus commodity purchases provide support for agricultural markets when market support is needed and provides the nation's food banks with access to additional healthy food. Congress should ensure that USDA retains the authority to purchase bonus commodities in times of high need for emergency food relief in addition to times of low commodity prices so the program is responsive to excess supply and excess demand.
- TEFAP has a strong impact on the farm economy. TEFAP purchases give commodity producers an average of 27 cents per dollar and that rises to 85 cents on the dollar for bonus commodity purchases made when agricultural markets need support, according to USDA's Economic Research Service. By contrast, only about 16 cents of every retail food dollar goes back to the farmer.

Support Policies to Enable Easier Food Donation:

Food waste is a staggering issue with over 70 billion pounds of food wasted each year. The Farm Bill should support nonprofits that are trying to work closer with agricultural and food industry partners in order to connect nutritious food to people in need through streamlined federal policies and exploring innovative ways to further this work.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):

CSFP leverages government buying power to provide nutritious food boxes to 697,865 low-income people each month. Virtually all program participants are seniors with incomes of less than 130 percent of the poverty line (about \$15,444 for a senior living alone). Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia are scheduled to participate in CSFP in 2017.

- CSFP is an efficient and effective program. While the cost to USDA to purchase commodities for this package of food is about \$20 per month, the average retail value of the package is \$50. Many seniors participating in CSFP are able to have their food boxes delivered directly to their homes or to senior centers nearby, an important benefit for those who are homebound, have limited mobility, or do not have convenient access to a grocery store.
- CSFP helps to combat the poor health conditions often found in seniors who are experiencing food insecurity and are at risk for hunger. CSFP food packages, specifically designed to supplement nutrients typically lacking in participants' diets, such as protein, calcium, vitamins A and C, and several B, vitamins can play an important role in addressing the nutrition needs of low-income seniors.



Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Appropriations Priorities

March 2017

Federal nutrition programs provide a critical safety net for millions of struggling households — including individuals of all ages — by helping them put food on the table during times of need. Investing in hunger prevention and relief also makes good fiscal sense. Hunger increases health care costs, lowers worker productivity, harms children’s development, and diminishes children’s educational performance. More than 42 million Americans are now living in households that are food insecure. Even as the economy strengthens, millions of families have been left behind in the economic recovery, causing the need for food assistance to remain high. Congress should maintain its historically bipartisan commitment to programs that provide food assistance to vulnerable low-income households by protecting the structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — and the other nutrition safety net programs — and sufficiently funding them to address the problem of hunger in America.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, is the nation’s first line of defense against hunger. It responds quickly and effectively to changes in need, whether due to economic downturns or natural disasters. As conditions improve, SNAP caseloads fall. In November 2016, SNAP helped put food on the table for 43 million people, over two million fewer people than the prior November. SNAP benefits are targeted at the most vulnerable: 82 percent of all SNAP benefits go to households with a child, senior, or person with disabilities; and the average SNAP household has an income of slightly less than 59 percent of the federal poverty line. Unfortunately, SNAP benefits are inadequate for most families to afford a healthy diet throughout the month: SNAP benefits average only \$1.39 per person per meal. Benefit inadequacy has serious consequences: research has linked diminished food budgets later in the month with a drop-off in caloric intake, lower school performance, and an increase in hospitalizations due to low blood sugar for low-income adults.

- Congress should protect SNAP from harmful policy proposals to alter its structure or cut its funding, which would undermine its efficacy. Instead, Congress should strengthen SNAP by basing SNAP benefit allotments on the low-cost food plan and ameliorating the harsh time limits on benefits for certain jobless adults who are willing to work, but are unable to find sufficient hours.

Child Nutrition Appropriations

The **Child Nutrition Programs** play a critical role in helping children in low-income families achieve access to quality nutrition, child care, and education and enrichment activities, while improving their overall health, development, and school achievement.

- **School Meals:** Congress must maintain low-income children’s access to programs and preserve the improvements made in the school meals nutrition standards and the overall school nutrition environment.

Congress should continue to provide \$10 million for school meals direct certification grants to reduce paperwork for schools, and \$35 million in school equipment grants to enable school districts to build their capacity to prepare meals on-site that are healthier and more cost-effective to produce.

- **Summer Meals:** Congress should provide \$32 million to continue the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Demonstration Projects to ensure that children in rural and underserved areas have access to nutrition during the summer.
- **Child Care Meals:** Congress should provide \$25 million for Team Nutrition funding, which is the primary resource for promoting healthy eating and nutrition education in Child Nutrition Programs. These funds

could assist State Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) agencies and community-based sponsoring organizations successfully implement the new, healthier CACFP meal pattern and sustain CACFP as a support for working parents. Congress should continue to provide \$10 million to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for CACFP nutrition and wellness education and program efforts. These funds will be crucial to supporting USDA's important role in providing materials, training and support to State agencies and program operators to bolster nutrition knowledge among child care providers.

- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Congress should fund WIC at \$6.36 billion to serve anticipated caseloads, provide a \$150 million contingency fund, and carefully monitor WIC participation and food cost inflation to assure that the approved appropriation responds to economic conditions and meets anticipated needs. Included in the WIC appropriation should be set-asides that include WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (\$90 million), infrastructure and technical assistance (\$14 million), and program research and evaluations (\$5 million).
- **WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP):** FMNP provides fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and works to expand sales at farmers' markets. Congress should support the WIC FMNP at \$22 million.

Senior Nutrition Programs

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Seniors 60 years and older receive food packages designed to meet their special dietary needs. While the cost to USDA to provide each food package is about \$20 per month, the average retail value is \$50, making it a highly efficient use of federal dollars.

- Congress should provide \$250 million to maintain the current CSFP caseload of 697,865, and provide an opportunity for the two remaining states that are not yet operating CSFP to begin operations, subject to USDA-approved plans.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP): SFMNP provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

- Congress should support SFMNP at \$21 million.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP Commodities: Nutritious TEFAP foods are an essential resource for local emergency food providers, which combine government commodities with privately donated foods to maximize TEFAP benefits far beyond the budgeted amount for the program.

- Congress should provide \$329 million for TEFAP mandatory commodities, which includes the additional funding authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. In addition, Congress should continue to provide funding for Section 32 so that USDA can provide market support through bonus commodities for TEFAP when prices are low. Funding caps on Section 32 result in less food for food banks.

TEFAP Storage and Distribution Funds: TEFAP Storage and Distribution Funds help cover costs associated with distributing TEFAP commodities to emergency food providers and help those food providers defray the costs of storing, transporting, and distributing TEFAP foods. On average, currently appropriated Storage and Distribution funds cover only about 24 percent of the costs of handling TEFAP commodities, forcing food banks to shift costs from other priority areas.

- Congress should appropriate the fully authorized amount of \$100 million for TEFAP Storage and Distribution Funds.

Congressional Hunger Center

Emerson/Leland Hunger Fellowship Program: Since 1994, Congress has funded the Bill Emerson/Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships, and by doing so, has enhanced the effectiveness of local, state, and national anti-hunger and anti-poverty groups, government agencies, and faith-based organizations by the research, analysis and policy work conducted by their Fellows.

- Congress should fully fund the Fellowship Program at \$2 million.