



**SOUTH MICHIGAN  
FOOD BANK**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023**

# TO ENRICH LIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY BY ELIMINATING FOOD INSECURITY

## OUR VALUES

The role nutrition plays  
in a just & healthy  
community



Diversity & treating  
all with respect,  
compassion, & dignity



Our community  
partnerships



Investing in our team



Fostering innovation,  
resourcefulness, &  
accessibility



Those who contribute to  
feeding our community

## GUIDE

Dear Friends,

2023 presented new and interesting challenges for South Michigan Food Bank. To provide context, we broke the pre-COVID record of pounds of food distributed (11,000,000 lbs.) for the fourth straight year. While we are proud of the way our staff and volunteers have responded to this challenge, four years of unprecedented growth has identified a few opportunities.

While we have increased our distribution partnerships to over 365 throughout our eight-county region, we have become more aware of the need to reach rural, isolated and transportation-challenged families. Through multiple efforts to find solutions, including partnering with DoorDash for individual home deliveries, we have identified the need for more comprehensive and current data to better address this problem. This link [rb.gy/v5h1tp](https://rb.gy/v5h1tp) provides some data we now have access to, allowing us to make better informed decisions. As an example, by clearly identifying areas of significant food insecurity and their distance to our distribution partners, we're now



targeting the recruitment of new food pantries into these food deserts.

Growth over the past few years has also provided the opportunity to explore creative solutions such as Mobile Markets, home-delivered food boxes, Fresh Food Distributions, and researching the concept of "food is medicine". Two years ago, in partnership with Grace Health, we were awarded a grant targeting clients who were struggling with heart disease and/or diabetes. The results were so promising that we were offered additional funds to continue this program for another year.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at South Michigan Food Bank. We encourage you to take a moment to read through our 2023 Annual Report for a better understanding of the substantial impact South Michigan Food Bank has made, and will continue to make in the coming year, throughout the eight counties we serve.

Thank you for your continued support in this critical mission.

Sincerely,

Peter Vogel,  
CEO of South Michigan Food Bank

Jim Stockman,  
Board Chair

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total pounds distributed: **11,106,970**

Pounds distributed through Fresh Food Distribution: **2,950,482**

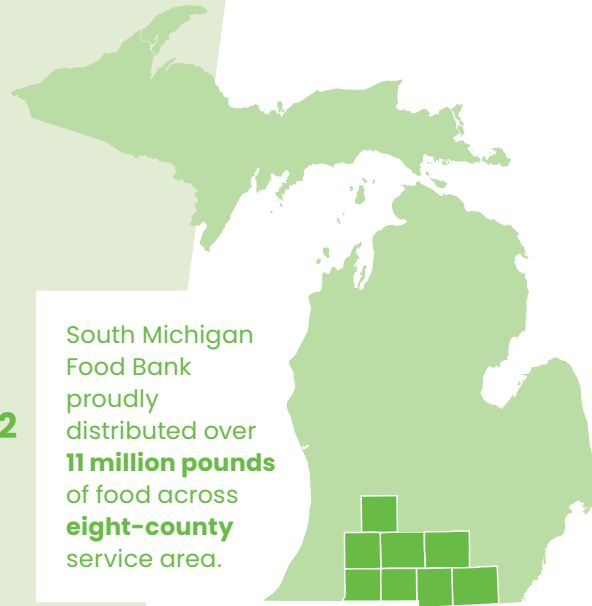
Pounds of fresh fruits & veggies: **3,611,247**

Pounds of food donated: **6,478,485**

Total pounds received from local farmer partners: **844,406**

We're thankful to the corporations that made significant donations to SMFB in an effort to help end hunger in South Michigan.

- Target Distribution donated: **795,507 LBS**
- Kellogg's donated: **107,829 LBS**
- Post donated: **91,232 LBS**



### 2023 POUNDS PER COUNTY

<b>BARRY</b>	934,807 lbs
<b>BRANCH</b>	841,367 lbs
<b>CALHOUN</b>	2,346,347 lbs
<b>HILLSDALE</b>	693,137 lbs
<b>JACKSON</b>	2,123,762 lbs
<b>KALAMAZOO</b>	2,325,766 lbs
<b>LENAWEE</b>	759,128 lbs
<b>ST. JOSEPH</b>	807,749 lbs



Kalamazoo Choice Mobile Market: Within five days, we distributed **21,638 LBS** of food to **843 HOUSEHOLDS** across 10 sites.

Pop-Up Produce Markets: Distributed **72,730 LBS** of produce at **13 DISTRIBUTION SITES** in Calhoun, Jackson, Kalamazoo and Hillsdale counties.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Supported our senior citizens by distributing **6,889 BOXES** totaling **220,729 LBS** of nutritious USDA foods.

Door Dash: Delivered **26,246 LBS** of food across **1,210 DOOR DASH DELIVERIES.**

DELIVER

## TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Have you ever stopped to think about how food gets from our facility to the people who need our support? It takes a team and a substantial amount of driving. In fact, in 2023 alone our team put in enough miles to drive coast-to-coast 54 times! Or to look at it differently, they drove the entire state of Michigan from top to bottom 355 times (upper and lower peninsula included).



*Execution becomes excellence when you master it, push it to the limit and make it the heartbeat of your organization.*

— Robin Sharma

Total miles driven: **161,473 MILES**

Combined driving experience with SMFB: **13 YEARS**

Tailgates delivered: **52**

Fresh food boxes delivered: **876**

Warehouse deliveries: **315**

Senior Commodity boxes distributions: **39**

WHAT ARE TAILGATES?

Agencies across the counties, that are far from our warehouse, can place their orders. Our team then loads thousands of pounds of food onto a semi truck or several box trucks and our drivers unload in a central location in that county. The agencies all meet up at that location and South Michigan Food Bank staff loads their vehicles with this order. Tailgates make it easier for agencies farther away from our warehouse to get food without having to drive long distances.

WHAT DOES FFDS DELIVERED MEAN?

We deliver boxes to all of our Fresh Food Distribution sites. This is how many times we delivered throughout the year.



ENGAGE

# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do at South Michigan Food Bank. As an organization built around the concept of giving back to and supporting the communities we serve, our volunteers represent what it means to have a giving spirit. SMFB volunteers sort non-perishable food items, build fresh food boxes, load emergency bags, stock shelves, and prepare Senior Commodity meal boxes. They give their time and energy to help us feed those in our community who are struggling with food insecurity.

*Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.*

– Bill Clinton



In 2023, SMFB had **613 VOLUNTEERS** who packed **91,523 BOXES** of fresh food during **3,110 SHIFTS** which totaled **9,507 HOURS** of their time.

Value of our volunteers:

**\$302,322**

Volunteers packed:

- › **91,523 Fresh Food Distribution boxes**
- › **10,544 Backpack Program packages**
- › **142,642 lbs in Clean Room**
- › **6,927 Senior Commodity boxes**

# DEVELOPMENT

The mission to end hunger is a team effort, and expanding our reach relies heavily on our generous community of supporters. In 2023, we focused on creating several development initiatives that help foster a greater sense of connection by bringing supporters together, while also providing new opportunities to make an impact.

*Optimism is the most important human trait, because it allows us to evolve our ideas, to improve our situation, and to hope for a better tomorrow.*

– Seth Godin



### THE MITTEN CLUB

The Mitten Club is our monthly giving circle aimed at encouraging our existing supporters to enroll in our monthly giving program. In 2023 this giving circle supported their neighbors with over 66,000 thousand meals! Mitten Club members enjoy special perks while helping SMFB make an even greater impact.

### LEGACY CIRCLE

Created in honor of an iconic change-maker and our founder, Bob Randels, the Legacy Circle was established for supporters who are interested in making a legacy donation (estates, wills and trusts). Legacy donations allow you to make a substantial impact on the communities you care about, and have the potential to improve the lives of both existing families and future generations. We have also partnered with local attorneys to help ensure that the legacy planning process is both an easy and enjoyable experience for those interested in supporting SMFB in this way.

### BACKPACK SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Backpack Program sends nonperishable meal packages home with students in low-income households so they have access to food over the weekends and school breaks. In the eight communities we serve, 50,500 children participate in the Backpack Program. Nationwide, one in five children are food insecure. Our Backpack Sponsorship Program allows support to either sponsor a child, a classroom, or an entire school, increasing the number of children and families we're able to impact in South Michigan.



South Michigan Food Bank was proud to participate in several community events throughout 2023 thanks to the help of our community partners and their generosity.

- The Fort Fills the Fleet
- The Giving Pump
- Gift A Meal
- Territorial Brewing Company
- Honor Credit Union – PB&J Challenge
- Growlers with Comerica Bank
- Hemmingsen's Pharmacy
- OMNI – Community Credit Union Shred Day
- Plumeria Botanical Boutique
- Day of Giving – WLNS Jackson
- Canadiana Fest
- FireKeepers Epsom Tour

IMPACT

# AGENCY RELATIONS

South Michigan Food Bank is committed to building and maintaining strong relationships with our agency partners in an effort to reach as many people as possible. Just as our partners support our mission, we provide support to our partners by offering best practices in safe food storage, civil rights education, assistance with fundraising efforts, and collaborative participation in community events. Over the past year, with the help of our agency partners, the SMFB agency relations team grew our Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and experimented with fresh ideas like the Kalamazoo Choice Mobile Market and Produce Pop-Ups.

*I alone can't change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.*

— Mother Teresa



## FAST STATS

In 2023, South Michigan Food Bank distributed food to:

- › **369 Agencies**
- › **143 Pantries**
- › **88 Fresh Food Distribution Sites**
- › **120 Backpack Program Participating Schools**
- › **7 Soup Kitchens/Other**

The agency relations team opened **14 new agencies** in 2023 to help meet the growing demand of food insecurity.

- True Care Living Soup Kitchen
- Boyer House(Rejoined)
- Oasis of Love Panty
- True Care Living Pantry
- Allen Baptist
- Reading BP
- Rhema World Outreach Center
- African Christian Fellowship
- Salvation Army Kalamazoo Youth
- Western Michigan University
- Camden UMC/Camden BP
- Salvation Army Pantry/Battle Creek
- Keystone Place
- FFD/Center for Family Health

Our agency relations team participated in **many events** throughout our service area, including the Cereal City Festival, St. Joseph Suicide Prevention 5k, Stamp Out Hunger, Senior Health Fairs, Christmas Parades, and many more!

## NUTRITION INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: FRESH FOOD PHARMACY

The Fresh Food Pharmacy program was developed in partnership with Grace Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Battle Creek, Michigan. The program provides healthy food supplements to clients with chronic health conditions, to manage their health. This program is a strategic initiative of the Food Bank Council of Michigan. The funding for this program was obtained through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

This program addresses the role that nutrition plays in both the prevention and management of chronic health conditions and overall health. It uses a “prescription” of healthy meal cooking, nutrition coaching and education, and food supplements to improve the health of those in the program. Eligible patients at Grace Health are referred to the program, which takes place over nine months.

The first pilot of Fresh Food Pharmacy launched in March of 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a delivery model was used in which curated boxes of fresh food were delivered to patients. Patients in the program improved on several measures. The program was found to have positive

impacts on A1C (a measure of blood sugar levels), fruit & vegetable consumption, and food insecurity. Using the findings of the first round, a second round was developed to learn more about the impact on patients and their health outcomes.

The current program opted for an in-house pantry model at Grace Health instead of a delivery model. The pantry model used in the current program gives participants the opportunity to choose their favorite healthy foods, allowing them to fit their food selections to their own preferences. It also allows for participants to get their food from the same place where they have medical appointments and nutrition coaching for the program. Nutrition education and healthy lifestyle materials are provided while shopping the pantry, and participants can learn how to make sustainable changes to their diets. The pantry even offers cooking staples like oil and spices!

*The value of an idea lies in the using of it.*

– Thomas Edison



### NUTRITION RANKINGS

South Michigan Food Bank received a grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America to examine the nutritional value of the foods that we source and distribute. Sourcing nutritious foods at the food bank is a priority, and this project allowed us to gather information about the nutritional content of the many food items in our inventory. This system ranks food items into one of three categories based on each item’s nutritional value.

This ranking system allows the food bank to continually monitor the nutritional value of its inventory, and offers an opportunity to increase the positive impact it has on the selection of foods offered to food pantry visitors.

**45% of SMFB’s inventory is comprised of the highest ranking foods, those that should be eaten often. This includes whole foods with little to no sodium, saturated fat, or added sugar; many fresh fruits and vegetables; lean protein; whole grains; beans and legumes; low-fat dairy; and certain drinks and meals.**

### HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS

South Michigan Food Bank was awarded a grant from Feeding America funded by CVS to help enhance healthcare partnerships. The funding from this grant is used to support local healthcare partners in reducing food insecurity in the populations they serve. South Michigan Food Bank aids healthcare partners like the Jackson Center for Family Health in maintaining on-site food pantries to help patients experiencing food insecurity.

### SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is a service that helps local seniors that live in certain areas where South Michigan Food Bank operates. South Michigan Food Bank includes fresh food supplements in addition to the CSFP foods provided by the USDA. Recipe and food information resources are included with each CSFP box distributed that are developed by SMFB staff.



## FINANCIALS & BOARD

**JIM STOCKMAN**, Board Chair

**TAMI PITALE**, Vice-Chair

**MARK CLISE**, Secretary & Treasurer

**MICHAEL MCFARLEN**, Board Member

**CHRIS KALLGREN**, Board Member

**AARON (TY) HAKMAN**, Board Member

**VICTORIA REESE**, Board Member

**ROD AUTON**, Board Member

**JASON BEACH**, Board Member

**KEVIN CRITTENDEN**, Board Member

*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.*

– African Proverb



### WHO FACES FOOD INSECURITY ON A DAILY BASIS IN SOUTH MICHIGAN?

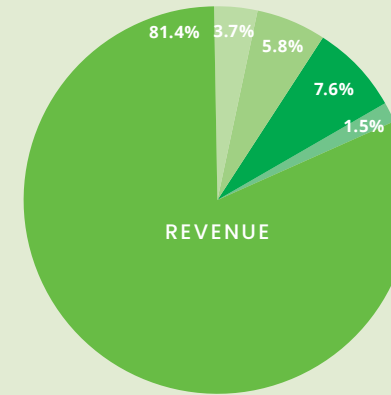


1 IN 7 ADULTS

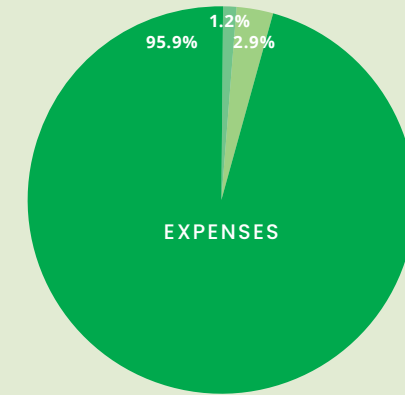


1 IN 5 CHILDREN

## 2023 FINANCIALS



<b>FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	\$22,903,470
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	\$1,045,508
<b>GRANTS</b>	\$1,625,070
<b>HANDLING FEES</b>	\$2,144,891
<b>OTHER</b>	\$417,774
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$28,136,713</b>



<b>PROGRAMS</b>	\$26,251,907
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	\$324,113
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	\$795,263
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$27,371,283</b>

**TOTAL NET ASSETS**  
**\$6,704,295**

Note: These are non-audited numbers

## SOUTH MICHIGAN FOOD BANK COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Barry County 23 partners

- PANTRIES - 11
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 8
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 2
- HOLIDAY - 1
- SOUP KITCHENS - 1

### Branch County 24 partners

- PANTRIES - 9
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 9
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 2
- HOLIDAY - 1
- SHELTERS - 1
- COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAMS - 2

### Calhoun County 105 partners

- PANTRIES - 39
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 17
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 9
- HOLIDAY - 9
- SOUP KITCHENS - 9
- RESIDENTIAL - 4
- DAYCARE/YOUTH - 10
- SCHOOL PANTRIES - 3
- HEALTH CARE - 1
- ANIMAL AGENCIES - 4

### Hillsdale County 24 partners

- PANTRIES - 12
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 9
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 1
- SOUP KITCHENS - 2

### Jackson County 58 partners

- PANTRIES - 33
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 15
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 6
- HOLIDAY - 1
- SHELTERS - 1
- RESIDENTIAL - 2

### Kalamazoo County 63 partners

- PANTRIES - 27
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 15
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 9
- SOUP KITCHENS - 3
- DAYCARE/YOUTH - 5
- ANIMAL AGENCIES - 4



### Lenawee County 31 partners

- PANTRIES - 18
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 7
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 3
- HOLIDAY - 1
- SOUP KITCHENS - 1
- SHELTERS - 1

### St. Joseph County 41 partners

- PANTRIES - 14
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS - 9
- BACKPACK PROGRAMS - 7
- HOLIDAY - 2
- SOUP KITCHENS - 1
- SHELTERS - 1
- DAYCARE/YOUTH - 1
- COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAMS - 6

## DATA COLLECTION

South Michigan Food Bank offers many locations where people can get food, but access is difficult for those who face transportation challenges. To get a better understanding of how we can help minimize barriers for the people we serve, SMFB has partnered with Dr. Stephen Borders to collect geographic data. Our data includes detailed insights on unemployment rates, poverty level, food insecurity and poverty by race, median income, homeownership, disability, and even the pounds of food distributed in each zip code. Displayed is only the food insecurity rate for one zip code in each county.

Learn more about our work with Dr. Borders at [www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcwatch/a-food-bank-for-the-future/](http://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/arcwatch/a-food-bank-for-the-future/)

### Food Insecurity Rate per Zip Code

<b>BARRY COUNTY</b>	49073	16.7%
<b>BRANCH COUNTY</b>	49089	16.4%
<b>CALHOUN COUNTY</b>	49014	16.3%
<b>HILLSDALE COUNTY</b>	49227	14.9%
<b>JACKSON COUNTY</b>	49224	16.3%
<b>KALAMAZOO COUNTY</b>	49007	25.4%
<b>LENAWEE COUNTY</b>	49238	13.3%
<b>ST JOSEPH COUNTY</b>	49066	17.0%



## OUR PART IN THE MOVEMENT TO END HUNGER



SECURE  
DONATIONS



ACQUIRE &  
MOVE FOOD



SAFELY STORE &  
DISTRIBUTE FOOD



PARTNERS OPEN  
THEIR DOORS



TOGETHER, WE FEED  
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE



*A kind gesture can reach a wound  
that only compassion can heal.*



- Steve Maraboli

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