

ANNUAL
REPORT

FY2019

FIGHTING HUNGER IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

SERVING THE 10 COASTAL COUNTIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

It is impossible to highlight last year's accomplishments without first addressing the current environment. Although we are living in an unprecedented time, the LCFB is meeting increased food needs with intentional commitment and continued dedication to our mission to lead the fight against hunger in the Lowcountry.

Food procurement has been challenging and our expenses have increased exponentially, but I am extremely proud of our team and how we have continued to fill significant and growing meal gaps. The need for emergency food assistance has increased more than 50% over the last few months. Of our neighbors who now need food assistance, 40% have never had to ask for help before.

Due to distancing requirements, volunteers now work in small groups in our warehouse and have still packed 100,000 food boxes in less than eight months. We have also prepared more than 100,000 meals in the Zucker Family Production Kitchen.

While uncertainty reigns due to COVID-19, I am proud to share some of our 2019 accomplishments. We distributed more than 26.3 million meals, which included more than 9.7 million pounds of fresh produce to children, seniors, families and veterans. We expanded Fresh for All produce distributions to more than 80, which served more than 53,000 people. Our 2019 five-year strategic plan included an initiative to increase equitable food access to those we serve, with our emphasis on high-need communities in rural areas.

We distributed 7,110 meals to veterans and 4,254 pounds of produce to these same families, through a grant from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation. We served more than 2,000 hot breakfast meals to homeless adults each week. We added two new partners that served meals to food insecure seniors, and we served more than 418,000 meals and snacks to children last year. The LCFB also rescued and distributed 13 million pounds of food from retailers that would have otherwise gone to waste.

In 2020, we have many new initiatives that support our mission. A multi-year gift from Mike and Beverly Smith allowed us to renovate space and create the Mike and Beverly Smith Volunteer Center. We completed a technology upgrade to help our staff serve the community more efficiently. In partnership with the Riley Center at the College of Charleston, we created a new online GIS system to help us better pinpoint underserved areas and better plan food distributions for our neighbors. Through this same partnership, we created the Lowcountry Food Finder to help our neighbors more quickly identify where they can find free food in their own communities.

My eight-year tenure as LCFB President & CEO will come to a close this year when our Board of Directors names a new leader to take the LCFB into the future. I have been so fortunate to have served as the President & CEO through many outstanding accomplishments and achievements, only made possible with the steadfast support of our Board of Directors and a knowledgeable and dedicated staff that is unwavering in its commitment. It has been an honor, privilege and joy to serve with our Board and staff through significant growth and strategic improvements.

I also want to recognize and thank our 300 partner agencies that distribute food to people in our community who need it most. Only by working together can we continue to feed and serve our neighbors who struggle with hunger.

Pat Walker

Pat Walker
President & CEO



FELIX'S STORY

I served in the air force for 20 years.

I had a good career, but I'm 81 now so I can't work any longer. It's hard to make ends meet on my retirement income. It happens every so often that I don't have money to buy food. I've been coming to this veteran's center for two years. They also have the food pantry, and that helps me a lot. It's made my life easier because I didn't have to stress about not having enough food. The boxes I get are more than I could imagine. They contain all sorts of food items like canned items and fresh produce.

To me, this food bank means survival.

COVID-19 2020 Response Efforts

In March, the LCFB quickly adjusted its business model due to drastic declines in retail food donations, social distancing limitations on volunteer efforts, and the need for low-contact distributions. Drive-thru food distribution models were created to protect LCFB partner agencies and food pantries, LCFB neighbors in need, volunteers and employees.

The LCFB also increased its already stringent food safety and safe handling practices to include social distancing and additional sterilization procedures as recommended by the CDC.

MARCH 15 - JULY 2020

6,000,000

POUNDS OF
FOOD
DISTRIBUTED



5,000,000

MEALS SERVED
TO
NEIGHBORS



67,402

BOXES
PACKED BY
VOLUNTEERS



30,364

BACKPACK
BUDDIES
PREPARED



98,839

BOXES OF
PRODUCE
DISTRIBUTED



47

DIRECT TO
CLIENT
DISTRIBUTIONS



39,560

SENIOR MEALS
PREPARED



9,292

DISASTER
MEALS
PREPARED



FIGHTING HUNGER



32.1
MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED

8.6
MILLION POUNDS
OF PRODUCE
DISTRIBUTED

200,000
NEIGHBORS
SERVED

26.3
MILLION
MEALS SERVED



97%
OF DONATED
FUNDS SPENT ON
PROGRAMS &
SERVICES

9,000
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED
MORE THAN
51,558 HOURS



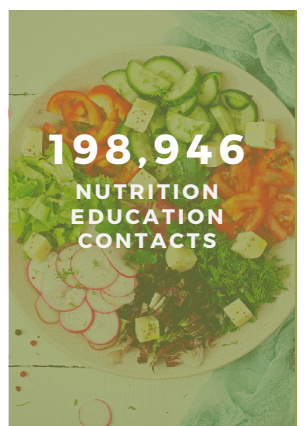
248,502
DRIVEN MILES
IN 2019



1,077,576
KIDS MEALS
SERVED

497,617
SENIOR MEALS
SERVED

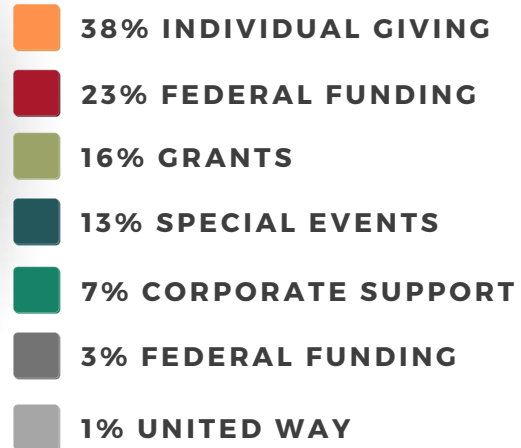
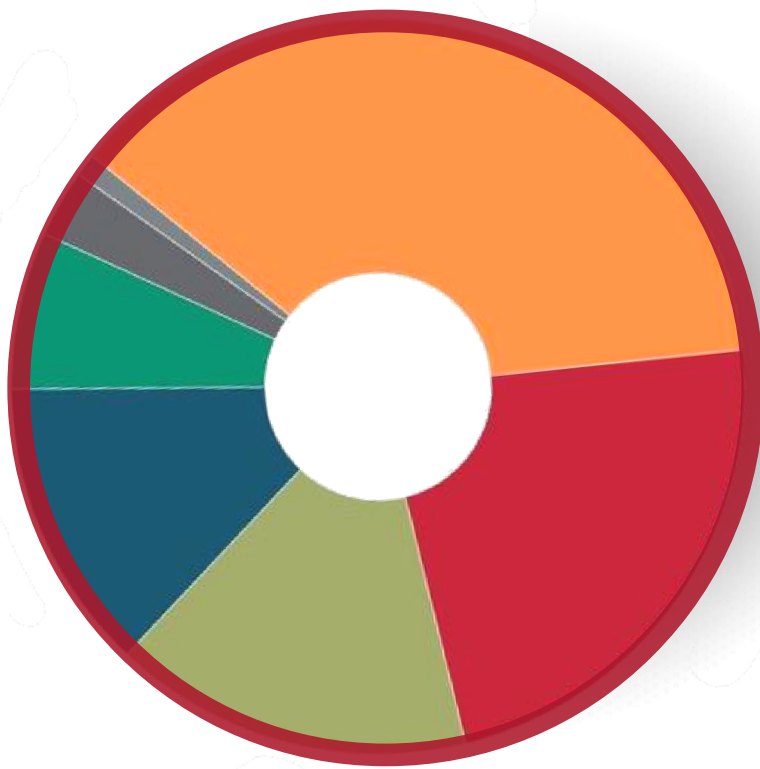
7,110
VETERAN MEALS
SERVED



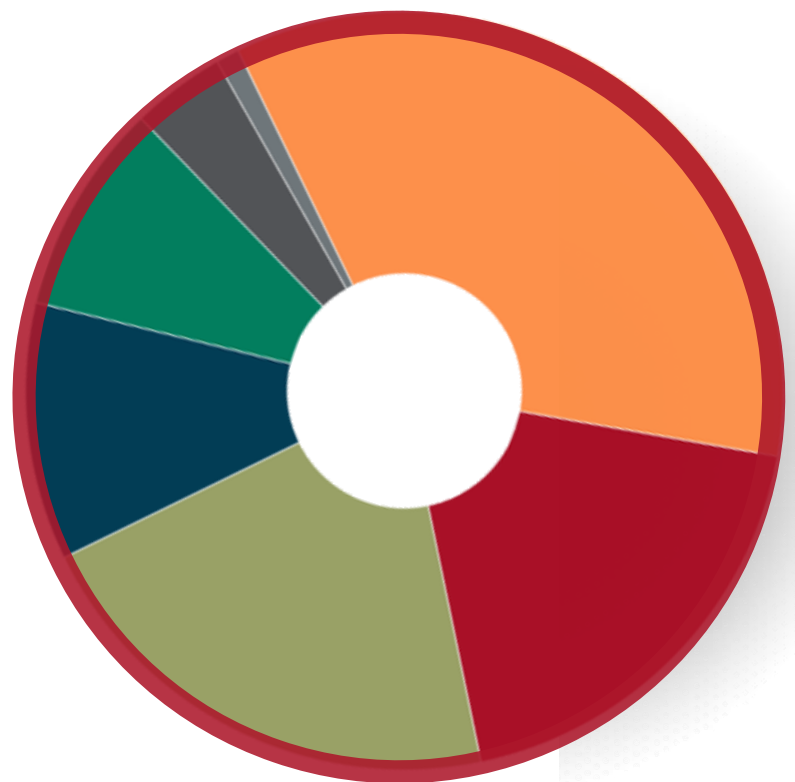
198,946
NUTRITION
EDUCATION
CONTACTS

FY2019 IMPACT

CASH & IN-KIND DONATIONS



FOOD DONATIONS



FOOD FOR ALL

CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM

The Lowcountry Food Bank's (LCFB) mission to lead the fight against hunger is supported by a five-year strategic plan. One of our primary strategic initiatives addresses how to provide equitable food access to the neighbors we serve and to reduce food access barriers, especially in high-need and rural areas where people have limited access to a grocery store or food pantry.

Serving the most vulnerable populations requires strategic capacity building and continued assessment of our partner agency network, programs and direct-to-client services. In 2019, the LCFB began working with the College of Charleston's Riley Center for Livable Communities to map and analyze the gaps in access to healthy foods throughout our service area based on factors including census tract data and available food resources. The information from this GIS mapping is instrumental in guiding where additional food resources are needed by agency partners and where direct-to-client food distributions are hosted. This work has also resulted in the Lowcountry Free Food Finder that is available to our community through an online link.

This analysis will continue to drive the LCFB's commitment to providing equitable access to healthy food and help provide food assistance initiatives and programs for disproportionately affected communities, individuals and families. The LCFB team is also reaching out to gather feedback from the community as a whole to deepen our understanding of the challenges facing those we serve.



**RILEY CENTER
FOOD FINDER MAP**



**GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION
SYSTEM**



FEED. ADVOCATE. EMPOWER.

lowcountryfoodbank.org