



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2022



**Proudly Serving the Lowcountry Since 1983!**



# Letter from the President & CEO

As we mark our 40th year of operations at Lowcountry Food Bank, we reflect over the past 12 months and look to the horizon for what lies ahead. 2022 was an incredible year as the pandemic continued to impact our work and the neighbors we serve. We have seen the price of fuel, transportation, food, and additional services increase as inflation has taken grip. Despite these many challenges, the dedication of our staff, partners, donors, and volunteers has ensured that we continue to provide access to healthy food and the highest quality service.

## Here are just a few of the many achievements we realized for the neighbors we served in 2022:

- Equitable distribution of more than 39 million pounds of food, of which 65% was protein, produce, and dairy products, which created 33 million meals and provided equitable access to food across all 10 coastal counties, especially our harder to reach rural communities.
- Our donors generously gave more than 41,000 gifts in 2022, and each gift made an impact in the lives of our neighbors who face hunger. Our major fundraising events, Chefs' Feast, the Walk to Fight Hunger, and Giving Tuesday also helped raise critical funds.
- We prioritized investments to increase the capacity of our partner agencies by providing equipment and supplies that enable larger deliveries, grant funding to support additional agency needs, and investment in new, innovative, sustainable partnerships, such as our collaboration with Gullah Farmers Cooperative Association on St. Helena Island. 2022 also welcomed back the Lowcountry Food Bank Agency Conference, with nearly 200 participants, along with fantastic speakers and a day full of engagement and learning.



- We began the process to expand our presence in the southern-most counties we serve with the acquisition of land for a new, strategically located facility that will provide greater opportunities for increased storage capacity, new programs, and greater engagement with our existing and growing number of partners in that region. It will serve as a hub for our partners to convene, collaborate, and share learning opportunities.
- We sustained and strengthened our focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our EDI journey will continue as we collaborate with other partners whose missions are aligned with our own in addressing the many inequalities that exist within our neighbors' communities.

We will continue our work in collaboration with our partners, donors, volunteers, and with the expertise of our dedicated staff to address the root causes of hunger in a continued effort to bring the food insecurity rate down further in the coastal counties we serve. Only through working together can we continue to make a positive and impactful difference for our neighbors.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Nick'.

**Nick Osborne**  
President & CEO



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**SCAN to discover more of our**  
**2022 achievements.**  
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# 2022 IMPACT

39.7

Millions Pounds Of Food And  
Essential Items Distributed

33

Million Meals Served

200,000+

Neighbors Served

16.6

Million Pounds Of  
Produce Served

14.1

Million Pounds of Food From Retailers  
That Would Otherwise Go to Waste

294,764

Meals Prepared In The Zucker  
Family Production Kitchen

141,506

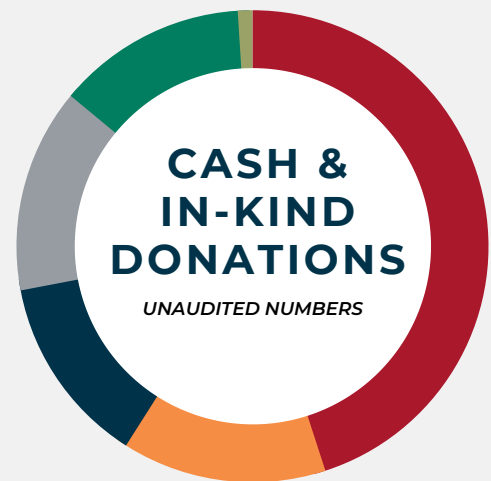
Senior And Adult Meals Served

7,629

Pounds Of Produce  
Distributed to Veterans



- 35.5% Retail
- 25.8% Produce (Local & Regional Farms)
- 18.4% USDA
- 8% Local Donors
- 6.4% Purchased
- 3.5% Feeding America
- 1.5% Other Food Banks
- 1% Food Drives



- 45% Individual Gifts
- 14% Grants
- 14% Special Events
- 13% Federal Funding
- 13% Corporate Support
- 1% In-Kind



96%

Of Our Charitable Dollars Are Spent  
On Direct Programs And Services

325,004

Miles Driven By  
LCFB Trucks

230+

Partner Agencies Distribute Food To Our  
Neighbors Who Experience Food Insecurity

17,000+

Volunteer Hours Worked

295,027

Contacts Reached Through  
Nutrition Education

85,000

Boxes Packed In The Lowcountry  
Food Bank Volunteer Center

105,834

BackPack Buddies Packs  
Distributed at 60+ School Partners



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# Supporting Our Partner Agencies to Serve Our Lowcountry Communities

In 2021 and 2022, Lowcountry Food Bank (LCFB) has continued to prioritize **infrastructure support** of our partner agencies that distribute LCFB-procured food directly to neighbors by supplying items to meet their needs, including large-scale refrigeration, freezers, laptops and tablets, and grant funding.

## Improved Access to Nutritious Food in Williamsburg County

With funds from a David and Nicole Tepper Foundation family grant, the Dairy Alliance and the USDA, LCFB began an innovative pilot in 2022 to build a new "Hub and Spoke" model in partnership with CMD's Pantry (hub) and four Community Pantries (spokes: pantries with fewer current resources) to increase access to nutritious food in Williamsburg County. The pilot sought to:

- Increase total food pounds, fresh produce and dairy pounds that can be distributed to neighbors who experience food-insecurity.
- Increase how often CMD's Pantry and Community Pantry can provide food access.
- Convert CMD's Pantry to offer full food choice to neighbors and pilot a new distribution model that will enable neighbors to go online and pre-order food at a time that works best for them to pick it up.

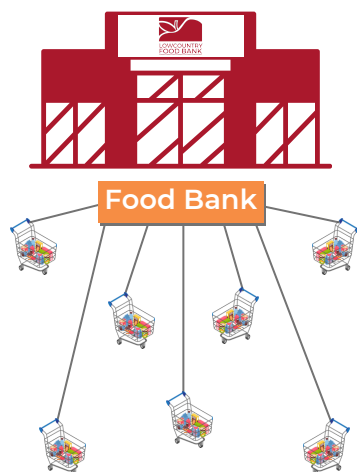


## More Innovation Ahead

**SCAN** to discover how LCFB is exploring strategies that further develop, replicate and adapt the Hub and Spoke Model to better serve more neighbors.

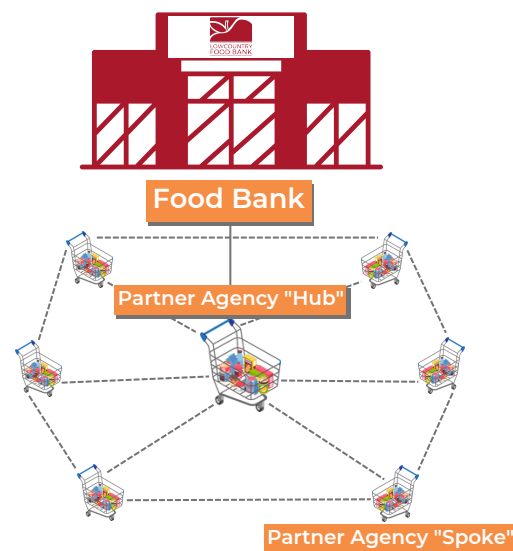


### Traditional Food Bank Partner Agency Model



- Hierarchical
- Inefficiencies
- Duplicative
- Individual Relationships

### "Hub and Spoke" - Networked and Connected



- Networked
- Efficiencies
- Flexible
- Collaborative Relationships

Piloting in Williamsburg County with five partner agencies

↓ **LESS** than the sum of the parts....

↑ **GREATER** than the sum of the parts....

## Positive Outcomes

The Hub and Spoke Model has significantly increased the total pounds of food available to neighbors in Williamsburg County:



In 18 months, the Model brought a 91% increase in total pounds of food distributed.



A 220% increase in fresh produce and a 54% increase in dairy products.



A 65% increase in opportunities to receive food at the Hub and Spoke pantries!

**ORDER NOW**

Order Ahead service allows neighbors to select and pre-order food.



# Using Technology to Better Serve our Partner Agencies and Neighbors

## Agency Express

Agency Express is an online portal that allows our partner agencies to place their food orders with real-time access to our warehouse inventory.

## Emergency Food Assistance

At the height of the pandemic, more than 1,000 people came through LCFB doors monthly, most for the first time. Emergency assistance has spiked since pandemic-era assistance programs expired. In the fourth quarter of 2022, the Charleston Regional Food Center served 3,166 individuals representing 988 households.

## Link 2 Feed

Link 2 Feed software encourages conversations between LCFB partner agencies and neighbors who experience food insecurity. It also helps us distribute healthy foods that neighbors like to eat.

## The Ability to Choose Food Brings Dignity

Our Agency Relations and Community Health and Nutrition teams have regular conversations with our partner agencies about the levels of choice they are able to offer when they distribute food. We want our neighbors to have the dignity of making decisions for themselves and their families when they receive food.



SCAN to learn more about our work with Agency Partners.

As of April 3, 2023,  
our partners using  
Link2Feed  
reported serving  
**195,719**  
individuals representing  
**104,476**  
families in 2023!

## PARTNER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



### CMD's Tracey Pressley, Executive Director

Tracey Pressley has worked in the human services industry for nearly 30 years. "When you see for yourself a person's actual needs, it's a whole different ball game and you know what you need to advocate for." CMD provides healthy food to families with low incomes, senior citizens, and people with disabilities in Williamsburg and surrounding counties. Tracey and her team offer food and other services and refer neighbors to additional resources they may need, like health clinic locations.



SCAN to read more about CMD.



LCFB Partner Agencies  
distribute more than

**88%**

of the food LCFB procures.

**42%**  
**of all food**

distributed in 2022 was  
fresh produce.

We are now getting back to  
farmer's market-style food  
distributions that **reach our  
neighbors where they are!**

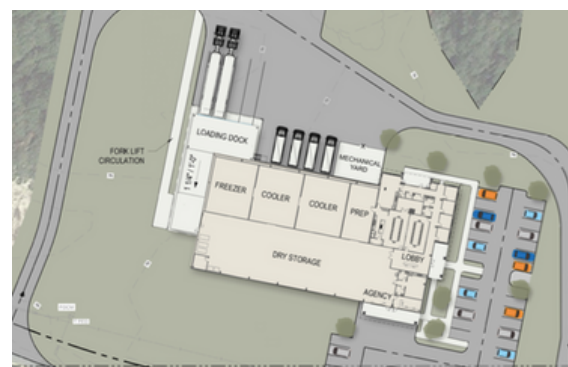
# LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOR GOOD

## New Facility Coming to Hampton County!

### Expanding Our Presence in the Southernmost Counties We Serve

Through a donation, LCFB secure land on the Agriculture Technology Campus (ATC) in Hampton, SC to build a 20,000 square-foot facility, which will provide increased engagement, scale and capacity-sharing for our partner agencies.

In addition to increasing efficiencies among our other two Food Centers in Charleston and Myrtle Beach, the new facility will serve as a hub for our partners, provide an improved experience for food pickup, and enable opportunities to convene through increased coordination and shared learning.



SCAN to learn about our new southern facility.

## Serving Our Community with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Lowcountry Food Bank's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) journey began in 2019. We have led and participated in EDI trainings and workshops to expand our EDI knowledge and what that means to our staff, our Board of Directors, our Partner Agencies, and the neighbors we serve.

Our internal EDI Advisory Committee has used an equity lens, providing EDI learning opportunities for staff, reviewing staff demographic data to develop long-term diversity goals, and assessing how we better engage with our Partner Agencies from an EDI perspective and how we should continue to look to our neighbors for their guidance and feedback in our work.



SCAN to discover how we expanded our EDI journey in 2022.



## Adult Meals Garner Health Improvements

Since 2012, Lowcountry Food Bank has produced meals for adults and seniors in our community. Each month, we produce approximately **12,000** adult meals, with **94%** supporting East Cooper Meals on Wheels and Summerville Meals on Wheels.



**63%**

of adults maintained or improved health conditions



**82%**

agree that meals have often provided a source of having hot fresh food



SCAN to view full results of our Adult Meals Survey.



# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1983

## A LEGACY OF NOURISHING FAMILIES

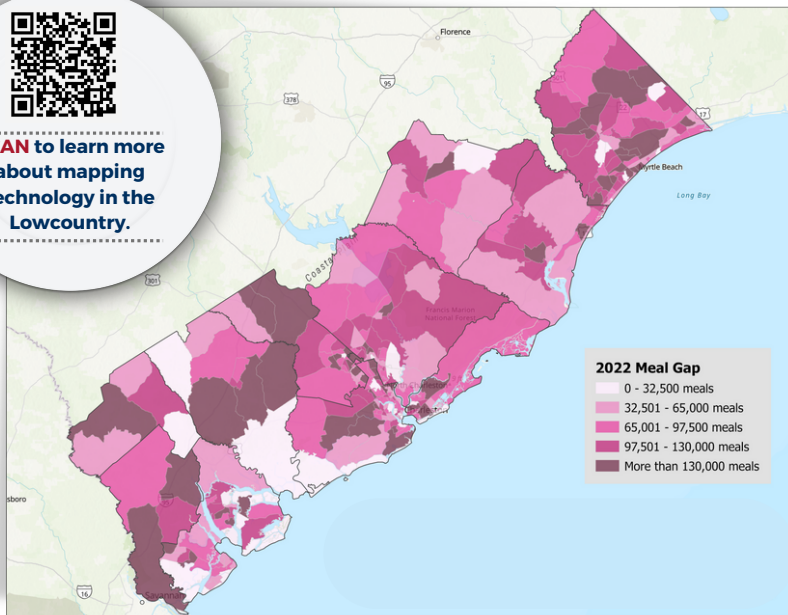
### Using Mapping Technology to Strategically Identify and Fill Meal Gaps

A meal gap shows how many meals are missing in our communities. A person who faces food insecurity is missing 170 meals annually\*. Knowing where our food-insecure neighbors live helps us better accommodate their needs. ArcGIS mapping technology allows us to measure the impact we're making across our service area on a regular basis so that we always have a pulse on the needs of the communities we serve.

*\*Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2021 - Technical Appendix*



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**SCAN to learn more  
about mapping  
technology in the  
Lowcountry.**  
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### Our Retail Partners Play a Crucial Role in Fighting Hunger

LCFB depends upon the generosity of the food industry! We recover excess products from retail grocers, wholesalers, growers and more! LCFB partners with more than 200 retail and wholesale grocers across the 10 counties we serve. We scheduled more than 51,000 food donation pick-ups in 2022, a number that grows every year!



**Almost 40% - more than 14 million pounds  
of the food we distributed, came from our  
retail and other food industry partners in 2022**

### Lowcountry Food Bank Foundation Provides Long-Term Financial Support



The Lowcountry Food Bank Foundation was established in 2021 to provide a consistent and sustainable source of funding to support the Lowcountry Food Bank.

The Foundation manages and invests monetary gifts, which continue to grow, and provides a dependable source of annual income to help fund feeding programs, projects, equipment, and infrastructure for the Lowcountry Food Bank. The Foundation helps ensure that our food insecure neighbors in the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina will have access to food assistance both now and in the future.



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**SCAN to learn more  
about the Lowcountry  
Food Bank Foundation.**  
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For more information, contact  
Beth Atkinson, Director of Fundraising,  
at 843-747-8146 ext. 123.



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**SCAN to learn  
about our new  
Mobile Pantry  
from Publix!**  
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# 40 Years of Serving the Lowcountry

2023 marks Lowcountry Food Bank's 40th year of serving neighbors who experience food insecurity. As we acknowledge this milestone, we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to serve our neighbors in need.



Founded by the Coastal Community Foundation and Trident United Way.



**1983**



In 1983, LCFB served the greater Charleston area as the Food Trust.

We launched Growing Food Locally in Beaufort County.



**2005**

**2008**



Opened regional food centers in Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Yemassee.

Opened the Zucker Family Production Kitchen and prepared more than 200,000 meals.



**2010**

**2013**



We celebrated our 30th anniversary!

We piloted Fresh for All, a farmers' market-style mobile distribution model.



**2014**

**2019**



With support from Sysco, we purchased a new cooler to increase capacity for fresh produce.

We increased our fleet to 15 trucks!



**2020**

**2021**



We stepped up for the COVID-19 pandemic, providing millions of meals to nourish families.

We celebrated our two millionth meal produced in the Zucker Family Production Kitchen!



**2022**

**2023**



Our 40th anniversary, continuing our mission to lead the fight against hunger in the Lowcountry!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chair

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<b>Dr. Kimberly Butler Willis</b>	<b>Monica Scott</b>
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<b>Amie Grimes</b>	<b>Bill Trull</b>
<b>Michael Mintz</b>	<b>Rich White</b>
<b>Michael Wilson</b>	

### **The Hulse Family Community Food and Nutrition Center, Charleston**

2864 Azalea Dr.  
Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 747-8146  
Fax: (843) 747-8147

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### **Lowcountry Food Bank Yemassee Regional Food Center**

One Guess Rd.  
Yemassee, SC 29945  
Phone: (843) 589-4118  
Fax: (843) 589-4228

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
for partner agencies

### **Lowcountry Food Bank, Food Lion Feeds Regional Food Center, Myrtle Beach**

4716 Northgate Blvd.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
Phone: (843) 448-0341  
Fax: (843) 448-0481

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Feed:** Provide equitable access to nutritious food through a network of partners.

**Advocate:** In partnership with others, advocate at the local, state, and federal level on social and policy issues surrounding food insecurity.

**Empower:** Empower clients and partners to holistically address hunger and food insecurity through nutrition education and service with dignity.



[lowcountryfoodbank.org](http://lowcountryfoodbank.org)