LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023



Proudly Serving the Lowcountry Since 1983!

Letter from the President & CEO



Now in our 41st year of operations, I am excited for the future we share! We realized a record-setting 2023 with the distribution of 42.8 million pounds of food, of which 18 million pounds was fresh produce, which translates to 33 million meals for the neighbors we serve.

Through this Annual Impact Report, we share some of our 2023 achievements and priorities for 2024 and beyond.

With the conclusion of our previous 5-year strategic plan, we developed a new strategy and moved to a 3-year, focused **strategic framework**, which seeks to define our neighbors and communities by their assets and aspirations rather than by challenges and problems. The roots of our new framework are illustrated in the apple tree within this report.

While it's been another extremely busy year, with many challenges, I am proud to work alongside our partners, donors, staff, and volunteers in service to our neighbors. Their dedication and commitment ensure our neighbors receive the support they deserve, without judgement and with respect.

Nick.

Nick Osborne
President & CEO

SCAN to discover more of our 2023 achievements.





2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chair

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Victoria Smalls
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Erica Taylor
Bill Trull
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**Visit lowcountryfoodbank.org to view 2024 Board of Directors.*

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.

2023 IMPACT

42.8 MILLIONS
Pounds Of Food And Essential Items Distributed

35.6 MILLION
Meals Served

200,000+
Neighbors Served

18 MILLION
Pounds Of Produce Served

15 MILLION
Pounds of Food From Retailers That Would Otherwise Go to Waste

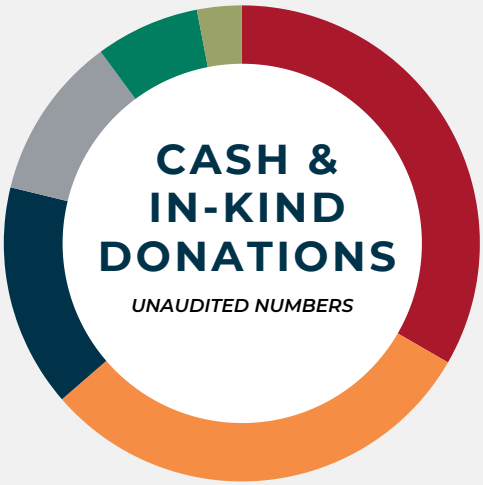
210,861
Meals Prepared In The Zucker Family Production Kitchen

134,654
Senior And Adult Meals Served

6,474
Pounds Of Produce Distributed to Veterans



- 34% Retail
- 21% Produce (Local & Regional Farms)
- 21% USDA
- 10% Purchased
- 9% Local Donors
- 2% Feeding America
- 2% Other Food Banks
- 1% Food Drives



- 33% Individual Gifts
- 30% Federal Feeding
- 15% Grants
- 11% Special Events
- 7% Corporate Support
- 3% In-Kind

96%
Of Our Charitable Dollars Are Spent On Direct Programs And Services

325,004
Miles Driven By LCFB Trucks

240
Partner Agencies Distribute Food To Our Neighbors Who Experience Food Insecurity

34,000+
Volunteer Hours Worked

221,828
Contacts Reached Through Nutrition Education

72,000+
Boxes Packed In The Lowcountry Food Bank Volunteer Center

92,888
BackPack Buddies Packs Distributed at 60+ School Partners

CREATING A NOURISHED AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Partner Agency Capacity

In 2023, Lowcountry Food Bank Agency Relations purchased, through grant funding, over 100 commercial grade refrigeration/freezer units, a walk-in freezer, and two refrigerated 20' containers for our partner agencies. This equipment has allowed partner agencies to store more perishable food such as produce, dairy, and, protein and therefore expand their hours of operation by opening more often. For our neighbors who seek food assistance, this means more consistent access to high quality food.







Through the generosity of Publix, we purchased a 26' refrigerated box truck for The Shepherd's Table, a Lowcountry Food Bank partner agency in Conway. This truck has allowed the organization to pick up more food products directly from our Retail Stores - a win for the neighbors they serve.

High quality, nutrition-packed food purchased with Community Development Block Grant funding allowed our partner agencies to have shelves and fridges full of food to share with their neighbors last year.

90%

of food we procure is distributed by our partner agencies



66%

of the food we distribute is whole foods
(dairy, protein, and produce)



40%

of food we distribute is fresh produce

Partner Agency Spotlight: Sandalwood Community Food Bank Finds Beauty in Giving Loving Kindness

Nourishing over 1,300 neighbors monthly in Beaufort County, Sandalwood Community Food Bank ensures families have access to essential resources and healthy food to thrive. Discover Rev. Dr. Nannette Pierson's persistent efforts to strengthen our communities, while serving neighbors with kindness and dignity.



SCAN to read more about Sandalwood Community Food Bank

We Obtain Almost 40% of the Food We Distribute from Our Retail Partners

Our retail partners play a critical role in supplying our neighbors with equitable, dignified, and consistent access to food. From our generous food industry partners, 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 53,000 food donation pick-ups in 2023, a number that increases every year.

Food For Health

LCFB believes that working alongside our healthcare partners to improve our neighbors' access to the nutritious foods they need to thrive is integral to improving health outcomes and decreasing costs associated with poor health.

Southern Region Facility & Collaborations

Through a donation, LCFB secured land on the Agriculture Technology Campus (ATC) in Hampton, SC to build a new 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.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We believe food is a basic human right and we know we must work on the disproportionate impact that food insecurity and other inequities has on those who has been systemically marginalized in SC, specifically communities of color and those in more rural areas.

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GIS Mapping

Using our ArcGIS mapping technology, we are able to better identify pockets of increased food insecurity and develop strategies for service to help meet our neighbors' needs.

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LCFB Foundation

The Lowcountry Food Bank Foundation was established in 2021 to provide a consistent and sustainable source of funding to support our mission, ensuring our neighbors are nourished both now and in the future.

SCAN to learn more

LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

FEED. ADVOCATE. EMPOWER.

40 ANNIVERSARY

Proudly Serving the Lowcountry Since 1983

OUR VISION:

A NOURISHED AND THRIVING COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA



OUR MISSION:

To unite our community in pursuit of equitable, dignified, and consistent access to food.

OUR VALUES:

Collaboration

Integrity

Respect

Equity

Kindness

Commitment

OUR PRIORITIES:



Investing in the Future of Our Neighbors



Food For Today



Organizational Excellence



Engaging Our Neighbors and Community

VISION: **SKY** - Our vision represents an ideal state and where we want to be in the future. The sky (our vision) helps the tree (our organization) survive. Just as the environment furthers the integrity of the tree, LCFB's vision helps motivate success.

MISSION: **TREE TRUNK** - Our mission identifies LCFB, describing our objectives and what we do. Just as the trunk of the tree provides a solid and strong support system, our mission is powerful and helps us collectively focus on our goals and priorities.

VALUES: **TREE ROOTS** - Our values anchor the Food Bank, keeping the organization stable. Just as roots to a tree provide health and survival, our deep-rooted values strengthen LCFB's fundamental beliefs, and keep our organization steady.

PRIORITIES: **FOOD BAGS/CRATES** - Just as a tree grows and produces fruit, the elements in our strategic framework work in tandem to develop our priorities. Our priorities are initiatives that we will focus on to achieve long-term goals and the overall mission. These priorities serve as a foundation for decision-making and performance measurement.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: **LARGE APPLES** - Our guiding principles represent the concepts and behaviors LCFB agrees to live by every day. Just as depicted on the tree, these principles not only symbolize our brand, but are prominent and set a cohesive standard for our organization.

The Hulsey 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.

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

lowcountryfoodbank.org