



LOWCOUNTRY  
FOOD BANK

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2024

**Ashley Walker**  
*St. Helena Island,  
South Carolina*

**A Fresh Way to Nourish our Neighbors!**

# Letter from the President & CEO



As we reflect on 2024—our **42nd year of service**—we recognize that while the future remains uncertain in many ways, our commitment to our neighbors in coastal South Carolina is unwavering. Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025 and beyond, I'm energized by the many ways we're working to create a community where everyone has access to the nourishment they need to thrive.

In a world where change is constant, we remain firmly grounded in our mission: ensuring our neighbors have consistent access to healthy food. This past year, more than 184,000 individuals in our service area faced food insecurity, a number that has now risen to over 204,000, or 13% of the population, the highest rate in two decades. And yet, despite these challenges, we have achieved significant progress.

We're proud that 38% of the food we distributed in 2024 was fresh produce—supporting local farmers, our aging population, veterans, and families impacted by the rising cost of living. We also prioritized the well-being of children by distributing more than 151,000 meals. In total, 68% of all food distributed last year included fresh produce, protein, and dairy—ensuring our neighbors receive the nourishment they deserve.

These achievements are only possible thanks to the generosity of our partners, donors, staff, and volunteers. Together, we are adapting to evolving needs while staying true to our strategic framework—a roadmap that allows us to serve with both intention and agility.

*Nick*

**Nick Osborne**  
President & CEO



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**SCAN** the QR code to explore even more highlights from 2024 and see what's ahead for 2025 and beyond.  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WHO WE ARE

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

**Vision:** A nourished and thriving coastal South Carolina.

**Values:** Integrity, Respect, Commitment, Equity, Collaboration, Kindness

**Guiding Principals:** Feed. Advocate. Empower.



# 2024 IMPACT

45.8

Millions Pounds Of Food And  
Essential Items Distributed

38.2

Million Meals Served

200,000+

Neighbors Served

17.5

Million Pounds Of  
Produce Served

15

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

233,481

Meals Prepared In The Zucker  
Family Production Kitchen

151,776

Senior And Adult Meals Served

2,795

Pounds Of Produce  
Distributed to Veterans



- 34% Retail
- 27% USDA
- 18% Produce  
(Local & Regional Farms)
- 10% Purchased
- 6% Local Donors
- 1% Feeding America
- 2% Other Food Banks
- 1% Food Drives
- 1% Local Produce  
Purchased



- 42% Individual Gifts
- 14% Federal Feeding
- 28% Grants
- 10% Special Events
- 5% Corporate Support
- 1% In Kind & United Way

96%

Of Our Charitable Dollars Are Spent  
On Direct Programs And Services

325,000

Miles Driven By  
LCFB Trucks

240

Partner Agencies Distribute Food To Our  
Neighbors Who Experience Food Insecurity

41,000+

Volunteer Hours Worked

162,000

Contacts Reached Through  
Nutrition Education

47,000+

Boxes Packed In The Lowcountry  
Food Bank Volunteer Center

80,286

BackPack Buddies Packs  
Distributed at 58 School Partners



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# CREATING PATHWAYS TO HEALTHY, STRONG COMMUNITIES

## LCFB Grant Funds Equip Partner Agencies to Better Serve Neighbors

In 2024, the Lowcountry Food Bank worked closely with its network of 240 partner agencies to expand service opportunities for their neighbors. Through generous donor support, grant opportunities, and continued backing from our retail partners, the Agency Relations department was able to supply our partners with dozens of new refrigeration units to store more dairy and protein, walk-in refrigeration units to allow the partners to store more fresh produce, shopping carts to allow for a more comfortable shopping experience for neighbors, and shelving units to allow the agencies to display the variety of healthy items they have available.



SCAN to read more  
about our work

## Lowcountry Food Bank Honored with Inaugural Nonprofit Impact Award from Coastal Community Foundation



Lowcountry Food Bank was honored with the first-ever Richard Hendry Nonprofit Impact Award by Coastal Community Foundation (CCF), honoring our measurable impact, innovative programs, and collaborative leadership.

Since 1982, when CCF's founding grant helped launch what was then The Food Trust, the partnership has grown—resulting in over \$1 million in support for programs like Fresh for All, Backpack Buddies, and School Pantries.

"LCFB embodies the spirit of this award through its commitment to community impact, innovation, and meaningful partnerships," said Kerri Forrest, CCF's VP of Grantmaking and Community Leadership.

## Partner Agency Spotlight: Shepherd of the Sea Director Deb Smith

Since becoming director in 2023, Deb Smith and her volunteers have enhanced the community services they offer. Serving over 2,000 neighbors a month, they are now a full-choice pantry. Rather than pre-packing a box of food, their neighbors can select the food they want to take home for themselves. With the addition of a walk-in cooler and food lockers from LCFB, Deb and her volunteers are able to provide more healthy and fresh food to their neighbors.



## Strengthening Our Network Through Interactive Learning

In 2022, the Lowcountry Food Bank launched **The Learning Center**—an innovative, self-paced learning management system designed to empower partner agency staff and volunteers. Through interactive training courses, we help partners build skills to better serve our neighbors with dignity, safety, and compassion.

As of 2024, five fully developed courses are available, covering topics like **food safety**, **creating welcoming environments**, and **building nourishing pantries**. These trainings make it easier for agencies across our 10-county service area to meet required certifications and onboard new team members efficiently and consistently.



SCAN for more information about our  
learning management system

## Hearts for Summerville: Delivering Dignity, One Meal at a Time

For the past five years, Hearts for Summerville has been a steadfast presence in the lives of local children and families, delivering food, building relationships, and offering hope—one doorstep at a time.

"We're thrilled to offer healthy and delicious frozen meals to our Hearts kids," said program leader Heather. "They're a perfect supplement to the non-perishable staples we provide—and easy for elementary-aged kids to heat up on their own."



SCAN to learn more about Hearts of Summerville

## 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  
about the LCFB  
Foundation

## Retail Rescue

Our retail partners play a critical role in supplying our neighbors with access to healthy food. **We obtain almost 40% of the food we distribute from our retail partners.** From our generous food industry partners across the 10 coastal counties we serve, we recover excess products from more than 200 retail grocers, wholesalers, growers, and more. Our retail partners enabled us to rescue more than 15 million pounds of food in 2024 and we scheduled more than 54,000 food donation pick-ups.

Turn the page to see  
how we are building  
an even more  
**nourished** and  
**thriving** Lowcountry!



CCF's Darrin Goss &  
LCFB's Brenda Shaw



SCAN to read more  
about this great  
achievement

# We Have Expanded Our Presence To Better Serve Neighbors!

## Early Branch Food Center Now Open In Hampton County

In 2022, LCFB secured land on the Agriculture Technology Campus in Hampton County to build an expansive and improved space to efficiently meet the growing need of families in our community. **This move is imperative for the future of the Food Bank and the 10 counties we serve. It will allow us to expand upon our mission - setting the stage for innovative solutions to ease food insecurity.** The new Southern Region Food Center in Early Branch, South Carolina, will allow LCFB to expand essential programs that invest in food security and support our neighbors when they need it most.



### Facility Features Will Allow Us To:

- Provide increased engagement, scale and capacity-sharing for our partner food pantries
- Increase efficiencies among our other two food centers in Charleston and Myrtle Beach and serve as a hub for our partners
- Provide an improved experience for food pickup
- Enable opportunities to convene through increased coordination and shared learning among the community

90%

of food we procure is distributed by our partner agencies



68%

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



38%

of food we distribute is fresh produce



41,000+

volunteer hours completed in 2024



## We create pathways to healthy, strong communities.

### Community Resource Map

Addressing food insecurity takes more than just providing meals. In partnership with Trident United Way, we launched a Community Resource Map in 2024 to connect neighbors with essential services like housing, healthcare, financial aid, legal support, and more – across all 10 counties. Local pantries and meal sites are also listed. This exciting resource is available to anyone through our website.



SCAN to view map

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is crucial in ensuring families have access to nutritious food. It improves health, supports local economies, and helps reduce poverty.



SCAN to discover more about SNAP

### Find A Food Pantry Near You

Use Vivory, the free tool on our website's Find Food section, that identifies our partner food pantries and enables our advocates to access food.



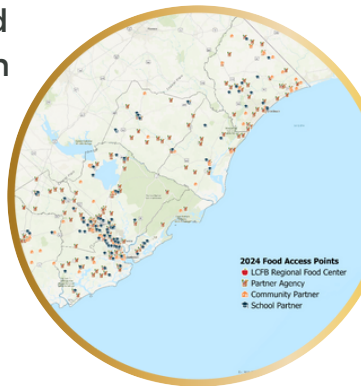
SCAN to find food or learn more

### Strength in Collaboration

Collaboration is key to our work at Lowcountry Food Bank. In 2024, we partnered with over 240 food pantries, 140+ schools and community organizations, and 80+ mobile pantry sites. We're also involved in thirteen coalitions across coastal South Carolina, building a healthier community. By working with schools, faith-based organizations, and coalitions, we can better meet families' needs and provide resources for healthy, active lives.



SCAN to read more



### 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 Early Branch Regional Food Center

495 Commerce Parkway  
Early Branch, SC 29916  
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.