



FOODBANK OF IOWA

SPRING 2019

A FOOD BANK OF IOWA NEWSLETTER

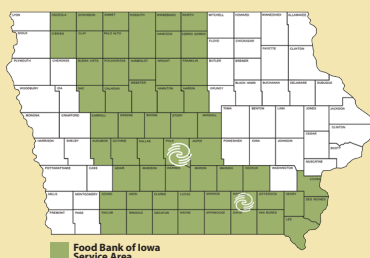
Mission

We provide food for Iowa children, families, and seniors to lead full and active lives, strengthening the communities where they live.

Vision

A hunger free Iowa.

Our service area



The Food Bank of Iowa distributes to approximately 175,000 Iowans via 600 partners in 55 counties.

Nutty Numbers

In 2018, Food Bank of Iowa distributed 255,593 lbs. of peanut butter!



TOAST AND JAM TIM JOHNSON

For Tim Johnson, it started with a piece of toast and a smear of jam.

While working as a research scientist at Pioneer Hi-Bred, Johnson began a regular series of low-key fundraisers centered on toast and jam in the mornings. Coworkers brought in home-baked bread, and the good will donations started to flow. At the Food Bank of Iowa, Johnson is known as "Toast and Jam Tim," but there's a lot more to the story.

"We wanted to find a way to give back, and the Food Bank of Iowa was an obvious choice," said Johnson. "In agriculture, one of our greatest icons is Norman Borlaug, whose goal was to feed the world. I've always been one who believes you take care of your own first."

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A Note From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

It's been a rough winter in Iowa. Many of us are focused on an eventual thaw, which is sure to come. With warm spring days in mind, it's time to start planning the garden. If you are someone who likes to eat what they themselves grow from our rich soil, I hope you'll keep hungry Iowans in mind as you place your seed order.

I know our clients deserve better access to garden-fresh produce. You may recall the food bank concluded a complete remodel of our facility last year. To allow for the procurement of more produce, our renovation included the construction of an enormous cooler. Within its walls, racks are ready to be filled with fresh produce.

Today, we rely upon a number of sources for fresh fruits and vegetables: a Feeding America produce co-op, a partnership with Iowa correctional facilities, and corporate employee-tended gardens all provide a bounty of produce. But we need more. More cucumbers. More green peppers. More zucchini — yes, I asked for zucchini.

Fresh produce is especially hard to come by for food insecure Iowans working two to three jobs and struggling to get by. Food pantries can be their best source of healthy fruits and nutritious vegetables. And you can help make sure our pantry partners are well stocked. If your garden provides a little extra this summer, please share it with your local food pantry — a list is provided on our website.



Cultivators, as you ponder the upcoming growing season, will you also consider helping to fill our cooler racks with garden-fresh produce? I am confident Iowans will help us feed Iowans. *"Build it and they will come."* This is Iowa, after all.

Visit www.foodbankiowa.org/makeadifference to learn more.

Sincerely,

Michelle Book
President & CEO
Food Bank of Iowa



www.foodbankiowa.org



Another type of seed: **PLANNED GIVING**

Plan today for a perennial harvest — learn how you can ensure a continued legacy by including Food Bank of Iowa in your will. Get more info at www.foodbankiowa.org/legacy.



GLOBAL TRADE'S LOCAL IMPACTS



Reuters, Scientific American, and National Public Radio all agree: the Midwest is the world's breadbasket. Iowa and its neighbors produce staggering

amounts of food. Food that finds its way onto dinner tables across every continent on Earth. Our farmers have come to rely on this global market for their livelihood. So, when that market is shaken, Iowa's agricultural industry feels the tremors. At the Food Bank of Iowa, we feel it, too.

Trade disputes with China, Mexico, and other foreign markets have caused headaches for our farmers, but they've also resulted in some unusual deliveries to American food banks — products coming through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has labeled "trade mitigation." Unprecedented quantities of pork and other foods have filled the shelves of food banks across the country, but the short-term benefits of these deliveries have left food bankers unsure about the future.

"The special deliveries of pork we've received are bittersweet," said Michelle Book, president and CEO of the Food Bank

of Iowa. *"Iowa pork is a nutritious food that will make a significant difference in the lives of our food insecure neighbors. However, ensuring that agriculture and Iowa farmers are strong is a better way to ensure a prosperous state, which will lead to long-term food insecurity solutions."*

Trade mitigation food arrives free from the government but comes with tangible handling and delivery costs. Running industrial coolers and freezers, forklifts, and refrigerated box trucks can be costly. In January, the Iowa Pork Producers Association stepped in to help Iowa's food banks distribute this additional food to needy Iowans. With generous support from the IPPA, we know we're all in this together.

"The purpose of a food purchase program is to help create demand for our commodities," said IPPA President Gregg Hora of Fort Dodge. *"We know this puts a strain on warehousing and distribution costs for food banks across Iowa. That's why the Iowa Pork Producers Association is stepping in to provide \$25,000 to help the food banks defray those costs."*



TOAST AND JAM TIM JOHNSON ... continued from page 1

So he kept his focus local. What started with his collection of small donations from office toast and jam parties grew to volunteering at the Food Bank. Then came his role as a team lead for Pioneer's Combat Hunger food drive. Then came the vineyard.

Tim and his wife, June, have operated a small vineyard, selling grapes to an Iowa winery. Years ago, when they donated the first \$100 in profit, they committed to 10 percent of all future proceeds. Grape by grape, Tim and June gave back.

Today, Tim is a regular volunteer and donor. He staffs a weekly shift on

the Food Bank of Iowa's new Agency Shopping Mobile, rescuing food from local retail stores and delivering it to partner agencies in the Des Moines metro (see page 4 for more information on this program).

Recently, Tim and June sold the vineyard. From the proceeds, they set aside funds to feed children. Their \$5,000 gift dedicated to the Food Bank's Backpack Program™ will go a long way.

"A hungry child is a child for whom it's difficult to learn, one who doesn't feel secure," said Johnson. *"I have four beautiful grandchildren and I'd move*



heaven and earth to make sure they weren't hungry. Children need to be fed to be ready to take on life, and that's the bottom line."

HITTING THE ROAD FOR FOOD RESCUE

A snazzy “new to us” refrigerated van has hit the streets of metro Des Moines to rescue unsellable but edible food and deliver it to food pantries as quickly as possible. Thanks to grants from the Partnership for a Hunger Free Polk County and Ruan Transportation, we were able to mobilize our new Agency Shopping Mobile in January. Look for a van, covered in food graphics, buzzing around town.

Each weekday morning, dedicated, passionate Food Bank of Iowa volunteers hit the road, stopping at three metro Hy-Vee stores to fill the van with food that would otherwise be dumped. Volunteers sort and deliver nutritious produce,



dairy, and meat to local pantries that distribute the food immediately. With pantries taking only what they know they can distribute, we are mitigating food waste on both ends of the transaction.



The program is truly a win-win: edible but unsellable food is saved from the landfill and Iowans in need have access to more of the food they need. Learn more and get involved at www.foodbankiowa.org/rescuevan.

SMOKE OUT HUNGER

returns this July!

Des Moines' premier BBQ event is back on **Sunday, July 28, 2019!** Enjoy all the BBQ you can eat from a smoke-tastic lineup of local pitmasters and restaurants (including some unique vegetarian BBQ options!). Pair your BBQ samplings with refreshing craft beers — all at no cost past the initial ticket price! Round out your Smoke Out Hunger experience with live music, games, and family-friendly activities. All proceeds benefit Food Bank of Iowa's work to end hunger in Iowa!

Early-bird tickets go on sale April 7, 2019!



FOODBANK
OF IOWA

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AMERICA

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