



## FISCAL YEAR

# 2024 STATISTICS

OCTOBER 1, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

### MEALS PROVIDED | 145,269,923

Last year, our work provided more than 145 million meals to 1,014 food shelf and hunger-relief program partners serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. We provided, on average, 81% of all food distributed by food shelf partners.

Breakdown of meals provided:

- 167,457,533\* distributed lbs. = 139,547,944 meals
- 4,980,020 SNAP meals
- 1,319,935 Kitchen Coalition meals

\*1.2 pounds of food = 1 meal

### THE NEED | 1 in 5 households in Minnesota are food insecure

- According to the 2024 Statewide Hunger Study, 1 in 5 Minnesota households are food insecure and Minnesota's emergency food system served 18% of the state.
- 30% of MN households do not feel confident about having enough food to eat a year from now.
- 90% of people experiencing food insecurity received some level of support from the emergency food system last year, primarily through access to local food shelves and utilizing available SNAP dollars.

Source: 2024 Statewide Hunger Study in collaboration with Wilder Research.

### THE NEED | Inequities in hunger

- Racial disparities are significant across the state, as only 60% of households of color are food secure, compared to 84% of white households.
- 26% of households with children are food insecure.
- Additionally, food insecurity is higher in southwestern and northern Minnesota, with 1 in 4 households classified as food insecure.

Source: 2024 Statewide Hunger Study in collaboration with Wilder Research.

## REACHING THOSE EXPERIENCING HUNGER

### KITCHEN COALITION

Kitchen Coalition was born in the early days of the pandemic to rescue abandoned food, re-employing furloughed workers, and get urgently needed meals to people facing hunger. Today, Kitchen Coalition serves up culturally connected, freshly prepared meals because

we know that not everyone facing hunger has the home, health or ability to use the groceries our food bank offers. This fiscal year, Kitchen Coalition provided 1,319,935 freshly prepared meals at locations across the region, in partnership with more than 100 community organizations. On average, more than 50% of the ingredients in each meal were sourced by Second Harvest Heartland. 23 kitchens participated in the collaborative, employing the equivalent of 70 full time culinary workers. Since its inception in 2020, Kitchen Coalition has provided more than 6 million meals and invested more than \$26 million in local communities.

### **SNAP (SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) OUTREACH**

The USDA shows that Minnesota ranks 33rd in the nation in SNAP access, meaning tens of thousands of households that are eligible for SNAP are not accessing the program. Last year, our Care Center and SNAP outreach specialists processed over 7,706 cases involving assistance or full application support for SNAP. This added more than 4.9 million meals to families.

### **COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)**

Second Harvest Heartland provided CSFP food to 228 different distribution sites in 41 counties in Minnesota, serving approximately 5,360 seniors monthly. The largest site in our service area is Second Harvest Heartland in Brooklyn Park, distributing food to close to 480 clients each month.

### **FOODRx**

The FOODRx program works at the intersection of hunger and health, supporting individuals with both food insecurity and chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. FOODRx operates through a strong network of health care partnerships, FY24 include:

- 1,400 enrollments in the FOODRx Chronic Disease Management Program for patients with heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, or other health conditions and referred from four healthcare partners across Minnesota.
- 8,273 referrals for food resources and SNAP application assistance from three Minnesota health insurers and more than 40 Minnesota hospitals and clinics.
- 16,774 Stability Bags and Boxes distributed at six hospitals and clinics across the metro area.

## **FOOD BANK OPERATIONS**

### **FRESH AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD | 64% of distributed food was fresh**

As Second Harvest Heartland works to develop new and more efficient ways of sourcing and distribution, the food that we supply is increasingly fresh. More than 64% of the food we distributed last year was fresh meats, produce, bakery and dairy.

### **PRODUCE | 40% of distributed food was produce**

Last year, 40% of the food we distributed was produce from all sources including: Retail Food Rescue, distributors and all Ag Surplus sources.

### **LOCAL SOURCING**

In 2024, we sourced 10.4 million pounds of produce from local Minnesota farmers and processors. This represents about 23% of the total amount of produce we sourced from

farmer-grown/commercially grown sources. This includes a total of 77 varieties of produce from 122 different Minnesota growers, including 21 culturally connected varieties from 80 BIPOC growers.

Last year, we sourced 7.4 million pounds of dairy from Minnesota farmers, processors and donors, a majority of which were milk. This includes 822,000 gallons of milk (150K more than 2023).

In 2024, we sourced 3.1 million pounds of meat from local producers, processors or donors.

## **CULTURALLY CONNECTED**

Last year, we sourced more than 3.1 million pounds of culturally connected food to provide food that is known and desired from the communities of color we support. This includes 388,911 pounds of locally grown fresh produce sourced from BIPOC growers and more than 2.6 million pounds of dry goods and meat.

## **FOOD RESCUE**

Retail Food Rescue 'rescues' unsold but perfectly edible and nutritious produce, meat, bakery, dairy, shelf-stable and deli items, diverting it from landfills. Retail Food Rescue is our largest source of donated food.

- 45.3 million pounds of food collected from retail partners.
- Approximately 675 stores donate food through our Food Rescue Program.
- Our network of community partners collects 81% of Food Rescue donations through local partnerships.

Prepared Food Rescue involves soliciting real-time donations of already-cooked food and safely and quickly connecting it with our meal program partners. As a network, we are providing nutritious meals to our neighbors facing hunger while reducing the environmental and financial impact of wasted food in our community. 173,960 pounds of prepared foods were donated by meal service partners last year.

## **ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER**

### **VOLUNTEERS | 35,597 volunteer visits resulted in 71,371 hours**

Second Harvest Heartland welcomed more than 35,000 volunteer visits last year—from food sorting and packing to client assistance to skill-based volunteer projects and more—contributing 71,371 total hours.

Volunteers donated the time equivalent to 34 full-time employees, based on the average hours per year worked by a full-time employee: 2,080.

### **DONORS | 47,272 individuals and 2,575 organizations**

More than 47,000 individuals and more than 2,500 organizations generously contributed dollars and other resources to Second Harvest Heartland.

### **DONATION EFFICIENCY | 92.5% of expenses go to programs and services**

Second Harvest Heartland is committed to being good stewards of funds, with 92.5% of every dollar spent on the programs and services we deliver to end hunger.

## **FUND DRIVES | 66 Unique Drives**

66 unique fund drives organized by individuals and organizations raised money for Second Harvest Heartland. In total, \$201,127 was collected through the program.

## **FACILITY | 233,000 Square Feet**

Our facility in Brooklyn Park opened in spring of 2020 just as COVID took hold. It's 233,000 square feet, compared to Maplewood's 75,000 square feet.

- Warehouse space in Brooklyn Park is 177,000 square feet compared to Maplewood's 61,000.
- Temperature-controlled space is 30,000 square feet compared to Maplewood's 10,000.
- Volunteer packing center is 24,100 square feet compared to Maplewood's 1,700.
- Brooklyn Park offers 47% more shipping and receiving dock door usage at one time than Maplewood.