FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES™

Extraordinary Together



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Our Mobile Pantry Program provides nutritious food for families throughout our region, including this one in Buffalo, Wyo.

FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES™

PARTNER FOOD BANK OF FEEDING AMERICA®

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider.
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On our cover

Jenny, an 11th grader, volunteers at the weekly Denver Green School food pantry. A partner of Food Bank of the Rockies, Denver Green School welcomes neighbors, including Jenny's family, and is a consistent source of fresh and familiar food. Jenny's favorite part is showing up for neighbors. "You never know what someone is going through. I just like helping people out," she shares.

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A NEW CHAPTER OF IMPACT

If this year has shown us anything, it is the extraordinary power of a community determined to respond.

For Food Bank of the Rockies, that power of community is embodied in our new Aurora distribution center — 270,000 square feet of commitment to our neighbors in need. But the most exciting part is not the building itself. It is what the building makes possible.

Our new distribution center was designed to transform generosity into greater impact. With three times the cold storage capacity of our previous facility, we can accept and safely store more fresh produce, protein, and donated food in The Broe Family Cold Food Center. With three times the volunteer capacity, we will have the ability to welcome more community members who want to give their time. We can more efficiently move nourishing food throughout Colorado and Wyoming. By bringing operations together under one roof, we are saving approximately $500,000 each year — funds that can now go directly to serving our neighbors experiencing hunger. And with the expanded kitchen, we can prepare four times as many meals for children, while our new, on-site Community Market already provides food and support to more than 200 families every month.

These gains come at a critical moment. Across our region, one in eight individuals, including one in five children, experience food insecurity. The number of children facing hunger has risen sharply as many families earn too much to qualify for assistance but still cannot consistently afford food and other necessities. That's where the power of our community comes in.

And standing together during challenging times helps us get through every season. For example, on the Western Slope, we prepared in advance to jump in with support during wildfire season. With the widespread, extreme drought, we knew that being prepared would be critical when showing up for neighbors facing the unexpected. Community partners stepped up and packed hundreds of emergency food bags with shelf-stable foods in case neighbors lost access to their homes. This is a wonderful example of community being the driving force of our mission.

Every day, donors, volunteers, Hunger Relief Partners, growers, retailers, healthcare providers, schools, and neighbors turn this expanded capacity into something tangible: food on a family's table, meals for children, fresh produce for an older adult, support for someone recovering from illness, and one less impossible choice for a household trying to make ends meet. The new distribution center provides us with the potential to do more. Our community brings that potential into action.

This annual report is filled with stories of what happens when people share a commitment to ensuring every neighbor has the nourishment they need to thrive.

You will meet volunteers who make Saturdays synonymous with service, patients who can focus more fully on healing, and communities that turn mobile pantry distributions into shared acts of compassion.

This year also marks a transition in board leadership as Christina Bowen concludes her tenure as Board Chair and Reid M. Galbraith steps into that role on our Board of Directors.

Thank you for helping us begin this new chapter with greater capacity, stronger partnerships, and tremendous hope for what we can accomplish together.



Christina Bowen
Outgoing Board Chair



Reid M. Galbraith
Board Chair



Erin Pulling
President & CEO



Fiscal Year 2026

Our fiscal year 2026 numbers reflect the highest need for food assistance in more than 10 years

Neighbors Served

392,521

MORE THAN 20% OF PEOPLE SERVED WERE CHILDREN

Total Pounds of Food Distributed

87,530,492

Meal Equivalent for Pounds Distributed

72,942,077

Meals Distributed on Average Per Day

NEARLY 200,000

Total Pounds of Fresh Produce Distributed

26,211,988

Nearly a third of the food we distributed was produce.

Service Area Covered

150,000 SQ. MILES

Largest food bank distribution area in the contiguous U.S.

Volunteer Hours Logged

154,512

Equal to 74 full-time employees.

View our financials and previous reports at foodbankrockies.org/about/financials.

How We Help

Hunger cuts across demographics and borders, indifferent to the past or future chapters of a person's life. Food Bank of the Rockies meets individuals in the present, ensuring that anyone who needs it gets the nourishing food they need to thrive.

Where Food Comes From

94% of funding goes directly into our hunger-relief programs and supports all the ways we attain food to distribute to our community members.

AGRICULTURAL PARTNERS · PURCHASED FOOD · FOOD RESCUE · USDA · MANUFACTURING PARTNERS

Distributing Food to our Communities

MOBILE PANTRIES

Dozens of refrigerated semitrailers head to urban and rural communities each month throughout Colorado and Wyoming to bring food directly where it is needed most.

HUNGER RELIEF PARTNERS

The hundreds of pantries, programs, and relief organizations we support through food and resources to nourish people experiencing hunger in their communities.

FOOD FOR KIDS

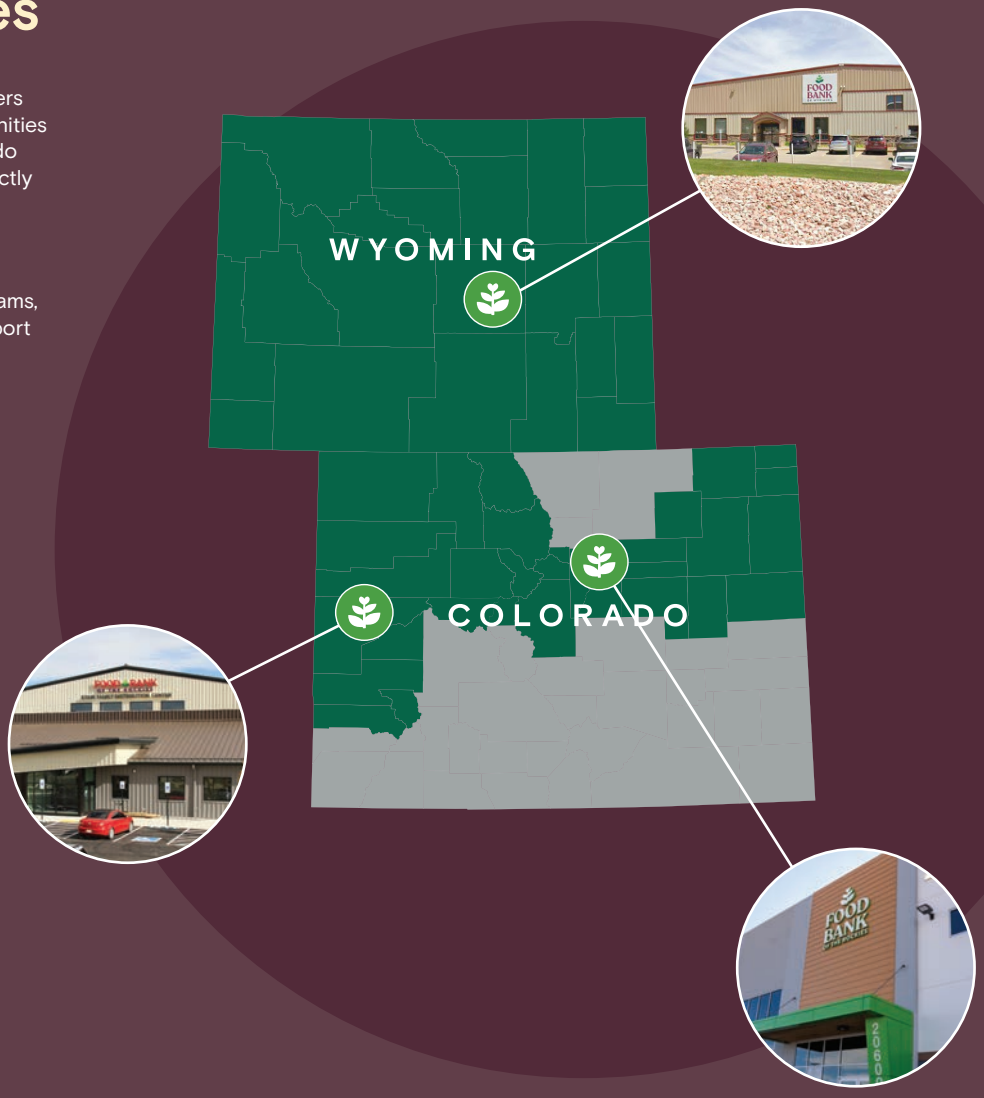
Specialized programming for after-school, summer, and weekend meals for children.

EVERYDAY EATS

Monthly food boxes administered by the USDA at no cost to income-qualifying adults 60+.

FOOD FOR HEALTH

Weekly food boxes delivered to patients with chronic health conditions who screen positive for food insecurity to support their health journey.



WHEN SNAP PAUSED, WE WERE READY TO RESPOND

When it became clear that the federal government shutdown would disrupt SNAP benefits, Food Bank of the Rockies knew the need would be enormous — and responding would take everyone working together.

Across Colorado and Wyoming, SNAP puts hundreds of millions of dollars in food purchasing power into communities. Losing even a portion of that support would create a gap too large for the charitable food system to fill. But that did not mean standing by.

"We knew it was a mathematical impossibility to bridge the entire gap," says Kelly Green, Chief Operating Officer. "So, the question became: 'What is the best thing we can do?'^"

The answer was to move quickly, focus resources where they could have the greatest impact, and lean into what Food Bank of the Rockies does best: sourcing food, moving it efficiently, and working through a trusted network of Hunger Relief Partners.

SNAP BLAST: FOOD ON THE ROAD, FAST

Food Bank of the Rockies created a rapid-response operation called SNAP Blast to get food into communities quickly. The organization rented three box trucks, hired temporary commercial drivers, and created direct routes to partners ready to distribute additional food.

Larger quantities were also made available through the regular ordering system. Some 15 full truckloads went directly to Wyoming and six to the Western Slope — approaches not previously used at that scale. The effort touched every part of the organization, from finance and human resources to operations, programs, communications, and development.

"It was the most beautiful demonstration of collaboration I've seen in my four years here," says Mark Weslar, Director of Food Sourcing. "It was truly all hands on deck."



> We could see the uncertainty. People were scared. They had to figure out how to provide food for their families while also paying rent, utilities, and their other basic needs. **-Bhim Bhattarai**

NEED ARRIVED QUICKLY

At Village Exchange Center, a Food Bank of the Rockies' Hunger Relief Partner in Aurora, the change was immediate. The center typically serves 500 to 600 families each week. During the SNAP disruption, that number climbed as high as 1,200 families in a single day. The pantry opened at noon. Families began lining up at 8:30 a.m.

"We could see the uncertainty," says Bhim Bhattarai, Village Exchange Center's Program Manager. "People were scared. They had to figure out how to provide food for their families while also paying rent, utilities, and their other basic needs."

With additional food and delivery support, Village Exchange Center added a second weekly pantry day.

For Bhattarai, the crisis was also personal. Originally from Bhutan, he became a refugee as a child and spent roughly 22 years in a refugee camp in Nepal before resettling in Colorado in 2014. His family had depended on food assistance from relief organizations.

Bhattarai first came to Village Exchange Center as a pantry participant. He later volunteered and delivered food during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, he manages the center's programs.

"I really know the importance food has in someone's life," he says.





ANTICIPATING THE CRISIS

Through close relationships with human services agencies in Colorado and Wyoming, Food Bank of the Rockies had early insight into what the shutdown could mean. Instead of waiting to see how events unfolded, though, we utilized proactive strategies to get food deployed swiftly. We knew communities would show up for communities as they have in the past, and their inspired support fueled our efforts.

That head start mattered. The lapse in SNAP benefits meant food banks across the country needed to move quickly to procure a lot of food, which strained the food supply chain and delayed order availability. Food Bank of the Rockies had already begun securing food in the weeks prior.

During the SNAP disruption, Village Exchange Center's Bhim Bhattarai remembers an older adult who relied on SNAP walking into the center nearly in tears. Village Exchange Center made a commitment: No family seeking help would leave empty-handed. With support from Food Bank of the Rockies, they kept that promise. The man returned many times during the disruption.

Between October 27 and the end of December, Food Bank of the Rockies brought in 215 purchased, full truckloads of food — roughly twice its normal volume. During peak weeks, more than 45 purchased loads arrived, compared with about 15 in a typical week.

The team also considered the foods neighbors would be losing. Research and years of neighbor feedback pointed to fresh produce, dairy, and protein. Nearly half of the additional purchased loads focused on those categories, including 58 loads of fresh produce and 44 loads of protein, dairy, and eggs.

"Food insecurity is always difficult to navigate," says Monica Buhlig, Chief Impact Officer. "When families lose consistent resources that help them manage household expenses, it becomes a crisis. Our job was to make sure people could access familiar and comfortable foods that help them manage their health and nourish their families."

That approach was visible at Village Exchange Center, which serves people from more than 40 countries. Its market-style pantry lets neighbors choose foods that work for their households.

PUTTING DATA BEHIND THE RESPONSE

Getting more food was only part of the challenge. Food Bank of the Rockies also needed to determine where it should go.

Our team analyzed SNAP patterns by county and ZIP code, alongside food insecurity data, partner distribution trends, and the capacity of more than 700 Hunger Relief Partners. Additional food was directed based on local SNAP impacts and typical distribution levels, while our mobile pantries filled gaps where the network was less extensive.

SNAP BLAST: BY THE NUMBERS

When SNAP benefits were disrupted, Food Bank of the Rockies moved quickly to get more food into communities across Colorado and Wyoming. Between Oct. 27 and the end of December, the organization brought in 215 purchased truckloads of food — roughly twice our normal volume. At peak, more than 45 purchased loads arrived in a single week, compared with about 15 normally. Nearly half of the additional food focused on fresh produce, protein, dairy, and eggs, helping ensure neighbors could access nutritious foods their families know and prefer.



This rapid response was only possible because the community showed up, too. Gifts from donors gave Food Bank of the Rockies the flexibility to act quickly, while state support provided millions of dollars that could be turned directly into food for Hunger Relief Partners. Together, those resources allowed Food Bank of the Rockies to purchase more food, move it faster, and help partners respond to rising needs in their communities.

For Bhattarai at the Village Exchange Center, the cohesive response showed why relationships built before a crisis matter during one.

"No single organization can solve these issues," he says. "One organization may provide food, another may provide volunteers, funding, or transportation. It takes strong community partnerships."

Across the community, case managers, faith groups, and volunteers helped pack and deliver food wherever it was needed.

A NEW BUILDING PUT TO THE TEST

The SNAP response came as Food Bank of the Rockies was preparing to move into its new distribution center. Its previous Denver-area facilities had limited dock capacity and roughly one-third the refrigerated storage available of the new building. For a time, staff coordinated food through three locations. Then Food Bank of the Rockies received its certificate of occupancy.

"As soon as we were legally allowed to put product in the new building, boom — we started putting product there," Green says.

The additional dock doors, warehouse space, and cold storage immediately expanded the organization's ability to receive and distribute fresh and frozen foods. A facility designed for the future was in use before the move was complete.

"The miracle was really pulling off both," Green says. "We pulled off SNAP Blast, and we pulled off the move."

STRONGER FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Eventually, SNAP benefits resumed, but Food Bank of the Rockies did not simply return to business as usual. Our team examined what the experience revealed about community needs, partner capacity, distribution systems, and response.

"This was a disaster response," Buhlig says. "And after any disaster, you ask: 'What did we learn?' 'How do we get better in our daily operations?' 'What do we do if there is a next time?'"

The experience reinforced that hunger relief is never as simple as moving food from one place to another. It depends on government partners willing to respond, donors whose generosity gives Food Bank of the Rockies the flexibility to act, food suppliers, volunteers, transportation networks, staff, and hundreds of trusted community organizations like Village Exchange Center. When each part of that network works together, Food Bank of the Rockies can maximize its responsiveness for our neighbors.

Bhattarai has experienced that network from nearly every side: as someone who once accessed food assistance, as a volunteer, and now as someone helping families navigate challenging circumstances.

Food Bank of the Rockies could not replace SNAP. No hunger-relief organization could. But when the disruption came, thanks to passionate supporters, the organization and its partners were ready — moving food quickly, directing it where it was needed most, and making sure neighbors did not face the crisis alone.

> This was a disaster response. And after any disaster, you ask: 'What did we learn?' 'How do we get better in our daily operations?' 'What do we do if there is a next time?'
>
> **-Monica Buhlig, Chief Impact Officer, Food Bank of the Rockies**



Kids Fueled for the Summer

For Nancy, summer can bring a familiar challenge: keeping her children fed, active, and engaged while school is out. So, when she learned that her younger daughters could attend a local summer camp — and that her teenage twins could also work there as student coaches — she signed them up immediately.

Then Nancy learned that breakfast and lunch would be provided through Food Bank of the Rockies' Food for Kids program. Made possible in part by philanthropic gifts from generous supporters, Food for Kids helps ensure children have access to nutritious food when school meals may not be available.

> This program really does make a difference. I wish there were more like it out there for more people.
> **-Nancy**

"I didn't have to worry about them eating," Nancy says.

Over the next two weeks, Nancy watched the experience nourish her children in other ways, too. One daughter rediscovered her love of being active. Another, typically quiet and reserved, began making friends, trying new sports, and coming home eager to talk about her day. And Nancy's teen daughters discovered that, as coaches, they could set an example for the campers.

For Nancy, that summer experience also carried special, personal meaning. Growing up, her family could not afford summer camps or organized sports. She remembers walking with her grandmother and other children to a recreation center and waiting in line for food.

For her daughters, food was simply part of camp — something everyone could enjoy together between activities.

"They could just have fun and then sit down, take a lunch break, and eat together," Nancy says.

That is what your support makes possible: nutritious meals that give children the energy and freedom to learn, play, connect, and grow.

"This program really does make a difference," Nancy says. "I wish there were more like it out there for more people."

IN FISCAL YEAR 2026,

FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES' FOOD FOR KIDS PROGRAMS SERVED

211,905 CHILDREN

THROUGH TOTES OF HOPE®



For Nancy, having meals included at summer camp for her kids meant one less worry. With grocery costs stretching the family budget, knowing her kids had nutritious food during their busy days brought welcome relief. Just as important, food was simply part of the camp experience. The kids could play, learn, make friends, and then sit down to eat together. "I didn't have to worry about them eating," Nancy says.



Food fuels more than growing bodies. For Nancy's children, summer meals meant more energy to play, make friends, build confidence, and grow.

Saturday is Food Bank Day

For Blaine Grady, Saturdays are booked in perpetuity.

"Service is my love language," he says. "I rarely miss a Saturday — that's food bank day for me."

Since he first volunteered with Food Bank of the Rockies in September 2019, Grady has logged more than 1,400 hours in upward of 450 shifts. He is a familiar face in the volunteer center, where his consistency, positive attitude, and willingness to tackle whatever needs doing have made him irreplaceable. He has completed electric pallet-jack training, picked up weekday shifts, brought his son along to volunteer, and encouraged co-workers to join him.

In 2026, that commitment earned Grady the Betty Van Hook Memorial Award, which recognizes a volunteer who embodies the generous spirit at the heart of Food Bank of the Rockies. For Grady, however, the reward is much simpler: being part of the solution while surrounded by people who care about the same thing he does.

"I enjoy working alongside amazing people every weekend," he says.

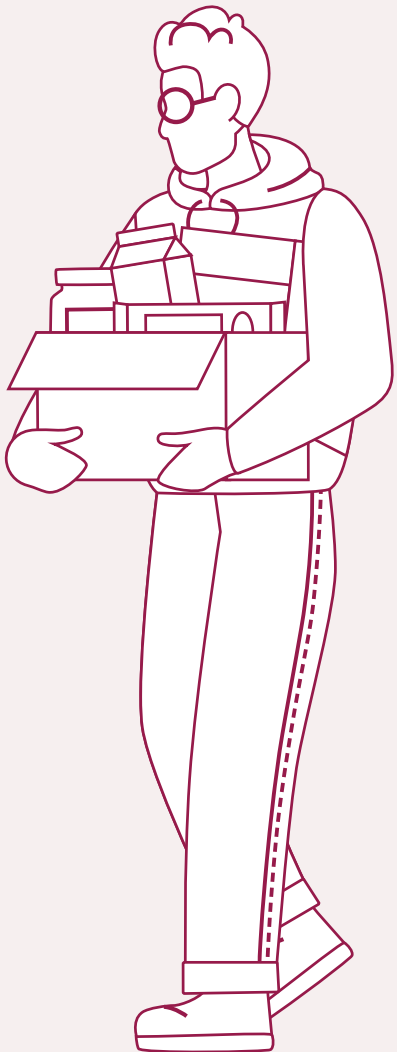
Grady is one of more than 26,400 annual Food Bank of the Rockies' volunteers who sort food, pack boxes and bags, prepare meals, and help get food into communities across the region. Their work turns food and resources into nourishment — and individual acts of service into collective impact.

> Service is my love language. I rarely miss a Saturday — that's food bank day for me. **-Blaine**

Now, the new Aurora distribution center gives that community even more room to act. Over time, the facility will be able to welcome as many as 300 volunteers a day, compared to roughly 100 right now. For Grady, that means more people discovering what he already knows: Sometimes, the best way to spend a Saturday is to show up for someone else.

MORE THAN **26,400** PEOPLE VOLUNTEER WITH FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES EACH YEAR.

Every Saturday, volunteers like Blaine Grady help turn generosity into action. Across Food Bank of the Rockies' service area, more than 26,400 volunteers give their time each year to sort food, pack boxes and bags, prepare meals, and support distribution efforts. At the new Aurora facility, expanded volunteer space means even more people can lend a hand – over time, this could include 300 individuals each day. Whether someone comes once, brings a group, or returns week after week, every shift helps move more nourishing food to neighbors in need.





Since 2019, Blaine Grady has given more than 1,400 volunteer hours, making Saturday his “food bank day” and showing how one person’s commitment can make a lasting difference.

Room to Heal

For much of last year, Adam was in and out of the hospital, struggling with repeated infections. But illness did not stop the everyday responsibilities waiting for him at home. His family still needed groceries, meals, and financial stability.

> Helping to take up that slack really allowed me to focus on healing. They didn't make us jump through hoops. **-Adam & Hannah**

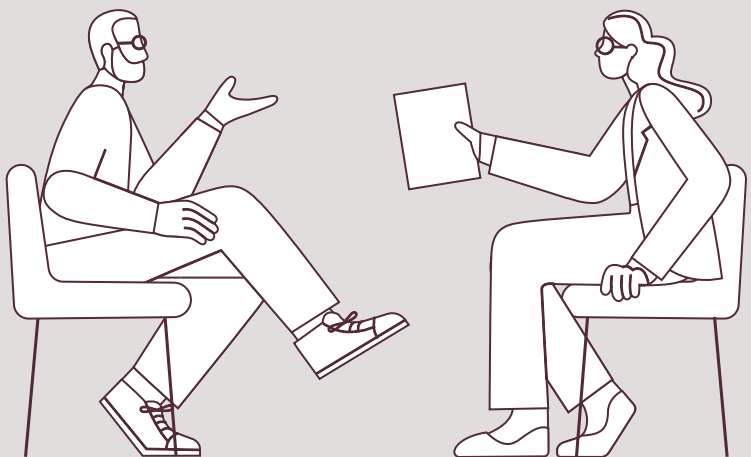
"It felt like I was powerless," Adam says.

Then Adam connected with Food Bank of the Rockies' Food for Health Program. Medical professionals at 25 healthcare partner locations across Colorado refer patients experiencing food insecurity and chronic health conditions for stable nutritional support. Referred participants receive weekly deliveries of medically tailored, nutrient-dense food for six months and an additional six months of a produce prescription, which provides support to shop for fruits and vegetables of their choice. This helps remove one source of stress while participants manage their health journey. Since its inception, more than 2,300 people have participated in the program.

For Adam and his wife, Hannah, Food Bank of the Rockies' support offered something especially valuable: room to recover. "Helping to take up that slack really allowed me to focus on healing," Adam says. Hannah appreciated that getting help did not create another burden for a family already juggling work, school, medical care, and everyday life. "They didn't make us jump through hoops," she says.

The Food for Health Program recognizes a simple but powerful connection: Nourishing food can be an important part of helping people care for themselves. Through partnerships with healthcare providers and organizations such as Project Angel Heart, Food Bank of the Rockies is bringing food access and healthcare closer together.

For families like Adam and Hannah's, that means the next meal is one less thing to worry about — and more energy can go toward getting well.



2,300+

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE FOOD FOR HEALTH PROGRAM

25

PARTNER LOCATIONS ACROSS COLORADO CAN REFER ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

6 MONTHS

OF MEDICALLY TAILORED, HOME-DELIVERED FOOD PROVIDED, WITH AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS OF ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE

Food and health are deeply connected. Through Food Bank of the Rockies' Food for Health Program, patients facing food insecurity and chronic health challenges can receive six months of medically tailored, nutrient-dense food through referrals from medical professionals at 25 partner locations across Colorado. Since the program began in 2022, more than 2,300 people have been referred. By helping ease the stress of putting food on the table, the Food for Health Program gives families like Adam and Hannah's more room to focus on recovery, stability, and the work of getting well.



For Adam, receiving nourishing food through the Food for Health Program meant more than meals. It meant less stress, more stability, and room to recover.

Making Room for More Fresh Food

Fresh peaches. Crisp vegetables. Milk, eggs, and meat. These staples are among the most requested foods families want to bring home and put on their tables. But for years, Food Bank of the Rockies faced a frustrating challenge: There were more fresh food donations available locally than refrigerated and freezer space within our facility to receive and hold them.

Thousands of pounds of food had to be turned away annually from our former distribution center simply because there was nowhere to store it safely. The Broe Family saw an opportunity to change that while changing the lives of thousands of families facing hunger. Through a $2.5 million gift to the Fulfilled Campaign, generations of Broe family members helped make The Broe Family Cold Food Center a reality within Food Bank of the Rockies' new distribution center.

Today, the facility has three times the cold storage capacity of the previous building, giving Food Bank of the Rockies significantly more room to accept fresh produce, proteins, and other temperature-sensitive foods from retailers, growers, manufacturers, and local partners. The impact has been immediate and widespread.

"At Safeway, we're committed to helping ensure families have access to the fresh, nutritious food they need," says Heather Halpape, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Safeway. "The expanded refrigerated and frozen storage capacity at Food Bank of the Rockies allows more fresh produce, protein, dairy, and other perishable foods donated by Safeway and others to be rescued and distributed throughout our communities. Together, we're reducing food waste, increasing access to healthy foods, and helping nourish our neighbors when they need it most."

That extra cold storage capacity strengthens a food rescue system already responsible for much of the food reaching neighbors. In the fiscal year highlighted during the campaign, 57% of the more than 85 million pounds of food distributed by Food Bank of the Rockies came through the Food Rescue Program.

The Broe Family shares, "For nearly five decades, Food Bank of the Rockies has been a critical food source for families in need. Their mission to fight hunger has never been more important. As a Colorado family, we are inspired by the work that the Food Bank does each day. While volunteering, we have seen the incredible impact Food Bank of the Rockies has on our community, and we are proud to help make the new distribution center a reality."

For the Broe Family, the contribution is personal. Colorado is home to three generations of family members who care deeply about their local community and want to see it thrive. They believe that no family should go hungry and no food should be wasted. Expanding the capacity to keep more good food in Colorado communities — and ensuring more neighbors can bring home fresh, nutritious foods — is part of the Broe family's commitment to a strong and resilient Colorado.

3X

THE COLD STORAGE CAPACITY OF THE PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION CENTER



Food Bank of the Rockies now has significantly more room to accept fresh produce, proteins, and other temperature-sensitive foods from retailers, growers, manufacturers, and local partners.

> Together, we're reducing food waste, increasing access to healthy foods, and helping nourish our neighbors when they need it most.
>
> –**Heather Halpape**, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Safeway

KEEPING GOOD FOOD IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Expanded cold storage capacity means Food Bank of the Rockies can say "yes" to more fresh food. The Broe Family Cold Food Center provides additional freezer and refrigerated space for donated produce, dairy, meat, and other nutrient-dense foods.

That means more locally available food — from Colorado-grown produce to locally raised proteins — can be captured, instead of going to waste, and shared with neighbors through Food Bank of the Rockies' hunger-relief network.



Full Circle of Care

At Delilah's kitchen table, decorative fruit inherited from her late grandmother sits beside the meal she is preparing with her two children: spaghetti made in honor of her grandmother's recipe. In their home, food carries memory, connection, and comfort.

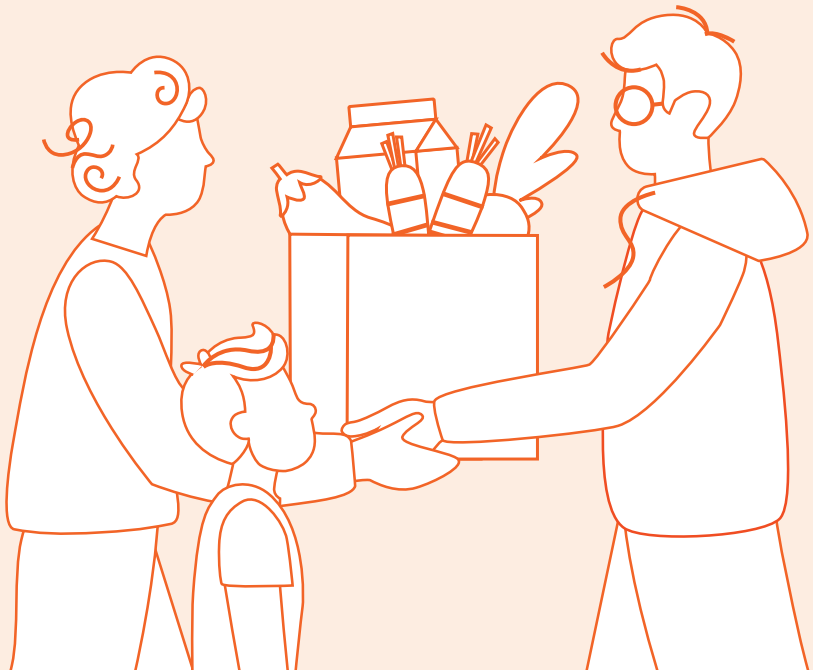
As a solo parent, Delilah works hard to support her family. But when an unexpected and serious illness kept her from working, everything changed. She worried about paying rent and even feared her family could lose their home.

"You're never prepared," she says. "You never know that you can just get sick out of nowhere."

Her landlord worked with her, and she found rental assistance. Denver Public Schools, a Food Bank of the Rockies' Hunger Relief Partner, provided another source of stability via a school pantry that helped Delilah keep meals on the table while she recovered. For Delilah, food from the pantry becomes a meal shared with love around the table, a family recipe carried forward, and nourishment to keep her children focused on their goals.

> You're never prepared. You never know that you can just get sick out of nowhere. **-Delilah**

As Delilah continues to heal from her illness and subsequent surgery, she has returned to work part-time. Her son is training to become an HVAC technician, developing skills for a stable career. Her daughter is focused on school and hopes to become a competitive boxer. Delilah is proud of their ambition and is determined to support them as they move forward.



700+ HUNGER RELIEF PARTNERS

REACH COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT COLORADO AND WYOMING WITH CRITICAL SUPPORT

The pantry Delilah visits is part of Food Bank of the Rockies' network of more than 700 Hunger Relief Partners across Colorado and Wyoming. These organizations, including school districts such as Denver Public Schools, make food easier to access in places families know and trust.

For Adi, who runs the school's pantry and clothing store that Delilah visits, the partnership is especially meaningful. She previously served as Food Bank of the Rockies' volunteer operations lead. Today, she sees that work come full circle as food reaches families in the school where she now works.





Food from the pantry becomes more than a meal. The food Delilah brings home gives the family breathing room — and a chance to keep gathering around the table together.

A Community Shows Up

When Kate arrives at a Food Bank of the Rockies' mobile pantry distribution, she is already thinking about what the food can become. An eggplant might become lasagna or eggplant parmesan. Carrots could go into soup or salad. If she cannot use something right away, she might freeze-dry it for later. And if her family does not need an item, she makes sure it reaches someone who does.

That extra food matters to Kate's family. Her daughter is preparing for nursing school while her son works at a wool mill and attends trade school. With groceries, housing, transportation, and education expenses competing for the family budget, the Mobile Pantry Program provides some welcome relief.

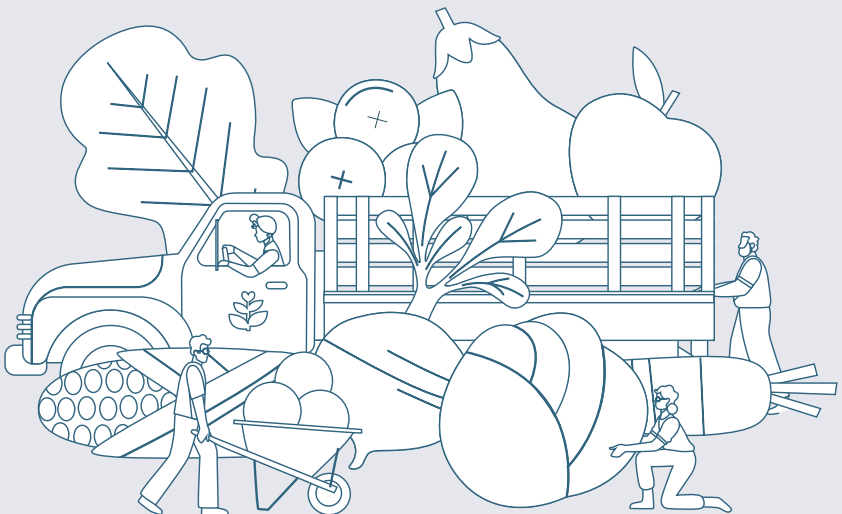
For Tom, who is 75, getting to the pantry requires a drive from Unaweep Canyon, where he lives with his brother, to Orchard Mesa mobile pantry. A cancer survivor who spent much of his career working on automobiles, Tom comes each month for the fresh produce and baked goods that help stretch his budget. "Fresh fruit is unaffordable," he says.

For both Kate and Tom, the pantry offers more than groceries. Kate, especially, struck by the sense of community she finds there.

"I love seeing the kids out there volunteering," she says. "I think that's really important." She also points to longtime volunteer Ronda Jones as one of the people who helps make the distribution a place where neighbors feel cared for and welcomed. Jones first learned about the distribution helping her daughter get food assistance and has been volunteering ever since. "Most of the people in this community are friends of mine. I know everyone."

"It's the caring and sharing," Kate says. "What I can't use, I'll share with somebody else."

That generosity keeps moving outward like a ripple — from Food Bank of the Rockies, to volunteers, to neighbors like Kate and Tom, and from one neighbor to another.



When you see brightly colored trucks hitting the road every month, they are often headed to communities where distance can make affordable, nutritious food harder to reach. For many people, that can mean fresh produce, baked goods, and a little more room in the household budget. And when families share what they cannot use, the impact travels even farther—strengthening the connections that help communities care for one another.

75 MOBILE PANTRIES

ACROSS FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES SERVICE AREA



Tom, 75, drives from Unaweep Canyon to Orchard Mesa mobile pantry for fresh produce and baked goods that help stretch his budget.



Our Mobile Pantry Program brings good food directly to communities with local volunteers helping make each distribution welcoming.

Board Members

Board Members as of September 2026

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Vice Chair

Dru S. Chiesa
Treasurer

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Secretary

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Heather MacKendrick Costa, Chief Financial Officer

Aditi Desai, Chief Marketing Officer

John Freer, Interim Chief People Officer

Kelly Green, Chief Operating Officer

Steve Kullberg, Chief of Staff

Jennifer Lackey, Chief Development Officer

Erin Pulling, President & CEO



Looking Back TO LOOK AHEAD

Nearly 50 years before Food Bank of the Rockies moved into its new distribution center, Kathy Hackwith Groth saw something that did not make sense. Behind a Denver supermarket, someone was destroying loaves of perfectly good bread before throwing them away. Groth knew there were people nearby who did not have enough to eat. So, instead of walking past, she asked a question: "Why couldn't the store give the bread to families who needed it?" She kept asking until the answer changed.

Soon, Groth's Volvo was packed with rescued bread she delivered to churches, schools, and families. In 1978, that simple act of connecting good food with people who needed it became the beginning of Food Bank of the Rockies.

Fast forward to February 2026, when Groth walked through the organization's new distribution center with President and CEO Erin Pulling. The scale would have been unimaginable when she was loading bread into her car nearly five decades ago. Yet the idea behind the work remains remarkably familiar: Notice the need, recognize what is possible, and bring people together to close the gap.

Our new home gives that original idea significant room to grow. More cold storage means more rescued fresh food can be accepted. More volunteer space means more people can turn their desire to help into action. Greater capacity means stronger support for hundreds of Hunger Relief Partners and communities across Colorado and Wyoming.

> To feed someone is an act of personhood. It's an act of love from me.
>
> **-Kathy Hackwith Groth**

While the building represents tremendous progress, it is still in lockstep with our beginnings. "To feed someone is an act of personhood," Groth says. "It's an act of love from me."

As we look ahead, that is the legacy worth carrying: notice the need, refuse to look away, and keep finding bigger and better ways to show up.



In 1978, Kathy Hackwith Groth's simple act of connecting good food with people who needed it became the spark that grew into Food Bank of the Rockies. Neighbors nourishing neighbors — TOGETHER.



Help us build a hunger-free future.

foodbankrockies.org/GiveAR