



DIRECTOR'S DISH

by Pam Molitoris
Executive Director



As we go through our daily routines, it is often easy to forget the impact we have on each other's lives. We were reminded of this fact at our annual Harvest Ball when our speaker, Kelly Wickham, shared her personal experience with poverty as a single, young mother who depended on programs like WIC to help feed her daughter. She said, "I can't thank those people who helped me when I needed it--so I'm here to thank all of you, who are still helping people just like me."

Kelly makes a valid point: the people who helped her many years ago would now be hard to track down. The impact of change is not always a quick process. It develops over many years and compounds as it expands. Kelly was impacted in a way that allowed her to become successful later in life--today, she serves as an Administrator at a magnet school and is a respected writer and blogger. She obtained her Master's Degree and went on to raise a family of four--who today, are "full of life" as she describes them.

Many people find themselves in a situation similar to Kelly's. They've hit hard times, and it will be a while before they can come full circle and get back on their feet. There may be many factors that have to fall back into place, allowing him or her to adjust to a new, more stable way of life. So while it's easy to look for the instant gratification of giving back, it simply doesn't always happen that way. Lasting, impactful change comes with time.

Entering the New Year, I'd like to ask you to think about the impact you have on others. Maybe it means volunteering, donating, or even just becoming educated on the issue of hunger in Central Illinois. Whatever route you take--just remember, the most impactful change does take time. We hope you'll embark on that journey with us.

Thank you for your support,

THE 2014 FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE

Maximize your donation!

During March and April every year, the Feinstein Foundation donates one million dollars to domestic hunger-relief organizations across the nation. Central Illinois Foodbank regularly reports our fundraising during these months and we receive a percentage of the \$1 million in proportion to the fundraising nation-wide. You can make your gift go even further when you give during March and April!



The 15th Annual Harvest Ball raised an impressive \$76,000 for Central Illinois Foodbank. The evening featured entertainment from the Samba Llamas and Youth with a Positive Direction. Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company was presented the Good Samaritan Award for its continued dedication to fighting hunger in Central Illinois. We greatly appreciate the sponsorships for this event, both old and new.

RECENT NEWS

Caught in the Act of Excellence

-Agencies going above and beyond to better serve-

*Morrisonville-Palmer Food Pantry
Schuyler County Food Basket
Tri-City*

Springfield Rotary Donates Citrus

In December, the Springfield Rotary Club donated 1,000 pounds of fresh oranges and grapefruits as part of a new initiative in their annual citrus sale fundraiser. Individuals were able to purchase mixed boxes of fruit to send directly to the Foodbank. This source of fresh Vitamin C was greatly appreciated by partner agencies during cold winter months.

2013 Sponsors

Champion Level
Kincaid Power Station

Leader Level
Bill & Nancy Simpson
Wilfred & Esther Lam Family
Fund for the Community
Foundation for the Land of
Lincoln
Memorial Health System
The Shanahan Family

Partner Level
Ed & Sharon Curtis
Sysco Central Illinois
Marsha Prater, RN, Ph.D

LOCAL PRODUCE



FSA Community Garden Leader, Rick Graden, during the turnip harvest

Local garden efforts had another successful year. The Plant a Row for the Hungry volunteers recently calculated their year-end totals: About 14,000 pounds were donated at farmers' markets, 31,600 pounds came from community gardens, and 20,000 pounds were from individual donations--for a total of almost 66,000 pounds of total donated produce.

One of the community garden projects, The Farm Service Agency Community Garden, donated 18,868 pounds of produce on their own--which included a 15,000 pound turnip harvest.

We appreciate the efforts of our local partners who bring this fresh, nutritious food source to the Foodbank for the benefit of our partner agencies.

GET INVOLVED -- VOLUNTEER!

Take a tour or learn about volunteering!

Volunteers are needed to help with sorting product Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are also open the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the initial volunteer application on our website at CentrallFoodbank.org or pick one up at our facility on Cook Street. Please contact Stephanie Schwermin at 217-522-4022 with any immediate questions.

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CJ Saladino, *President*
 Marsha Prater, *Vice-President*
 Sara Ratcliffe, *Treasurer*
 Erica Riplinger, *Secretary*

Phil Borgic
 Amy Hagen
 Robbie Robert
 Dick Madden
 Janet Albers, MD
 Sheleda Doss

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended May 31st, 2013

Revenues and Other Support

Program Service Fees	\$	917,770
Grants & Contracts		287,434
Contributions		1,569,894
Contributed Food Received		13,997,498
Interest		4,722
Other		3,630
Net Assets Released from Restrictions		1,153,800
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$	17,934,748

Expenses

Foodbank Operations	\$	1,599,359
Contributed Food Distributed		13,875,154
Administrative & Fundraising		453,688
Depreciation		96,003
Total Expenses	\$	16,024,204

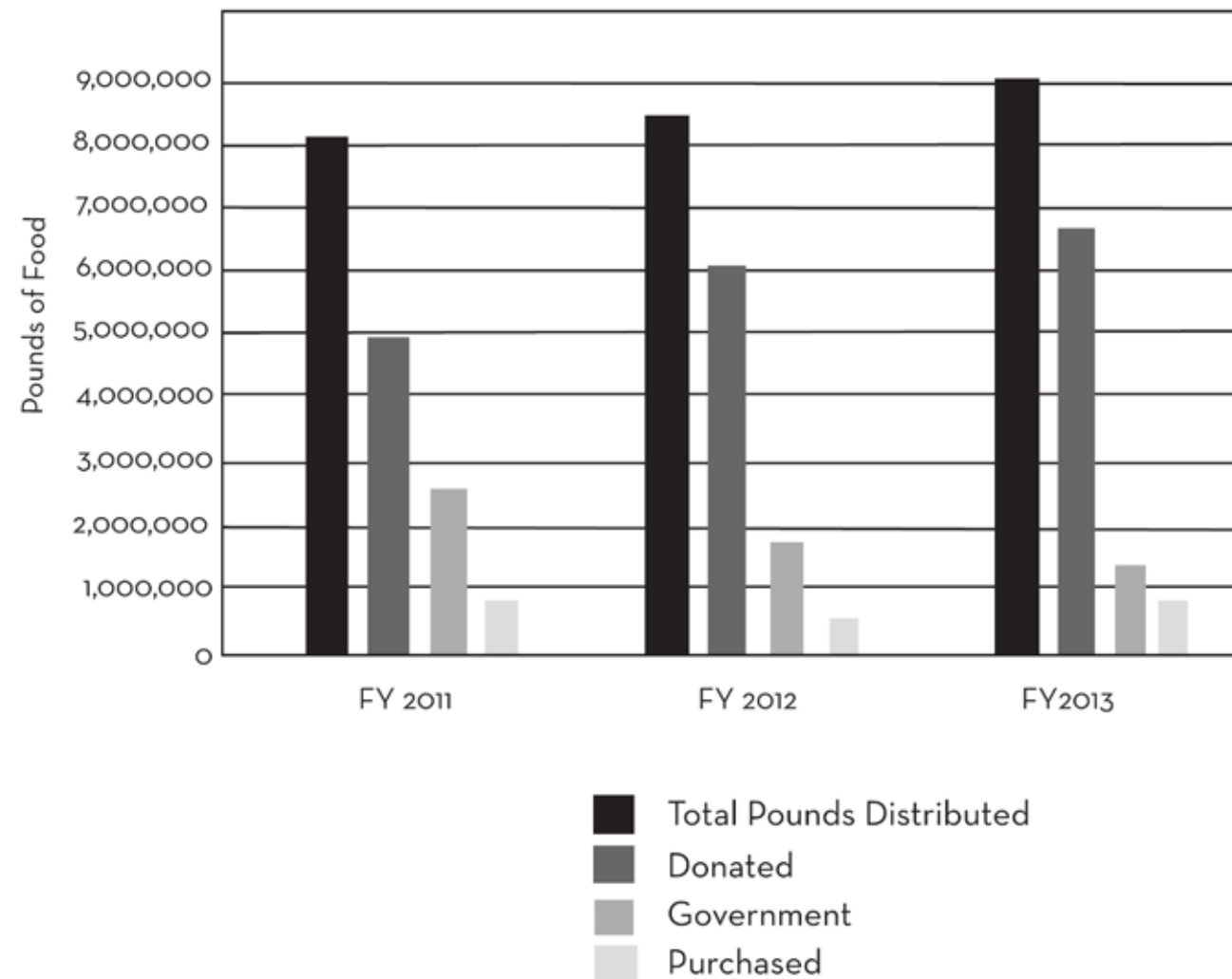
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	1,910,544
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		(898,426)
Change in Net Assets		1,012,118
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		3,730,438
Net Assets at End of Year		4,742,556



97% of every dollar goes directly to feed the hungry.

3% goes to administrative and fundraising costs.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION MIX IN POUNDS



Charity Navigator again awarded Central Illinois Foodbank a 4 star rating, the highest rating they bestow on the charities they monitor. Charity Navigator is America's premier independent charity evaluator. Charity Navigator uses an unbiased, objective, numbers-based rating system to assess the financial health of America's best known and largest charities.

OUR MISSION

To collect donated food and grocery items from growers, manufacturers, processors, wholesalers and retailers for distribution to charitable agencies serving people in need.



OFF THE SHELF

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT

SEEING CHANGE

After about six months in our new Foodbank location, we're seeing the beginnings of real, impactful change on many different levels. The development of change is no quick process...especially when you're working toward quality improvements that are beneficial to our partner agencies, our donors, and within our own day-to-day operations. We have, however, seen some exciting improvements and we're only getting started.

One of our main struggles in the facility on Moffat Street was the lack of space, resulting in the diversion of product to other regional food banks serving Illinois. Since moving into the Cook Street location, we've lowered our percentage of diverted salvaged product from 69 percent to 35 percent.

We continue to explore distribution strategies that allow partner agencies to handle the increased volume of product available, so that we may continue to decrease our diversion numbers from that angle as well.

Our food list (the listing of food available for order by agencies) is now released bi-weekly rather than once per week, due to the tremendous increase in product variety.

Thanks to the sorting efforts of volunteers and staff, as well as flexibility from our warehouse staff, we've increased the number of products on the food list from 68 items to 184—nearly tripling the number of products available for order.

Agencies such as the St. John's Breadline, Villa East, and Daily Bread have been able to access more products from the food bank rather than ordering retail products from grocery stores or other retailers.

In the warehouse, staff continue to learn from new opportunities and new challenges. "After seventeen years at the old building, it's nice to come in to work not worrying about space issues, or worrying about having to move 20 pallets of product just to get to one case," said Darren Farley, a long-time warehouse staff member.

Whether it's in the warehouse, on the food list, or in the numbers of volunteers, the impact of the new facility is expanding the ability of the Foodbank and the community to more effectively serve those who are at risk of hunger.

Agencies have increased access to a greater variety of products, and families are reaping the benefits as the end user. We are still learning how to operate more efficiently each day and look forward to the continuing process of change.

