

# Off the Shelf

Fall  
2022



# FEEDING THE FUTURE





## DIRECTOR'S DISH



**Pam Molitoris**  
*Executive Director*

As we share this 40th Anniversary edition, my mind wanders to a few thoughts. Where was I 40 years ago, what has changed in my world, and how has the world around us changed?

Forty years ago, I was graduating from high school, our family had moved, again, and I was preparing to go to college. It was a time of excitement and hope. I was moving away and forging my path.

I'm not sure where the years went, but today I'm firmly planted in the responsibilities of adulthood – home ownership, being a wife and a mother, having a career, and helping with the care of an elderly parent. For me, the world is about being accountable to myself and others.

Today, our houses are bigger, our families and gadgets smaller, and the ability to connect is at our fingertips 24/7. Technology has made our lives easier and given us more time to pursue hobbies and interests. On the other hand, it has also made the world feel like it is going so much faster.

At the Foodbank, we have also changed dramatically. We have a network of computers and software

systems that help us manage inventory, volunteers, donors, and finances, and even a geothermal system that helps save energy. Over the years, we have shifted from distributing shelf-stable goods to focusing on fresh produce, protein, and dairy. This has led to the adoption of our first formal nutrition policy, a document that will guide our work for years to come.

Today's operation would be barely recognizable to that of 40 years ago. From our humble beginning with the first donation of apple cobbler, to today's operation which includes multiple zones of temperature control, a fleet of refrigerated vehicles, a customized inventory system, forklifts and electric pallet jacks, shrink wrappers and floor scrubbers.

Even as technology improves, one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to feeding others. The Foodbank may look different, but as we think back over the last 40 years, let us focus on the things that bring us together - our strong sense of community and responsibility to each other. Just as our founders had a vision of coming together to feed our neighbors, we continue in their legacy today and every day until a time when there is no such thing as hunger.

*Pam Molitoris*

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: NUTRITION POLICY IN PLACE

After working closely with our partners and stakeholders, Central Illinois Foodbank has adopted and implemented a new nutrition policy which will help guide us and our partner agencies in promoting healthful food choices for our neighbors.

This new policy puts into practice our already existing commitment to expanding access to nutritious foods for our neighbors. Under this policy, foods will be sorted into three categories: choose rarely (red), choose sometimes (yellow), and choose often (green). Examples of foods in the choose often category include those that are low in fat, sodium, and sugar, such as fresh produce and canned fruits and veggies.

This policy will help guide us in procuring the most healthful foods possible for our neighbors while reaffirming our commitment to providing access to

and awareness of healthful foods for all. Funding for this nutrition policy was made possible by **Blue Cross Blue Shield** through the Nourish grant.





# FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS FOR 40 YEARS

On June 7, 1982, Central Illinois Foodbank officially opened its doors by accepting its first donation, consisting of 10,000 pounds of apple cobbler mix. When it first opened, the Foodbank operated out of limited leased space at the Brother James Monastery. However, by the end of its first year, the Foodbank was distributing 65,000 pounds of product per month to 100 agencies spanning across 42 counties.

As Central Illinois Foodbank continued to grow its operation, it quickly became evident that its own dedicated food storage and distribution space would be necessary. In 1987, the Foodbank moved to a 22,000 square foot location located at 2000 East Moffat Street in Springfield.

By 2011, the Foodbank was distributing over 700,000 pounds of food per month from its Moffat Street location. However, thousands of pounds of donated food was having to be redirected to other food banks and food pantries due to lack of sufficient storage space, as well as a lack of proper cooling space required for storing fresh products such as produce, dairy, and other perishable items.

In 2012, the Foodbank was fortunate enough to take donation of its current 56,000 square foot facility on Cook Street in Springfield, housed in the former Pepsi-Cola Bottling Facility. After extensive refurbishment



**Staff and volunteers pictured outside the Foodbank in recognition of the 40th anniversary on June 7th.**



and renovations, this current location offers more than double the overall storage capacity and three times the cold storage capacity over its predecessor.

Complete with drive-in coolers and freezers, a refrigerated loading dock, AiroCide systems to extend the life of produce, and complemented by our fleet of refrigerated trucks and vans, the East Cook Street facility has allowed us room to grow towards the future, with the continued goal of addressing hunger and lifting up our neighbors all across central and southern Illinois for years to come.

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: TAYLORVILLE FOOD PANTRY

Staff and volunteers at the **Taylorville Food Pantry**, which has been in operation since 1984, know the importance of providing healthy food options to our neighbors. Patrons who visit the Taylorville Food Pantry enjoy a wide selection of fresh produce, protein, dairy, and non-perishable items in a grocery store style environment, thanks to the hard work and dedication of nearly 100 volunteers.

From checking in patrons when they enter, to sorting food donations as they come in, to going out and

purchasing extra items when they are needed, the volunteers at the Taylorville Food Pantry take great pride in providing a helping hand to those in the community who need it.

“I couldn’t imagine it working without everybody doing their part,” says longtime volunteer Linda Baldock. “In all the time I’ve been here, I haven’t seen a time where we didn’t get help if we needed it. The people are very generous.”



**Volunteers Linda Baldock and Larry Barry pictured outside the Taylorville Food Pantry.**



# FOODBANK NUTRITION POLICY GROUPS



## Food that is GREEN

- Choose **often**
- Low in saturated fat, sodium or sugar
- Can contribute to good health



## Food that is YELLOW

- Choose **sometimes**
- Medium levels of saturated fat, sodium or sugar
- Can contribute to good health



## Food that is RED

- Choose **rarely**, think of as a treat
- High levels of saturated fat, sodium or sugar
- Limited health benefits

## TO HELP OTHERS FIND FOOD



Visit the **Food Locator** at  
[centrallfoodbank.org](http://centrallfoodbank.org)




Text **FINDFOOD**  
to **855-536-6320**


Standard carrier message and data rates may apply, based on your cell phone carrier. If you would no longer like to receive messaging, please text STOP to 855-536-6320 and you will be unsubscribed immediately. For help with the system, please text HELP to 855-536-6320. You may receive up to 4 messages per month based on need of emergency messaging. Privacy Policy Link-[https://trumpia.com/main/privacypolicy\\_recipients.php](https://trumpia.com/main/privacypolicy_recipients.php)


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**OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE FOOD, AND DEVELOP AWARENESS OF AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FOOD INSECURITY.**