

Off the Shelf

Summer
2021



FRESH & HEALTHY ON THE MOVE



DIRECTOR'S DISH



Pam Molitoris
Executive Director

Growing up as the daughter of a minister, meals were a time when the whole family sat together and talked about the day. Everyone had their assigned seat and their role in the meal. Our mother would cook, the children would set the table, our father would say grace, and the children cleaned up. My unofficial role

was “the complainer” of what was for dinner. I was a picky eater and incredibly strong-willed so my parents would ignore my complaints, and often, I would make it through dinner barely eating.

I would go to bed thinking about the injustice of the world. Why should I have to eat something I don't like? My mother and father talked to me about children who did not have enough to eat. As a young child, I did not understand how this could be, so I assumed it was a story my parents told me to get me to eat my dinner. I would have been happy to send my food to those hungry kids.

Obviously, as I matured I began to see that the “stories” that our parents told us about people not

having enough to eat, about children truly going to bed hungry, about parents who didn't eat so they could feed their children, were true. Shortly after we had our child, I was asked to consider joining the Foodbank. I must admit that it was not something I had ever considered, however there was something about feeding children and their families that drew me to the cause.

Nearly nineteen years later, feeding children and families is what keeps me here. I am so proud of our community and its tremendous efforts to ensure that our neighbors have access to healthy, nutritious foods. Together we have made great strides in providing fresh fruits and vegetables, protein, and dairy. We are continually exploring ways to increase the variety of foods that we offer, as well as distribution methods to target populations that may be difficult to reach.

As we look toward the future, we thank you for your role at the dinner table. So many have answered the call to feed our children and their families – our neighbors. Your generosity, your compassion, your willingness to tell the story, have all led to a more hopeful future.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

From converting parking lots into food distribution sites, to donating truckloads of food, or providing crucial grant funds, our partners are building stronger communities.

Through a **ConAgra Capacity Grant**, three rural agencies received additional refrigeration units. This allows for the storage and safe distribution of fresh foods. With this grant we are addressing the increased need in rural areas.

Union Baptist stepped in to help distribute hundreds of “Farmers to Families” boxes in its parking lot. Reverend McJunkins said that this was “exactly what they envisioned” when the congregation purchased the location.

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) provided funds to purchase food for youth. Noting the impact, Sheila Wilson-Madden of St. Patrick's School in Springfield “express(ed) abundant thanks for the hearty food boxes”.





HEALTHY FOODS FOR ALL

Over the past 12 months, the Foodbank has made tremendous progress in providing fresh foods to the families and individuals we serve. Compared to this time last year, we have increased our distribution of fresh products by nearly 20%. Recent funding opportunities enabled us to purchase cold storage for a number of partners. These additions have allowed for higher volumes of fresh products like milk, yogurt, frozen protein, and produce.

With the help of volunteers, we have prepared hundreds of robust perishable boxes for drive-up food giveaways. Families receive 20 to 40 pound boxes of food including staples like carrots, potatoes, and onions, paired with various fruits, such as kiwi, pineapples, or lemons. Milk, lean protein, cottage cheese, and butter have also been provided. *See back page for details.*

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COMMUNITY FOCUSED







When we've had a bad day, a favorite food—something we may have grown up with or which holds fond memories of home and family—can make us feel better.

Peppers, jalapenos, tomatoes, corn tortillas and rice, along with pre-packed boxes of protein, produce and dairy greet LatinX families in Cass, Schuyler and Macoupin counties thanks to a grant from Feeding America. This has allowed the Foodbank to hold one to two distributions a month in these counties, serving 200 to 300 families each time.

Produce, milk, other dairy, and lean protein have also been distributed in difficult to reach areas including rural and black communities. With the help of the Boys and Girls Clubs, Taylorville Food Pantry, and

partners working with the LatinX community, we are becoming more aware of which fresh and healthy foods are well-received.

FRESH & HEALTHY: BY THE POUNDS

	 FRESH FOOD TOTAL	 FRESH PRODUCE	 DAIRY	 PROTEINS
FY21	7,747,666	2,836,661	2,435,679	2,475,326
FY20	5,853,807	2,857,155	924,540	2,072,112
FY19	4,939,324	2,401,992	771,000	1,766,332

TO HELP OTHERS FIND FOOD



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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


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