



2021: A LOOK BACK AT A YEAR FULL OF CHALLENGES

For the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, the year 2021 proved to be a time of incredible generosity from our supporters, tremendous work ethic from our volunteers, and true grit from our staff. Together, we worked to serve people facing hunger across southern Louisiana.

Our community was rocked by a perfect storm of scenarios including the lingering impacts of COVID-19 on local families, unemployment, rising inflation, supply chain issues, higher food costs, and a direct hit to Louisiana from Hurricane Ida that devastated the region for weeks.

Through it all, our community answered the call every day by collecting, sorting, packing, and distributing food to those in need across our 11-parish service area. In the process, we experienced a record year of service. More than 16.7 million meals were provided to the food insecure members of our community. That equates to more than 20 million pounds of food.

Volunteer efforts throughout these difficult times reached new heights as well. Our dedicated volunteers logged a record number of hours with the Food Bank, contributing more than 43,000 hours in service to others.

"This past year was particularly tough because we rarely face this many challenges all at the same time," said Mike Manning, President and CEO of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. "We are very proud of how the community and our team responded to make sure we were meeting the needs of everyone, including families who were coming to us for the very first time in their lives."

We would also like to offer a special thank you to the Louisiana National Guard, as they were an integral force multiplier throughout the entire year. By packing food boxes and distributing them to the community, we could not have done it without their support and dedication to service.

FIGHTING HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS:



**Over 16.7
Million**
Meals Distributed



**Over 20.1
Million**
Pounds Distributed



43,301
Volunteer Hours



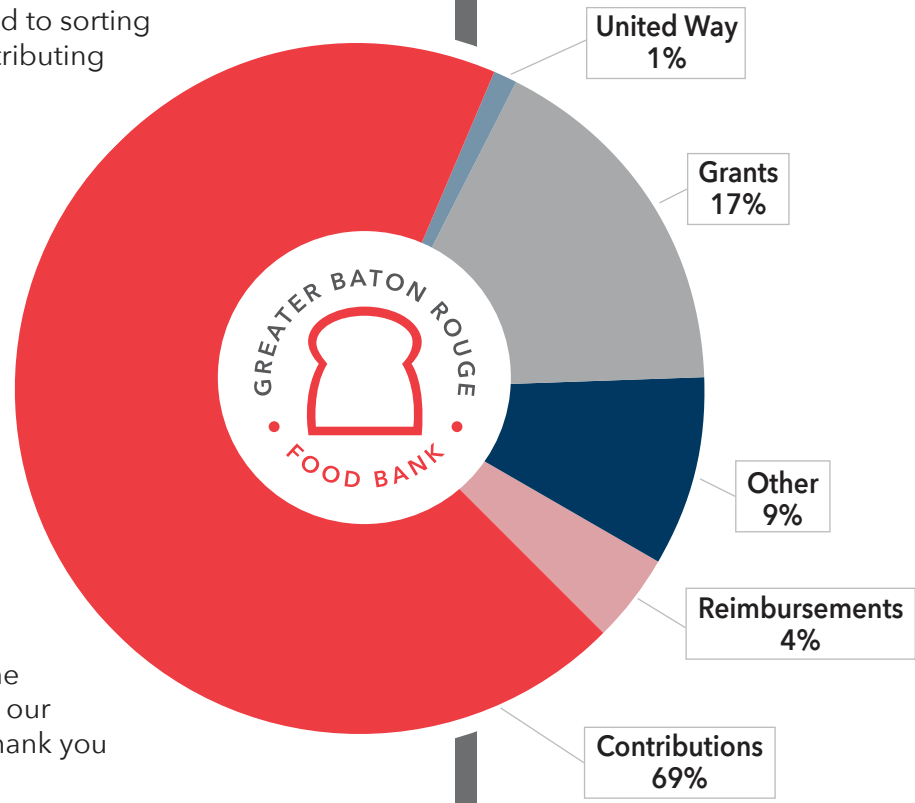
Hurricane Ida Impact September 2021

415
Ida Response Mobile
Distributions

**Over 3
Million**
Meals Distributed

**Over 3.7
Million**
Pounds Distributed

Food Bank Funding Sources:



HURRICANE IDA IMPACT SENDS MOBILE DISTRIBUTIONS INTO OVERDRIVE

Amid a struggling economy and elevated unemployment numbers due to COVID-19, the last thing the state of Louisiana needed was a hurricane in 2021. Yet, Hurricane Ida set her sights on the coast of Louisiana. Ida made landfall on Aug. 29 at Port Fourchon with winds of 150 mph, tying for the strongest hurricane to ever hit the state.

Ranking in the Top 10 of the costliest storms in US history, the ensuing financial impacts of the storm would climb to \$75 billion. The path of the storm created devastation in several parishes of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank service area, and our response to serve those in need was immediate. We are always there.

With the help of the Louisiana National Guard, who were already on-site due to COVID-19, our team immediately shifted to an all-hands-on-deck emergency response. Staff duties shifted to sorting and packing emergency food boxes and distributing them alongside the guard.

In the month of September alone, your Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank team conducted 415 Ida Emergency Response mobile distributions throughout our 11-parish service area. Through those distributions, we were able to distribute over 3.7 million pounds of food in just one month - the equivalent of 3 million meals to families in need.

To understand the gravity of such an effort, distributing 3.7 million pounds of food in a month is over two times more food than we typically distribute on average in a given month. That kind of effort takes everyone - our employees, volunteers and the community to support us as we work to fulfill our mission to be there when people need us. Thank you for your continued support.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Behind the scenes at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is a group of 18 incredibly special volunteers who assist more than 11,000 volunteers each year. Each of these 18 volunteers average over 1,000 hours annually in our warehouse. Through their food sorting and repacking efforts, we are able to distribute food to more than 100 member agencies throughout our 11-parish service area.

These 18 men and women serve as volunteer leaders and are part of our "Hope Builders" team, a meaningful designation for those who give 1,000 hours or more of their time to help us "build hope" for our neighbors in need. No matter what challenges we face, be it hurricanes or a pandemic, they continue to serve and support our mission with fierce determination and huge hearts. Our Hope Builders show up for us and our community, day in and day out.

This vital support team not only consistently works 4-hour shifts, but they also assist the staff Repack Captain. The Repack Captain supervises the operations of packing boxes by volunteers, takes the lead in answering questions, and ensures food is packaged for the needs of member agencies. This team inspires others to return by making the volunteer experience a positive one for all.

Hope Builders serve alongside individuals of all abilities with patience, kindness and gentleness. They aim to help all valued volunteers' succeed in the tasks assigned to them. This provides an amazing opportunity for young people to learn new employment skills that will help lead to a successful future!

Our Hope Builders have become an integral and well-loved part of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank family. Their passion and commitment to our mission drive us all to be better for the entire community that we serve. We thank these leaders and all the volunteers who have given of their time to support our mission.



11,771 Volunteers



43,301 Hours Donated
Equal to 21 Full Time Employees



11% Increase in Volunteer
Time Year Over Year

GET MORE INVOLVED THROUGH OUR GIVING SOCIETIES



Through the kindness of our most committed supporters, we are reminded that Baton Rouge and our surrounding community care deeply for our neighbors who may need a helping hand.

Inspired by those individuals who have made a significant difference and will continue to do so in the future, new giving societies were launched just last year, and membership continues to grow. Comprised of past, current, and future donors, membership in these societies intends to serve to express our sincerest gratitude. Consider becoming a part of one of our societies.

Nourish 365 members are special donors who commit to recurring monthly gifts which allow us to plan for the year ahead and give us the opportunity to feed as many people as possible. Become a member and have access to fun promotional items such as t-shirts and bumper stickers so that you can proudly show the community that you support the fight against hunger!

Janet Pace would be happy to answer any questions and can be reached at 225-308-4899.



Our **Hunger Action Council** was formed to elevate fundraising efforts to sustain our mission. Members are community-minded investors who take a leadership role by making a multi-year financial pledge, which can be submitted in annual, quarterly, or monthly payments. As a valued member of the council, you will be invited to engage with our leadership staff and be kept updated on our efforts in our fight to end hunger.

Contact Sandy Colvin to learn more at 225-341-8050 or sandy@brfoodbank.org.



The **Fraenkel Society** was established to recognize supporters who count the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank among their most treasured philanthropies. By leaving a legacy through an estate provision, beneficiary designation, or life income gift, you become part of a treasured group of forward-thinking individuals who value and support our long-term success. You need not be wealthy to leave a legacy, as there is no minimum. Members of the Fraenkel Society will be invited to events with our leadership staff that will keep you updated on our efforts toward our fight against hunger.

The society is named in honor of Mr. Albert Fraenkel and the Fraenkel family. Mr. Fraenkel has been a long-time member of our Food Bank family, donating both his time and financial support. In the greatest example of his generous spirit, Mr. Fraenkel made it possible for the Food Bank to acquire the Fraenkel Furniture Warehouse land and building. It is because of this transformational opportunity that we can function at our current capacity. We are forever grateful to Mr. Fraenkel for empowering us to serve thousands of our hungry neighbors each year.

Contact Sandy Colvin to learn more details about joining the Fraenkel Society. Sandy can be reached at 225-341-8050 or sandy@brfoodbank.org.

FROM THE FRONT LINES OF HUNGER

"It's hard to go from a place where I volunteered and now, I'm receiving food. I always had good jobs and worked hard, so it's frustrating to not be as financially stable as I once was."

- **Debi**



"At first, I was embarrassed, but then I realized everyone is like this right now, not just us. You never know when you may need to ask for help but remember it's okay."

- **Lisa**



"We are here to help people through the hardest times, we always show up when there's a problem and we have clients who truly depend on us for that."

- **KiEtha**





WHAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING IN 2022

As we move through this year, there are continuous economic challenges that directly impact our ability to feed those in need. Ongoing disruptions in the supply chain, such as low inventories and increased demand, have forced higher food prices. To make matters worse, the rising cost of fuel is now the highest on record. In turn, people in America are forced to spend more money commuting between work and home, altering their financial ability to feed themselves and their families.

Higher food and fuel costs force people experiencing food insecurity to rely even more heavily on food banks to fill in the gaps between each meal. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is expecting our food lines to grow longer due to an increase in need for our services. Rising fuel costs also directly affect the cost of operations at the Food Bank. Regular operations require purchasing fuel in order to transport Food Bank goods throughout our 11-parish service area.

On top of rising fuel costs and limited USDA food donations, we are also seeing shortages in available food products from local stores. With high demand for food and a limited supply, grocery stores are hanging on to food longer. Consequently, this means the Food Bank sees fewer food donations from these stores. At the same time, food that we normally purchase through a bulk bidding process is less plentiful and more expensive due to competition for available resources. Monetary donations have the biggest impact on our ability to acquire food for those in need, and it is needed now more than ever before.

All of these shortages create a turbulent cycle for families experiencing food insecurity. These families, like many in America, are doing their best while the economy recovers from natural disasters, coronavirus, unemployment and inflation. Amidst these challenges, we also see Louisiana falling short when compared to the rest of the country. Currently, Louisiana leads the nation in child hunger with 1 in 4 children being food insecure. In addition to children, Louisiana is near the top in senior food insecurity.

A big focus for us in 2022 is launching new and innovative ways to reach more people who are in need and may not know where to turn for help. We want families and individuals to be able to have access to our resources of food and important information. The launching of our mobile app has helped us communicate mobile distribution locations to users on a timely basis with details on distributions near them. This is just one way we are trying to expand our reach to those who are in need but may only have access to a cell phone.

There is much to consider and much to be done, but we always will be here working to fulfill our mission. We will continue to innovate and improve our efficiency to ensure there is food on the tables of our neighbors in need. We truly appreciate your continued commitment in answering the call to help us serve others.

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