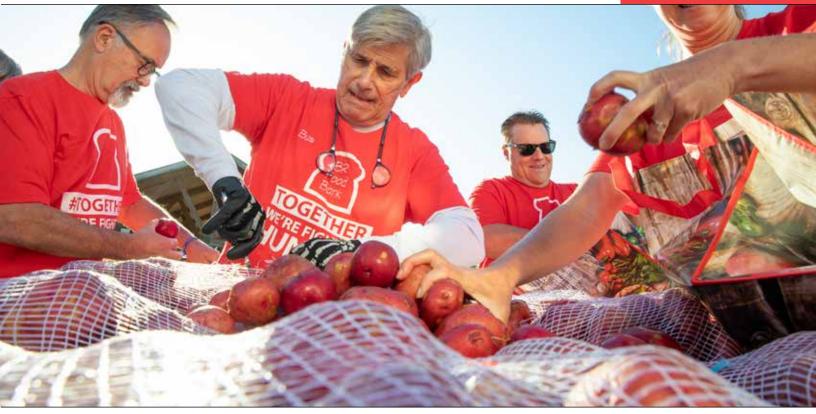
# GREATER BATON ROUGE

# 2022 Annual Report



#### FIGHTING HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS



Over 10.4 Million Meals Distributed



Over 300,000 Clients Served



# **2022 YEAR IN REVIEW**

s we look back at 2022, the biggest challenges for families and businesses proved to be largely economic. While the nation's supply chain continued to struggle with low inventory and increased demand, families saw higher food prices across the board. To make matters worse, the rising cost of fuel forced the working poor to spend more money on commuting between work and home instead of being able to feed their families. As a result, Food Bank member agencies saw an increase on the front lines of hunger with more families needing assistance.

Amidst these challenges, we also saw Louisiana falling short when compared to the rest of the country in hunger statistics. Feeding America Meal Gap statistics for 2022 showed Louisiana once again leading the nation in child hunger with 1 in 5 children in the state being food insecure.

While your Food Bank faced many challenges, there was also much to celebrate. Our team was able to distribute over 10.4 million meals to those in need, and over 12,000 volunteers donated over 47,000 hours of service to the community. The launch of our new mobile app also created new opportunities for the food insecure to be notified of food distributions near them which allows us to reach those in need who don't know where to turn for help. With the support of our donors and the community at large, we were able to fulfill our mission of service once again even in the face of much adversity.

## IN THEIR WORDS: THE FRONT LINES OF HUNGER

More stories available online at brfoodbank.org



"With all the prices going up, it is hard when you are trying to make ends meet. So, it is rough, but by the Grace of God and the people here, we get through it."

-Tándy

"The new families that are coming to the pantry, they say that gas is so high, and food is so expensive at the store. So many of them come with a smile on their face, but they are heartbroken and hungry."

-Gwendolyn



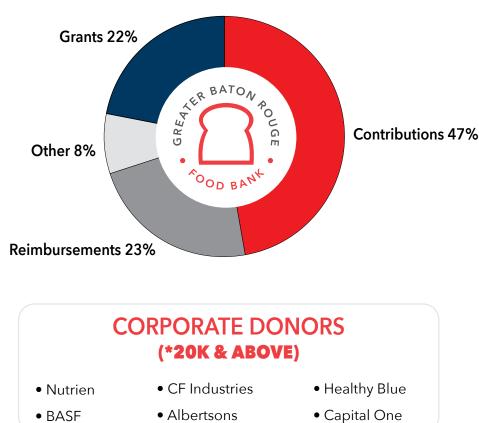
"More than once when we come with food, people have cried. They say, Thank you. This is God sending us something. It's seeing the blessing of the Lord and how God wants to bless people in need. They have food because of the Food Bank."

–Pastor Maria



# **AT A GLANCE: IMPACT AND FINANCIALS**

#### FOOD BANK FUNDING SOURCES:



## **4,751** UNIQUE DONORS

The largest portion of our donations are from individual community donors. Donors are the most vital component to our success in feeding our neighbors in need.

## 2022 FOOD DONATIONS

- 35% USDA Food Product
- **65%** Retail Rescue, Food Drives, Donations

**94%** of food bank funds go directly to program - related expenses



#### 2022 VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS



12,112 Volunteers



47,171 Hours Donated = 23 Full time Employees



9% Increase in Volunteer Time Year Over Year

# **CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS**

When we look at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, there are three things we rely on to be successful - donations of food, financial donations, and donations of time from volunteers. Without all three, we would not be able to fulfill our mission.

Volunteers in particular play an integral role in our ability to sort, pack and distribute food to over 100 agencies in our 11-parish service area. In 2022 alone, over 12,000 volunteers donated 47,171 hours of service which is the equivalent to 23 full time employees.

We are also very thankful for our committed team of volunteer leaders who continue to drive our mission forward every week in partnership with our sort and repack captain Mark Walker. Whenever there is a need, they answer the call and step up in any capacity needed to make sure we run as efficiently as possible. It's amazing what a community can achieve when we have such great leadership and committed volunteers.

#### HOW DONATIONS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT LINES OF HUNGER

Food Sources Food is donated to your food bank from a variety of people and organizations.



#### Food Bank

Food is processed and divided up in our warehouse and shipped out to distribution points.

#### **Member Agencies**

Agencies set up distribution times and locations. They also organize volunteers for those distributions.



#### People in Need

Food is given to people in your community who have trouble accessing nutritious food.



### **BUILDING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

As we look ahead to the future, we fully understand that many families will continue to struggle as the nation slowly works to recover economically. With the cost of inflation currently outpacing increases in wages, it means we will see more families looking to their local food pantries for food assistance. With this reality in mind, your Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is taking action along a number of fronts to meet the challenges.

While we have been growing our community of supporters, we have also been finding efficiencies in our operations by increasing bulk packaging of food which allows us to not only be more cost effective in cost per pounds distributed but also allows us to barter for product with other food banks, thus lowering our food acquisition costs overall.

We are also working to distribute more food in the community. Our farm fresh program has been expanded to all agencies as nutrition has become a big part of addressing food insecurity in a smarter way. Our BackPack program continues to grow to include new partnerships with area schools. We have also expanded our Food is Medicine program which includes teaming up with several healthcare facilities who can reach patients in need who may not know how to access adequate food resources. Hunger can factor into so many health-related issues that it is critical for healthcare providers to be able to help patients find assistance so that they are less at risk overall.

Even with all these steps we are taking to improve our ability to serve, we still rely on the support of the community to make it happen. We cannot do what we do without our generous donors and most avid supporters. We thank you for helping us fulfill our mission and look forward to continuing to fight hunger together.

Sincerely,

Michael & Ma

Mike Manning, President & CEO





