



## *2023 Year in Review*

With individuals and families struggling to rebound from higher fuel and food prices in 2023, your Food Bank continued to see an increase in food insecure individuals with agencies reporting higher numbers of clients seeking food assistance. New economic research from the USDA also revealed a 26% increase in food insecurity nationally with 12.8% of households struggling to provide enough food for their families.

With higher demand for food assistance and Louisiana once again leading the country in both child and senior hunger, we served more neighbors than ever – distributing 11.1 million meals to over 350,000 clients in our 11-parish service area.

To reach more people, we expanded several critical feeding programs. Our Backpack Program was expanded in Livingston and Iberville parishes, thanks to corporate partners 1-Point-Five and Nutrien who provided grants to reach food insecure children in schools. We expanded our Farm Fresh program to all our partner agencies to provide fresh produce for their client distributions and launched new nutrition programs aiming to provide individuals and seniors with healthier food options. We were able to increase our retail food rescue efforts through a grant from Walmart and Feeding America, and added new food pantries to our list of member agencies growing from 115 agencies in 2022 to 125+ agencies in 2023.

## **FIGHTING HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS**



**11.1 Million**  
Meals Distributed



**Over 350,000**  
Clients Served



**125+**  
Partner Agencies in 2023

## IN THEIR WORDS: *The Front Lines Of Hunger*



*Steve*

“In the summer, we see children knocking on our back doors looking for food at our pantry. We do what we can to help them as much as we are able to. We see the need is great and we understand that. We want people to know there is someone who cares.”



*Christian*

“My mom would go to the Second Baptist Church Food Pantry in the summers to make ends meet because schools were out, and those meals for our family were no longer available in the summer. I went to pick up the box of food one day for her and was asked if I could volunteer to help them pass out boxes. I said ‘yes’ and remember how good it felt to help others. I’ve continued to volunteer and now recruit others to help too.”



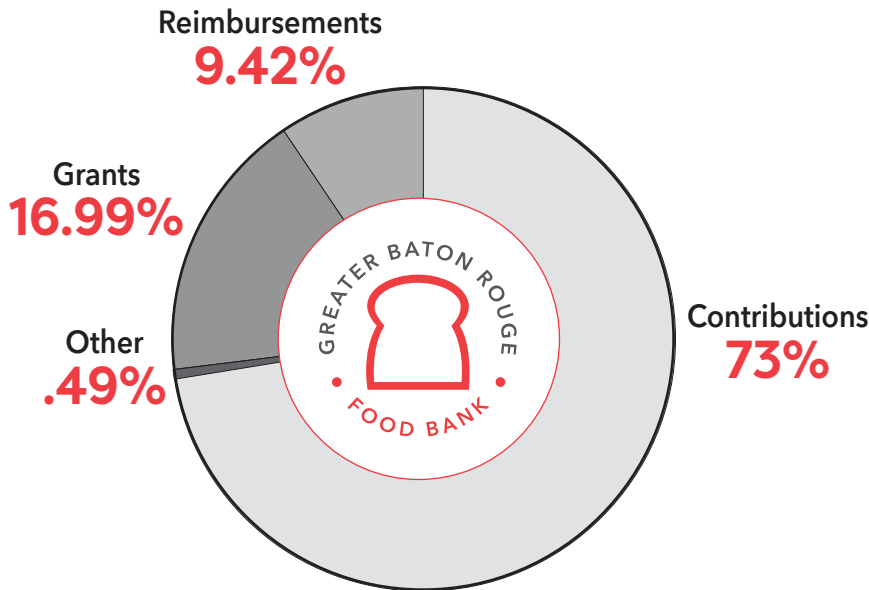
*Christy*

“We’re seeing the same families we have always seen, but we’re also seeing new people looking for help with this economy. Clients are paying more at the grocery store, so they’re coming to us to supplement their grocery bill. We are here to help them get through.”

# At A Glance

## IMPACT AND FINANCIALS

### Food Bank Funding Sources:



## \$1 MILLION

### WALMART FOUNDATION GRANT

As part of a multi-year partnership between Walmart Foundation and Feeding America, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank was one of 20 Feeding America partner food banks to receive a Retail Agency Capacity Building Grant aimed to enhance retail rescue programs in which fresh, frozen and shelf-stable foods are donated by grocers for pickup by food banks and agency partners. The funds covered the purchase of new equipment like refrigerated trucks, forklifts and freezers to be able to increase the number of weekly food pickups to benefit our partner agencies.

### DID YOU KNOW

**94%** OF FOOD BANK FUNDS GO DIRECTLY TO PROGRAM RELATED EXPENSES.

Contributions from our community make up the largest portion of our donations. Recurring donors are part of our Nourish 365 giving society. These donors are especially impactful as they help us plan for the year ahead and account for tougher months when food donations are down. We are thrilled that Nourish 365 membership has increased 25% from 2022 to 2023, and we look forward to growing this program even more in 2024!

## Corporate Donors

(\*20K & ABOVE)

- Mosaic
- 1PointFive
- WR Grace
- BASF
- Nutrien
- The Price LeBlanc Family
- ExxonMobil
- CF Industries

## 2023 Food Sources

**32.5%** - USDA Food Product

**67.5%** - Retail Rescue, Food Drives, Donations



## *Our Volunteers:*

### **A CRITICAL FORCE MULTIPLIER**

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 125 agencies in our 11-parish service area. In 2023 alone, 14,513 volunteers donated 56,327 hours of service which is the equivalent to 27 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.

## **VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS**



**14,513**

Volunteers



**56,327**

Volunteer Hours  
Donated (equal to 27  
full-time employees)



**19%**

Year over Year  
Increase in  
Volunteer Time