

HOPE LOOKS LIKE YOU

**SPRING/SUMMER
2026**

A look at the people and partnerships providing food, hope, and support to neighbors across our region



www.brfoodbank.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

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These accomplishments are a direct result of the partnerships we've built, the volunteers who show up every day, and the staff who lead with heart and innovation. I am grateful for the way this community continues to rally around our mission, especially when the need grows.

As we continue to move forward in 2026, we are building on that strong foundation with both urgency and optimism. We are expanding access to nutritious food through new Food is Medicine sites, preparing to launch our Groceries on the Geaux Mobile Market to reach areas with limited access to fresh foods and supporting summer food programs. These efforts demonstrate our commitment to meeting people where they are, removing barriers to the support they need, and working toward a future where everyone in our community has access to the nourishment they need to thrive. 🍷

Liz Pfifer

President & CEO

When I joined the Food Bank as your new CEO last November, what stood out immediately was the strength, heart, and unwavering commitment of our team and community. Although 2025 presented deep challenges, we also witnessed extraordinary resilience.

Amid the government shutdown and pause on SNAP benefits at the end of the year, you responded with urgency and compassion, ensuring that our neighbors continued to have access to food during a time of heightened need. The impact reflected in this report is a testament to the collective effort of staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who stepped up when it mattered most.

Together, in 2025, we strengthened our core programs and deepened our impact. From scaling our Senior Grocery program and child nutrition efforts to meeting increased demand across our network, we responded with agility and purpose.

HOPE BEGINS

Where Hunger Ends

For many families, hunger doesn't look the way people expect. It can exist behind closed doors, in households where parents work hard, pay their bills, and do everything they can to stay afloat.

Donna and her husband never imagined they would need help feeding their family. For years, they worked steadily and built a stable life together. As a result of the 2008 housing crash, financial setbacks, health challenges, and job losses slowly unraveled the security they had worked so hard to build.

"When I used to hear the word hunger, I thought it looked like being homeless," Donna said quietly. "People living in the streets... kids you see on TV from other countries, crying because they have no food. I never thought it looked like me."

"We signed up for a loan modification program, thinking it would help us stay in our home," Donna said. "What we didn't realize was at the end of the term, we owed a balloon payment close to \$50,000. We eventually had to let it go."

As financial pressures mounted, Donna was also navigating deep personal loss and unexpected caregiving responsibilities within her family. Over time, the stress began to take a serious toll on both her physical and mental health, making consistent employment nearly impossible. At the same time, her husband was quietly battling chronic back pain that worsened after he lost his job just days before Christmas.

"If felt like everything was happening all at once," Donna said. "We were trying to hold things together."

Then came the quiet reality of hunger.

"It's different when you look in your cabinets and you have things, but you don't have basic things, like rice, potatoes, beans, vegetables," she said. "When it's the end of the month and there's no money left, you don't know how you're going to buy food. There just isn't enough for more."

Although Donna had information about a local pantry for some time, fear and uncertainty kept her from going.

"I was so nervous," she admitted. "I wondered if people would judge me."

But when she finally arrived at her first distribution, she found compassion.

"The volunteers were kind, the process was easy, and the



*Photographed are Donna and her daughter.
(Please note: Names have been changed to protect privacy.
Photo is shared with permission.)*

food made such a difference," Donna said. "I'll never forget making potato soup during a cold snap. It was one of the best meals we'd had in a long time."

Even now, Donna and her husband continue navigating health and financial challenges while doing everything they can to support their daughter through her remaining high school years. Along the way, family members, neighbors, and the community have continued showing up for them, through fundraisers, shared meals, encouragement, and small acts of kindness that help lighten the load during difficult seasons.

"That's what gives me hope," Donna said. "We may not have much, but we have people who step in so she [our daughter] doesn't have to go without."

Hunger can affect families who never imagined they would need assistance. Thanks to the generosity of this community, neighbors facing difficult seasons can find not only food, but hope, dignity, and the reassurance that they do not have to face hardship alone. 

*Scan to read more stories of hunger, shared
anonymously by our neighbors.*



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

2025 in Review: Responding Together During a Year of Rising Need & Uncertainty



Last year, our community faced one of the *greatest levels of need* we have ever seen. In response, our neighbors, donors, volunteers and partners stepped forward in extraordinary ways.

As our region experienced the impacts of the government shutdown, SNAP cuts, and ongoing economic uncertainty, support poured in through food drives, fund drives, increased volunteer efforts, donations and additional holiday Drop N Geauxs (one-time food distributions). In every corner of our community, people chose to show up for one another, ensuring families, seniors, and children had access to the meals they needed during uncertain times.

More families than ever are turning to us for help. While we

have seen a 28% increase in neighbors seeking support, we have also witnessed the strength of a community willing to stand together in difficult times.

Thank you for being part of our mission. Your support makes this work possible and helps us respond when it matters most.

Together, we can make a lasting impact. 📦

592,000+
NEIGHBORS SERVED
*through our network of
partner agencies*

14.3 MILLION+
POUNDS OF FOOD
*14,393,804 pounds
of food distributed*

11.9 MILLION+
MEALS DISTRIBUTED
*throughout our 11-parish
service area*

43
DROP N GEAUX
*distributions, totaling
10,232 food boxes*

Thank you for being part of our mission!



VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Recognizing Our Top Volunteers in 2025 for Their Service

Each year, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank relies on thousands of volunteers who are essential to our mission and help cultivate a culture of compassion, both within our organization and across the communities we serve.

In 2025, volunteers contributed hours equal to 27 full-time employees, reducing overhead costs and allowing more resources to directly serve neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Their support strengthens our daily operations and expands our ability to meet growing needs.

Volunteers play a critical role in ensuring food is handled safely, packaged efficiently, and distributed with care, including sorting donations, inspecting items, packing boxes, assisting in bulk packaging, and directly serving neighbors.

The dedication of our volunteers makes a meaningful impact across our 11-parish service area, helping ensure every neighbor has reliable access to the nourishment they need. 🍲

14,793
VOLUNTEERS

56,809
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Equivalent to
27
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

TOP INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS



809 HOURS
Bus Culotta



612 HOURS
Jerry Montag



590 HOURS
Parry "Matt" Thomas

Hope BUILDERS



TOP GROUP

4,925 HOURS

Central High School
Wildcat Winners



TOP SCHOOL

628 HOURS

Belaire Magnet High School



TOP COMPANY

811 HOURS

Entergy

Impact LEADERS

2025
Leading Community
Investment Partners

\$100,000

AmeriHealth Caritas

helped support various
feeding programs,
including

**FARM FRESH
&
FOOD IS MEDICINE**

\$200,000

Mosaic

helped provide meals for
children experiencing food
insecurity in St. James
Parish, through our

**BACKPACK
PROGRAM**

\$214,200

Darden Restaurants Foundation

funded a multi-year fleet
capacity grant, providing
the Food Bank with a

**REFRIGERATED
TRUCK**



Bridging the Gap BETWEEN SURPLUS AND HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nearly 40% of all food grown and produced in the U.S. goes unsold or uneaten, resulting in an estimated 92 billion pounds of surplus food each year.

At the same time, more than 40 million people across the country face hunger. Through food rescue efforts, Feeding America helps redirect billions of pounds of nutritious foods to families in need each year. Locally,

the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank rescued 2.8 million pounds of food through our retail rescue program last year, transforming potential waste into meals and hope for our community.

This impact would not be possible without the dedication and partnership of our national and local retail partners, whose commitment helps ensure food reaches neighbors instead of landfills. 

OUR LEADING RETAIL PARTNERS IN 2025

NATIONAL

Walmart was our top
national retail partner.

860,840

POUNDS DONATED

Equivalent to
717,000+ meals

REGIONAL

Associated Grocers was
our top regional partner.

1,019,941

POUNDS DONATED

Equivalent to
849,950+ meals

LOCAL

Hi Nabor Supermarket
was our top local partner.

187,000

POUNDS DONATED

Equivalent to
156,000+ meals



Thanks to our generous donors and valued partnerships, we rescued **2,817,328** pounds of food for our community.



CORPORATE DONORS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING INCREASE ACCESS TO FOOD ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES.

Their generosity provides critical resources for families in need, and also strengthens our ability to respond, grow, and serve with dignity and hope. We are deeply grateful for partners who stand with us in building a stronger, healthier community for all."

Brian W. Hightower, Chief Development Officer & General Counsel



Photographed is Rev. Michael Oubre, Minister of Outreach at St. Paul Baptist Church & President of the St. Paul Community Agency

WHAT WILLING HANDS AND A *Heart for People* CAN ACCOMPLISH

When Michael Oubre retired after a long corporate career, he never imagined he would one day help lead one of the most impactful hunger relief efforts in Ascension Parish.

After natural disasters revealed a growing need, St. Paul Baptist Church, led by Pastor L.A. Delaney, Jr., responded with a simple solution: a food pantry. What began as a modest outreach quickly became something much deeper.

"I had never done this before," Rev. Oubre said. "I had taught Sunday school and Bible study, but I wasn't sure how to take hold of something like this."

Then, something shifted.

"Outreach took hold of me," he said. "If you understand servanthood, then you know it is what we are called to do... to help each other."

Long before each distribution begins, cars line up outside the church. Some families are returning visitors. Others are coming for the first time, quietly carrying the weight of rising grocery costs, job instability, medical bills, language barriers, or sudden crisis.

"It hasn't slowed down," Rev. Oubre said. "We're seeing more and more people who need food."

As coordinator of the growing outreach ministry, Rev. Oubre has witnessed firsthand how hunger touches every kind of household, seniors living on fixed incomes, families displaced by emergencies, veterans, and working parents forced to choose between utilities, medicine, living expenses and groceries.

"People shouldn't have to choose whether they eat," he said. "That should never be the struggle. It's a basic human right."

Many neighbors hesitate to visit, embarrassed to ask for help. That's why every volunteer leads with one principle: dignity first.

"We want people to know they're in a safe space," Rev. Oubre said.

Today, the pantry runs almost entirely on volunteers, including retirees, veterans, teachers, church members, and neighbors who simply want to help. Shopping carts move steadily through organized stations stocked with canned goods, fresh produce, meat, and essential supplies, while volunteers work side by side to ensure every family is served quickly, efficiently, and with compassion.

"Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers," Rev. Oubre said. "That's what makes this thing go."

And their support doesn't stop at food.

When someone calls for emergency groceries, volunteers respond. When a local family lost everything in a house fire, church members stepped in and provided clothing and helped furnish their new home. Volunteers also connect neighbors with additional support services, from veterans assistance programs to community services that help families regain stability.

"Behind every box of food is a story," Rev. Oubre shared. "You never know what someone is carrying."

Now, as a Hunger Action Ambassador with Feeding Louisiana, Rev. Oubre is raising awareness and advocating for long-term solutions rooted in compassion and community. The church also hopes to grow into a broader resource hub, offering not just food but the support families need to move forward, such as childcare resources, educational opportunities, and expanded outreach services.

Because hunger relief is about more than a meal. It's about making sure every neighbor feels seen, supported, and knows that hope is never out of reach—and this help begins with willing hands and a heart for people. 

Looking AHEAD



GROCERIES ON THE GEAUX MOBILE MARKET

Families and seniors throughout our 11-parish service area will soon have more reliable access to fresh, nutritious food thanks to the new Groceries on the Geaux Mobile Market. We are grateful to CF Industries, JERA, and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. for their partnership and dedication to fund this important program.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



LAUNCHING SUMMER 2026



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank invites you to our first-ever Sporting Clays Classic, a day of friendly competition, great company, and meaningful impact in our community.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit brfoodbank.org/SCC.



**SEPTEMBER 11
BRIDGEVIEW GUN CLUB**



HOPE TO ME LOOKS LIKE ALL OF US GETTING INVOLVED...

That's the only way we're going to accomplish this mission."

KiEtha Gage, Senior Agency Relations & Programs Manager



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