



EVERYONE  
DESERVES  
TO  
EAT



**2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT**

# - MY VIEW -



Dear Second Harvest Supporters,

January 2024 marks the one-year anniversary of Second Harvest Food Bank or Northwest NC's operations at our new headquarters – the facility and future supporters like you made a reality!

The past twelve months have been full of significant achievements, a renewed commitment to seek opportunities to strengthen our work, and challenges to overcome as we face the future. Fortunately, our generous community of supporters has given us a home where we can build on the foundation of our 40+ year history of feeding hope, health, and opportunity. Thank you for the trust you place in Second Harvest to steward your support to make a meaningful impact in our neighbors' lives and in our community.

## Results

- ★ In supplement to our FY 23 numbers highlighted in this report, I'd like to share some amazing results, the reality around our challenges, and innovative opportunities, developed and on the horizon.
- ★ For the first half of FY 24, we distributed more than 19 million pounds, which is an increase over the same period by over 236,000 pounds. This is a positive sign given the challenges outlined below.
- ★ Our initial sustainability efforts at the new facility were recognized by the Piedmont Environmental Alliance with the 2023 Green Business of the Year Award.
- ★ We've hosted over 90 groups at our new home, toward inspiring more and more people to our mission.
- ★ New and enhanced relationships with health systems, schools, and colleges and universities are working to remove barriers for neighbors in need of food assistance.

## Challenges

- ★ Through 2023, Second Harvest's partner network saw a more than 50% increase in the number of people requesting food assistance. Unfortunately, we expect this level of service to be sustained for the foreseeable future.
- ★ Food sourcing continues to face headwinds even as we confront tremendous need. Government commodities have returned to pre-pandemic levels despite the realities facing families. A decrease in this governmental source of food of 11 million pounds over the past two years means we are now purchasing food at a rate 10 times higher than prior to the pandemic – a strategy that simply isn't sustainable when we are comparing \$400,000 to \$4,000,000.

## Innovations

- ★ Our Providence program introduced a barista module, which builds on the opportunities within our Providence Culinary Training program and opens additional employment options for students, and added special programming for people with intellectual and developmental challenges, supporting greater independence and opportunity.
- ★ Our new Mobile Pantry program began operations and is visiting high-need areas with significant barriers, such as transportation or limited food pantry options to receive assistance, five days a week to provide up to 125 families access to produce and shelf-stable food at each stop it makes.
- ★ In partnership with Forsyth Tech and Goodwill Industries, we will launch the Distribution and Logistics Management Program in March 2024. This program expands our mission-aligned workforce training and strengthens our strategies to address root causes of food insecurity.
- ★ Looking ahead, we are investing in technology solutions that will be transformational to our work. Through this year and into 2025, we will create an Alternative Agriculture learning and production center. Using a combination of aeroponics, hydroponics, and aquaponics; we will educate school and community groups about alternative agriculture methodologies; provide training and support for our partner agencies and others to replicate these strategies; and use the fresh greens, fruits, and vegetables to supplement the food we distribute across the region.

Now, more than ever, our work – whether it is food assistance, workforce training, nutrition education, or everything that is an extension of these activities – remains vital to the health and prosperity of all residents across Northwest North Carolina. Thank you for all you continue to do to bring our mission to life!

Eric A. Aft  
Chief Executive Officer



Record numbers of people are coming to the Second Harvest Food Bank network, comprised of nearly 500 food assistance programs serving residents across 18 counties. Increasing costs for shelter and childcare are key drivers of food insecurity in our region, leaving far too many families without the means to reliably and consistently afford to put food on the table. **Your support is vital to our mission and work feeding hope, health, and opportunity. Thank you.** Here we have shared just a few highlights of all that you made possible through our fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.



## FEEDING OPPORTUNITY

900+

The number of individuals who have graduated from Providence Culinary Training since the program's inception in 2006

73%

The percentage of graduates employed on a three-year lookback

## A YEAR IN REVIEW | BY THE NUMBERS



### FEEDING HOPE

30+ million

The number of meals provided to neighbors in need in collaboration with our nearly 500+ partner food assistance programs

80% +

The percentage of food provided by our on-the-ground partners that comes from Second Harvest

150,000

The number of additional meals for families attributable to Second Harvest's SNAP/FNS outreach work

12,000

The average number of healthy, tray-packed meals prepared each week by our Community Meals team for delivery to programs serving seniors, children, and adults living with disabilities. This number is rapidly expanding as we collaborate with partners in healthcare to provide medically-tailored meals.

Nearly 94,000

The number of meals provided to children through our partnering summer meal sites



100+

The number of organization's Second Harvest Food Bank partners with as we advocate for public policies that will strengthen our efforts to fight hunger, including:

- protecting and strengthening child nutrition programs by improving program access, ensuring nutrition quality, and streamlining program administration and operation.
- renewal of the expanded Child Tax Credit to include families with very low or no incomes, who were previously ineligible for this benefit.
- fully funding The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans.
- strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- expanding the free and reduced priced breakfast and lunch program to reach more children in need.



### FEEDING HEALTH Nutrition Services

Second Harvest's nutrition education programs support behavior changes that can improve health. Our evidence-based Nourishing Pantry Program continues to guide partner pantries on no-and low-cost strategies that make the nutritious choice the easy choice.

\$809,000

The estimated local economic impact of SNAP/FNS benefits facilitated by Second Harvest's outreach staff

**34** Second Harvest's Farm Fresh *Nourish!* program continues to reach new levels of success in addressing food insecurity among area residents with food chronic health challenges, while investing in local farmers, especially women- and Black-owned operations.

26,720

The number of volunteer hours contributed to our mission by more than 4,800 compassionate community members

WXII 12

A year-round media partner committed to helping Second Harvest tell the compelling stories of our mission and impact and engaging our community in taking action in the work of building healthy, hunger-free communities for all

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Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC  
3330 Shorefair Street | Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
336.784.5770  
SecondHarvestNWNC.org

