



The effects of the pandemic sent an increased number of children, families, seniors, and individuals to us for emergency food assistance – many of them for the first time.

Our community responded with unprecedented generosity. We are so grateful for your dedicated support in the fight against hunger.

Because of you – and with the support of our network of 1,000+ program partners – we have continued to find innovative ways to get more food safely and efficiently to those who need it most. Thank you!

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and our partners:



Served more than 343,000 unduplicated individuals.



Continued innovative distribution methods, including weekly distributions at the Cleveland Municipal Lot, home delivery to senior clients and individuals with disabilities, and grab-and-go meal distributions for children.



Provided grants to support the purchase of additional freezers and coolers for partners who lacked sufficient cold storage, enabling distribution of larger quantities of nutritious perishable products, including produce, dairy, and meat.



Served 87,000 new people who utilized our services for the first time.



Provided more than 53 million pounds of food across all of our distribution efforts.

2021 COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 continued to impact our work in significant ways. With the ongoing needs of so many individuals facing diminished food resources, stretching limited incomes, and living from paycheck to paycheck, we remained relentless in our commitment to safely get more food into the hands of neighbors in need.



STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

Originally, our Strategic Plan (FY19-FY21) focused on four significant goals, and while they continued to be a critical part of our work, the pandemic brought additional priorities that required a response to the urgent needs of our community. To better account for new priorities and to capture the full scope of our services, at the start of FY2021 we added a fifth goal to our Strategic Priorities.

FY2019-FY2021 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

GOAL 1

Address hunger today by providing nutritious food and targeted programming to reach more people who experience food insecurity

GOAL 2

Address hunger tomorrow by connecting people to supportive services to help them become more food-secure

GOAL 3

Improve access and outcomes for people we serve by better tracking success

GOAL 4

Assess and create financial and organizational capacity to meet mission-related goals

NEW! GOAL 5

Continue to respond to the additional need for food caused by COVID-19 with creative solutions for food distribution

GOAL 1: ADDRESSING HUNGER TODAY

Our mission remains the same: to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. Because of your generosity, we expanded our programming to better reach our neighbors:



343,144 unduplicated individuals

92,781 unduplicated children

84,604 unduplicated seniors

5,300 clients with health challenges

GOAL 2: ADDRESSING HUNGER TOMORROW

One of the most impactful ways we support our clients in building a food-secure future is by connecting them to other available resources. We assisted more than 25,981 eligible clients with SNAP applications. We also connected 10,734 clients to partners who offer support in the areas of health care, housing, and employment—the primary drivers of food insecurity.

GOAL 3: IMPROVING ACCESS & OUTCOMES

During FY2021, we created a Client Experience Committee that provides ongoing client feedback on the efficacy of our programs. By creating consistent opportunities for individuals with lived experiences of food insecurity to provide input on our hunger relief efforts, we can work with our clients to better support the health and well-being of our community.

GOAL 4: ASSESSING & CREATING CAPACITY

In 2018, we determined that additional space and capacity would be needed to better address hunger in the future. Today, we are pursuing a transformative capital project to expand our distribution of healthy food, while also creating space to address the root causes of food insecurity. In April 2021, we broke ground on an expanded community distribution center located on Coit Road, to exponentially increase our capacity to acquire and store food, produce meals, and distribute more healthy food to our partners. Our current facility on South Waterloo Road will be transformed into a client-focused space to serve as a "one-stop shop" with access to food and multiple social services under one roof, including a client-choice food pantry.

GOAL 5: RESPONDING TO THE ADDITIONAL NEED DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the pandemic, the Food Bank and our partners faced countless challenges that brought about modified and expanded programming, including our weekly drive-through distributions at the Cleveland Municipal Lot, expanded Backpacks for Kids programming, home deliveries for seniors, and grab-and-go meals for children.

Many of these innovative efforts are still critical to safely and efficiently serving the significant number of people who continue to turn to us and our partners. Your support has allowed us to sustain these efforts while also providing flexibility to make changes when needed as we continue on the road to recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

MORE THAN FOOD...

The incredible community support that we have received during the pandemic will enable us to continue with our heightened COVID-19 response efforts. We anticipate that it will take several years for our community to recover from the effects of the pandemic. Your partnership will give us the ability and flexibility to think creatively and proactively to meet the needs of our community. Thank you!



While food insecurities exist among our seniors, we plan to continue our mobile food pantry with the support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and our local partners. There is no reason seniors in Lake County should go without food."

Ben, Laketran CEO



The produce is very nice and very fresh. Instead of getting junk food, we now eat more fruits and veggies. It means I can introduce produce to my one-year-old granddaughter."

Hope, Vineyard Community Church drive-through distribution



This is what we trained for - helping out in the community. Honestly, I never thought I'd be deployed for a mission like this."

Samantha, Sergeant First Class, Ohio Military Reserves



We are all here to help each other. If you are in need, we are here to serve that need. I still feel like it's a blessing to be in a situation where I'm here to help them through this. I'm living my purpose. It's a blessing to be a blessing to people."

Isiah, Greater Cleveland Food Bank Staff



With so many people living paycheck to paycheck, I'm fortunate that I don't have to worry about my food or my house. When I ask myself what it is to be a good human being, it's to love your neighbor and help other people."

Bill, Old South Church

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued partnership and generous commitment to fighting hunger in Northeast Ohio.