

FY25 IMPACT REPORT

(October 1, 2024– September 30, 2025)



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

Ending Hunger Today,
Tomorrow, and for a Lifetime



Your Generosity Fuels Our Mission

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is proud to share the impact of our work throughout fiscal year 2025— none of which would be possible without the incredible generosity of our supporters like you. Because of your support, the Food Bank, **together with our community, provided nutritious food and essential resources so our neighbors facing hunger can thrive.**

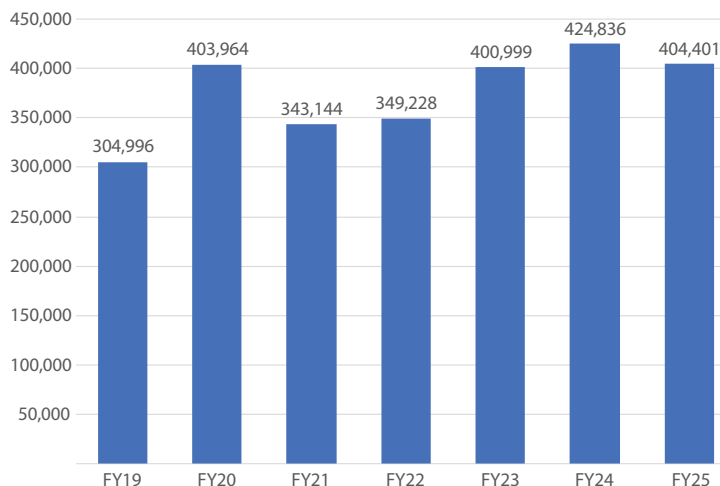
FY2025 was marked by both an ongoing and steady need for nutritious food and essential resources among our neighbors and the rising uncertainty associated with decreases in State and Federal nutrition programs. With food prices up 24% since 2020, families and seniors in our communities found themselves in a position in which they needed to make difficult choices between food and other essential needs like housing, medicine, and utilities.

Thanks to your support, the Food Bank and our 1,000+ program partners served 404,000 unique neighbors—

the same number we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic in FY2020. This shows that while some areas of everyday life have recovered in the post-pandemic world, the need for nutritious food remains high.

Because of you, the Food Bank is positioned to remain a steady and dependable source of food and essential resources for our neighbors. Your generosity is the fuel that drives our mission and nourishes our communities.

Unique People Served: FY19 - FY25



GCFB FY25 Highlights



Served **404,000+** unique neighbors.



Served **92,600+** unique seniors.



Served **113,900+** unique children.



Served **14,400+** people with health challenges.



Distributed **53.4** million pounds of food; **40** million pounds was healthy food such as fresh produce, lean proteins, and whole grains.



Helped **53,580** neighbors shop for nutritious food at the Rydzewski Family Market and made **24,015** connections to on-site partners at our Community Resource Center.



Assisted **25,212** neighbors with SNAP applications, **14,014** neighbors with other benefits applications, and connected **26,628** neighbors to wrap-around services.

Volunteers: The Heart of Our Mission



Volunteers play a vital role in our work. Whether they're part of a corporate group, student group, community group, or are volunteering individually, the Food Bank would not be able to have the impact we do without the thousands of volunteers who donate their time, energy, expertise, and spirit to the Food Bank every year. **Our volunteers are involved in nearly every Food Bank program**—from helping our neighbors navigate and shop for nutritious groceries at the Community Resource Center's Rydzewski Family Healthy Choice Market to stirring multi-gallon kettles of Thanksgiving gravy in the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Production Kitchen— every task and every moment is important.

In our KeyBank Volunteer Repack Area at the Partner Distribution Hub on Coit Road, **hundreds of volunteers gather each week** to inspect incoming food donations, sort and repack food, and pack boxes of fresh produce. This food is then sent to our 1,000+ program partners, who distribute it to our neighbors at pantries, hot meal sites, senior centers, children's nutrition programs, and other vital programs throughout our 6-county service area.

Homemade hot and cold meals, lovingly prepared by volunteers, are distributed by our program partners to seniors—for both congregate meals at senior centers and home deliveries to homebound seniors. **Kid-friendly meals are carefully packed** in the Williams Family Foundation Children's Meal Production Center and distributed to our Kids Cafe and Summer Meals partners throughout our service area, providing local kids with nourishing meals each day. **Our volunteers assist staff** with special projects and fundraising events, host healthy cooking demonstrations, and even deliver groceries to expectant mothers. They greet our Community Resource Center neighbors with a warm smile and brave the cold of our Cold Storage dock. The Food Bank simply could not do it without our volunteers.

Thank you, volunteers! Your dedication strengthens our mission at a time of uncertainty and stretched resources.

Volunteer Impact by the Numbers



16,668 Volunteers



115,754 Total hours donated



\$3.7M Saved—the equivalent of **56** full-time staff members.

Join in on the action today!

Every shift, every task, every moment helps. There's something meaningful for everybody to do at the Food Bank—any interest, any ability, and any passion.

Sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Volunteer.



Building Capacity for our Partners

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank works with over 1,000 agency and program partners throughout 6 counties in Northeast Ohio. These partners include pantries, churches, schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, community centers and other agencies in Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Richland Counties. **Nearly all of the food distributed by the Food Bank each year reaches our neighbors through these partner sites, many of which are run entirely by volunteers.** This collaboration is essential to the fight against hunger in Northeast Ohio, and the Food Bank could not do what it does without their tireless passion, dedication, and mission-driven work.

We are grateful to report that, thanks to an infusion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the state of Ohio last year, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank was able to provide capacity-building funds to a number of our food distribution partners.

About \$1.4M was dedicated to purchasing new food delivery trucks for Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry, Salvation Army East Cleveland, and Iglesia Nueva Vida Church in Cuyahoga County; Feed Our Vets in Ashtabula County; Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center in Richland County; Matthew 25 Outreach Center in Ashland County; and St. Gabriel Church in Lake County. **With help from the Saint Luke's Foundation, we also supplied walk-in coolers** and more for The Word Church and the Thea Bowman Center.

During our fiscal year 2025, **we awarded funds to 25 program partners** including La Sagrada Familia Church, St. Ladislav at St. Ignatius, and the Lighthouse Harvest Foundation to help increase their capacity to feed our neighbors. **We also provided nine partners with funds expressly to expand their ability to accept retail donations directly**, growing the list of partners participating in our retail donation program from 60 to 69. This improved capability translates to more food for our neighbors and less waste for our retail food suppliers.

The Food Bank is incredibly grateful for the vital public and private support that helps fuel and equip our partners to serve more neighbors and work to end hunger, one day at a time.



Robert is a veteran of the Korean War. His wife is experiencing health issues, and he's been grocery shopping more than he used to. Being on a fixed income, he visits the St. Gabriel Food Pantry, a Food Bank partner agency, once per month for help with food.

“This pantry has helped us out tremendously... Not only me and my wife, but they're helping everybody.”

~ Robert, Neighbor at St. Gabriel Food Pantry in Mentor

Looking Ahead: A New Strategic Plan

On October 1, 2025, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank launched its 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, guided by a new mission statement:

"Together with our community, we provide nutritious food and essential resources so our neighbors facing hunger can thrive."

This plan reaffirms our commitment to being a reliable source of food and support in uncertain times.

Key Goals for 2026–2028:

- **Serve at least 75% of income-eligible individuals** in our service area.
- **Distribute 54.5 million pounds of food annually** through our network of more than 1,000 partners—maintaining recent levels despite reduced government support.
- **Make 35,000 connections** to SNAP and other public benefits.
- **Ensure 75% of distributed food** is nutritious.

The Strategic Plan also outlines goals and tactics across seven areas:

- **Support our 1,000+ Partners**
- **Enhance Distribution & Operations Efficiency**
- **Advocate for Partners & Neighbors**
- **Empower Staff and Volunteers**
- **Advance Technology for Operational Needs**
- **Share Neighbor Stories**
- **Raise Funds to Invest in Our Mission**

This robust three-year plan strengthens our dedication to ending hunger today, tomorrow, and for a lifetime.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we will continue to provide nutritious food and essential resources so our neighbors can thrive.



After losing his truck driving job due to a serious illness, James found vital support, job training, and healthy food at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Community Resource Center, enabling him to manage his health and pursue a new career.

“Thank God for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, so I don’t have to worry about eating.”

~ James, Neighbor at the Community Resource Center