

IMPACT REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2023

STONES

Josephine
County
Food Bank



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Because of you, **more Josephine County residents than ever** accessed nutritious food when they needed it the most. A family sat down for a meal together, a child's lunch was packed for school, and a senior had a hot meal made with love.

It's hard to overstate just how impactful consistent access to fresh, healthy food is, and this year challenged that access to an alarming degree. But thanks to our community, we continued to meet this growing need, day in and day out.

2023 brought significant growth for our partner agency network, a result of growing needs and a strategic focus on direct distribution in communities most impacted by hunger.

We both moved and rescued more food than in the past four years.

Our farm continued to supply our community's dinner plates with beautiful, organically-grown produce and provided first-class garden and nutrition education to adults and children alike.

Everyone you help is unique, yet the solution is the same: healthy food for all. Our vision for a hunger-free Josephine County begins and ends with you, our community, for making this work possible. I am eternally grateful for all of you.

We will continue to champion the human right to food, buoyed by your support. On behalf of our many friends and neighbors, the staff, and the Board of Josephine County Food Bank, **thank you.**



JOSEPHINE SZE

Executive Director

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WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE IN 2023

"I've been working with a family that was homeless for the past year with two kids.

The mom and dad now volunteer for a church and run food drives throughout the year after getting back on their feet.

They told me the pantries in Grants Pass made it to where their family was able to survive when they had lost all hope before."



Over 2.4 million pounds of food were distributed throughout our community; the equivalent of over 2 million meals shared with our friends and neighbors in need.



More than 8,000 families, representing 18,000 individuals received food assistance every month.



507,412 pounds of unsold food were rescued from the waste cycle and redistributed to hungry neighbors through the Fresh Alliance program.



11,740 hours of service were gifted to us by volunteers in our warehouse, on Raptor Creek Farm, at our Mobile Pantries, and at special events.



381,700 servings of fresh produce were grown on Raptor Creek Farm to share with our community.



1,400 youth participated in field trips and other educational activities through Raptor Creek Farm.

OUR PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY

FOOD, HEALTHY FOOD, AND CONSISTENT ACCESS

Providing our community with enough nutritious food to thrive is the cornerstone of our operation. By focusing our efforts on healthy food, not just calories on a plate, we are ensuring that people can access foods that fight disease, respect their cultural traditions, promote wellness, and empower them for years to come.

Food insecurity is also connected to poverty, poor diet quality, and chronic disease. Keeping healthy food at the core of our mission is our commitment to the long-lasting health of our community.

INVEST IN LOCAL PARTNERS

Hunger is often just one of many overlapping issues thousands of Josephine County families face. We partner with carefully chosen organizations to support our food distribution efforts and provide our clients with programs and services that work to reduce poverty and provide our community the support it needs.

“Receiving food resources has helped me reduce my financial stress. It has enabled me to better manage my cost of living in other areas.”

AN EMPHASIS ON RURAL

Rural communities in Josephine County face food insecurity at disproportionately higher rates. Lack of transportation, low wages, and an absence of grocery stores all contribute to this increased need. In 2023, our work focused on creating food access in these harder-to-reach places.

PREVENT HUNGER BEFORE IT HAPPENS

We recognize that food alone isn't going to solve hunger and that it takes a multi-faceted approach to support our community's most vulnerable residents. Programs that provide access to job skills, a fair wage, and future prospects work in tandem with food to give our community a leg up in the workforce and reduce the need for food support in the future.



A COMMUNITY EFFORT

2023 was another record-breaking year for food insecurity in our community. A reduction in SNAP benefits caused a nationwide demand for food assistance virtually overnight, bringing in 3,000 new local families seeking help. Resources were stretched across our state, but our network continued to source and distribute food to meet the growing need.



Collecting and distributing food is at the core of our mission, and in 2023, **JCFB partner agencies distributed over 2.4 million pounds of food to over 18,000 people at food pantries, meal sites, and other food programs.**

Our network consists of over 25 unique organizations working together to address hunger. **In 2023, we added ten new partner agencies,** specifically focusing on rural communities in the Illinois Valley and schools and other education establishments.



Volunteers at the Josephine County Food Bank and our Partner Agencies contributed a total of 44,463 hours in 2023. However, many agencies in our network report that they are still critically understaffed by volunteers.

The vast majority of the 2.4 million pounds of food we distributed in 2023 was donated. JCFB relies on a variety of sources for food, including individuals, local businesses, Oregon Food Bank, the USDA, grocery partners, Raptor Creek Farm, and purchased food.

We received and distributed 135,000 more pounds of unsold food from our local grocery partners than in 2022.

We increased the nutritional content of our warehouse and, in 2023, **distributed over 250,000 more pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables** than in 2022.

Our community brought in **42,389 pounds of food in food drives.** The Grants Pass Food Project, a bi-monthly neighborhood food drive, **donated an additional 8,414 pounds** of food.

Thanks to the efforts of farm staff and committed volunteers, **Raptor Creek Farm grew 381,700 servings of organic produce.** In 2023, the farm grew lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, kale, mesclun mix, broccoli, carrots, beets, radishes, onions, apples, pears, winter squash, and watermelon.



OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

WE PARTNER WITH MORE THAN 25 ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT JOSEPHINE COUNTY TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN NEED

B Street Food Pantry
Bridgeview Community Food Pantry
Cassy's Pop-Up Pantry
Cave Junction Adventist Community Services
Community Food Project
Crisis Resolution Center
DHS
Fleming Middle School
Grants Pass Dorcas
Hidden Valley High School
Illinois Valley High School
IUMC Food Pantry
JCFB Kerby
JCFB Wolf Creek
Jubilee Pantry
Lorna Byrne Middle School
The Maslow Project
Ossie's Cupboard
Pregnancy Care Center
Project Youth +
Southern Oregon Head Start
St Vincent de Paul Mobile Kitchen
The Salvation Army
The ROC Pantry
The Lord's Storehouse at Redwood Christian Church
UCAN
Williams Community Church
Women's Crisis Support Team
YMCA

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Outside of collecting and distributing food to our county-wide network of Partner Agencies, we operate several programs and services designed to reduce hunger and support our community's overall health. Volunteers heavily support all of these programs, and we wouldn't be able to do this work without them.

FRESH ALLIANCE Fresh Alliance is a food recovery program that recovers unsold food from local grocery stores and distributes it to our neighbors in need. In 2023, we rescued 507,412 pounds of food.

MOBILE PANTRIES We directly operate a mobile pantry that distributes food in communities that lack or are under-served by an existing food network. In 2023, our mobile pantry provided food to 1,657 individuals through our Wolf Creek and Kerby sites.

RAPTOR CREEK FARM Raptor Creek Farm functions as both a production and education farm and allows us to connect with our community through organic produce, nutrition and garden education, and hands-on experiences. In 2023, RCF grew 14 different crops and 381,700 servings of produce.

COMMUNITY GARDEN On the grounds of Raptor Creek Farm are 16 raised beds, free and open to our community. Our mission is to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive environment where community members can safely and actively engage in the joys and health benefits of growing their own produce.

NUTRITION EDUCATION Our programs teach participants nutrition education and basic cooking skills, allowing them to stretch their budgets and best utilize the food found in food boxes. In 2023, we held 51 education sessions and reached 2,200 people.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROJECT YIP is a 3-month immersive agricultural-focused internship on RCF that provides hands-on farm education and experience, skill-building opportunities, and exposure to diverse career pathways. YIP is designed to empower local youth facing economic disparities and provide them with valuable work experience. In 2023, 8 interns spent a total of 2,178 hours working and learning on Raptor Creek Farm.

ADULT & YOUTH GARDEN EDUCATION Our year-round education programs teach adults and kids alike to make healthier choices. In 2023, our youth program expanded into school gardens, worked with four schools and four independent organizations in Josephine County, hosted full spring and summer garden clubs, and reached over 1,400 children.





OUR MISSION

The Josephine County Food Bank responds to the root causes of hunger and supports our community by striving to nourish, restore dignity, provide health, and champion community. Our mission is to lead the effort to eliminate hunger by empowering our community...because no one should be hungry!

OUR VISION

Our vision is to build a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow for all of Josephine County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JASON LEWIS, Chair

JODI MACDONALD, Treasurer

HILLARY BROWNELL

JILL GLEYSTEN

CHARLIE SIMONS

SUSAN SCHEUFELE, Vice-Chair

KATHLEEN CHELMINIAK, Secretary

SAM ENGEL

LAURA PEARSON

ROGER SINGER

We strive to be good stewards of resources to feed hungry families, children, and seniors in our community. Our complete audited financial statements are available at jocofoodbank.org.

Josephine County Food Bank is a nonprofit food bank serving all of Josephine County, Oregon. We are a 501(c)3 organization and an equal opportunity provider. We are a partner of the Oregon Food Bank and a distribution partner of Feeding America.

(541) 479-5556 | info@jocofoodbank.org | 3658 Upper River Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526



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