Thirty percent of the food that Community Food Share distributes is through direct distribution programs that serve families and seniors.

Feeding Families is the largest of these programs, and serves families with children participating in the free/reduced lunch program or in programs like Head Start or WIC. Families are encouraged to come weekly and typically receive about 100 pounds of groceries. The “choice pantry” model allows them to choose the fresh produce, milk, grains, and other healthy staples that they need.

Feeding Families can save a family an average of $150 per week, freeing up limited dollars to cover other basic needs such as housing, utilities, health care, and transportation.

Dear Community Food Share,

I have been a Feeding Families client going on four years. My husband works two jobs and I babysit, but we still struggle to support our family. I'm very glad to be able to count on a place like Community Food Share, where I can come in on a weekly basis. They provide fresh produce, dairy items, snacks, and gluten-free items for my family. I love this place and it provides a great amount of help. My husband and I have one less thing to worry about because we know we will receive the food we need. I always tell my friends about my experience here and show them the food I receive, for example, the snacks I give to the children in between meals, while I use the meat and vegetables to cook dinners.

I am involved in the children’s education, and I volunteer at school at least twice a week. When I volunteer, I’m usually with other mothers that are Feeding Families clients. When we are done at the school, we carpool over. I really wouldn’t know what would happen to us if such a place did not exist. I would hate to decide between paying a utility bill or buying groceries. The fact that I can come and get this food and still be part of my children’s education is priceless.

Thank you for all you do.
Seed catalogs started arriving in my mailbox in February, inspiring thoughts about the immense potential that lies within one tiny source. Given the right conditions and care, we know that one seed can turn into a prolific source of food. We are grateful for seeds that provide food this season, but also value the seeds that might not come to fruition for many years. This combination helps us feed people today, while we plan our response to the future needs of our community.

A year ago in this newsletter, I shared some of the goals that are contributing to our short and long-term impact in the community. We are making great progress!

- **We are distributing more food**, specifically, more produce, protein, and dairy, to people who struggle with food insecurity.
- **We are engaging more volunteers**, including families with children, to help us achieve our mission while encouraging young people to connect with their community through service.
- **We are finishing up a community needs assessment** around food security, to understand what our community needs and to identify ways for us to collaborate with our partners to end hunger.
- **We have identified our strategic priorities**, and will embark on a new strategic planning process to guide our work into the future.

This newsletter illustrates how much of our work has both short and long-term elements. Our cover story is about a family who is receiving our support today, but knows that their children will have a brighter future because they will leave for school after a nutritious breakfast, and come home to a healthy dinner. Hana Dansky, the Executive Director of Boulder Food Rescue, shares information on the issue of food waste, and how diverting good food to people who need it can have a positive effect today and into the future. You will also learn about the aptly named “Seeds of Harvest” programs — monthly giving that provides reliable support for our daily work, and planned giving which ensures a legacy of support that can help us end hunger.

I wish you a happy spring and summer, with an abundant harvest!

Sincerely,

Michelle Orge
Executive Director

P.S. If you plant too many seeds, and your harvest is too abundant, we can accept your extra garden produce! Just drop it at our warehouse in Louisville, or give us a call for other options.
Food Waste

*Guest column by Boulder Food Rescue*

In the U.S., we spend 10% of our energy budget, 50% of our land, and 80% of all of our freshwater resources in the food production process. During this process, we waste 40% of the food, which happens on all levels of production, including farms, transportation, commercial businesses, and at home. This means that Americans are throwing away $165 billion every year — a startling reality, given the fact that 1 in 6 people are food insecure both nationally and in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Boulder Food Rescue conducted a food waste audit and found that in the City of Boulder, the commercial industry wasted 7,007 tons of food in 2014. Fortunately, food recovery organizations are working hard to intercept this food waste before it meets its end in the landfill, exacerbating the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Together, Community Food Share and Boulder Food Rescue recovered a combined 688 tons of wasted food from the commercial sector in 2014. This is the equivalent to a reduction of 574.3 tons of landfill-released CO2.

Because there is much more to do, Boulder Food Rescue and Community Food Share are enhancing their collaboration, in order to most efficiently rescue food from grocery stores in Boulder. Both organizations bring unique strengths to the effort, and together are working toward reducing food waste and food insecurity.

**About Boulder Food Rescue**

Boulder Food Rescue works to redistribute healthy food from grocery stores to low-income communities, by bicycle, with its direct, just-in-time model. By distributing food that can be used right away, this group of 150 active volunteers is able to rescue highly perishable food such as fruits and vegetables. For more information, visit www.boulderfoodrescue.org.

**About Community Food Share**

Community Food Share focuses on a broad combination of food sources and distribution models. Through local, regional, and national food rescue and recovery, as well as food industry donations and targeted food purchases, we provide produce, dairy, meat, grains, and other staples. Food is distributed through a network of more than 40 Partner Agencies in Boulder and Broomfield Counties and by direct distribution.

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**WAYS YOU CAN REDUCE FOOD WASTE**

1. Plan your meals for the week, before going shopping. Inventory your refrigerator and cupboards, to avoid buying food you already have.

2. Make a list each week of what needs to be used up and plan meals accordingly.

3. Freeze, preserve, or can surplus fruits and vegetables, especially abundant seasonal produce. Donate fresh produce that you can’t use.

4. Many fruits give off natural gases as they ripen, making other nearby produce spoil faster. Store bananas, apples, and tomatoes by themselves, and store fruits and vegetables in different bins.

5. Casseroles, stir-fries, frittatas, soups, and smoothies are great ways to use leftovers!

**Did you know...**

1 in 6 people in Boulder and Broomfield Counties is hungry.

That includes 56,000 people in our community who are food insecure, of which 15,000 are children who receive free or reduced lunch at school.

It may be surprising to learn that even in our own vibrant community, people are in need.
Compete to Beat Hunger
Corporate Challenge is May 9-25!

Corporate Challenge is a friendly competition among a group of local companies, to raise dollars and collect food for Community Food Share. Corporations of all sizes are welcome to participate. Winning companies receive prizes (and bragging rights)! This is corporate citizenship in action!

Corporate Challenge is completely customizable, and corporations approach it in a variety of ways. Some companies raise funds, and other companies raise both funds and food. A number of companies contribute a corporate match, which provides an incentive for employee participation. We will work with your company to devise the most effective plan for your group.

Employees will be participating among thousands of other employees in Boulder and Broomfield Counties, who are joining in the fight against hunger. In 2015, 24 companies, composed of 9,050 employees, raised $408,724 and collected 59,554 pounds of food during Corporate Challenge! This provided 1,285,725 meals to those in need of food assistance in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Don’t miss Corporate Challenge. Be a part of something great!

For more information, contact Susan Finesilver at sfinesilver@communityfoodshare.org or 303-652-3663 ext. 209.
Thanks to the Albertsons Companies Foundation and the Entertainment Industry Foundation, we recently received a grant to procure 52,000 pounds of whole grain, highly nutritious cereal. Their joint charitable campaign, “Hunger Is,” focuses on fighting childhood hunger. The cereal will be distributed as part of Community Food Share’s Healthy Breakfast Initiative. Through the initiative, we are increasing access to nutritious breakfast foods for children in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Community Food Share is so appreciative of the support our community members provide in helping us fight hunger. A record number of third-party fundraising events and independent food and fund drives were held on our behalf in the final quarter of 2015. We are grateful for each and every event, and every donation makes a difference!

We Will Distribute 9.5 Million Pounds of Food This Year
Where Does the Food Come From?

93% DONATED

More than half of our food is sourced through our relationship with Feeding America.

SURPLUS/RECOVERED FROM LOCAL FOOD DONORS
- Grocery Stores
- Retailers
- Distributors

DONATED DIRECTLY FROM FOOD COMPANIES
- WhiteWave Foods
- Food Manufacturers
- Local Growers
- Produce Brokers

PURCHASED
- Wholesale
- Deeply Discounted From Food Companies

GLEANED FROM LOCAL FARMS

FOOD DRIVES
- 90 Annual Local Drives

GOVERNMENT SOURCES
- USDA
- TEFAP
- CSFP

50%

27%

7%

7%

5%

3%

1%
The 28th Annual “Hunger Hurts the Whole Community” Food & Fund Drive is April 10-17!

Sponsored by the Times-Call, and with your support, this drive provides much needed non-perishable food donations, which help to ensure that food is readily available throughout the year.

How to Help:

• **Donate food!** Please encourage your friends to donate, too! You will see our donation bins at most grocery stores in Longmont, Gunbarrel, Niwot, Louisville, and Lafayette. Check our website for details.

• **Donate funds!** You can make a monetary donation by mail or via our secure website. Remember $1 = 3 meals!

• **Volunteer!** We need volunteers to help as grocery store greeters, to share information about donating. We also need drivers to pick up full donation bins from the stores and bring them to our warehouse!

Sign-up on our website’s volunteer page, or contact Nina Stubblebine at 303-652-3663 ext. 202 or nstubblebine@communityfoodshare.org

Family Volunteer Days During Spring Break!

Based on the popularity of our December family volunteer days, we are scheduling these regularly, including during spring break and other school holidays. To sign up — visit our website’s volunteer page and log in or register on our volunteer scheduling portal, and look for the activity called “Family Volunteer Day.” Kids must be ages 5 and older, and we ask that there is at least one adult for every 3 kids between ages 5-14. Signing up in advance helps us plan our activities and secures your spot for these special events.

Seeds of Harvest

When you support Community Food Share with a monthly gift, you provide a consistent base of funding that we can incorporate into our longer-term planning. It also assures us that we can continue our work of distributing food to our Partner Agencies and other programs. Sign up through our website — just $25 per month can provide nearly 1,000 meals throughout the year!

Legacy Giving

We are working hard to end hunger in our community, but it will take long-range vision and commitment to make sure that no one faces food insecurity in the future. **Leaving a legacy gift to Community Food Share will ensure that our important work will continue until we achieve our mission.** To discuss opportunities that include your will or estate plans, please contact Terry Tedeschi at 303-652-3663 ext. 207 or ttedeschi@communityfoodshare.org.
October — Natalie Frantz
Natalie read a newspaper article about our community impact, and decided to get involved! She has been volunteering six months. As a “regular,” she volunteers at least once a week as an order puller, building pallets of sorted product and preparing them for delivery to our agencies. Natalie shared that she is committed to helping Community Food Share because she believes it is important to give back to the community, plus she really enjoys working with the other volunteer order pullers. We are extremely fortunate to have Natalie’s consistent support each week!

November — Jodi Schwartz
Jodi first volunteered in the warehouse, along with a group of co-workers from Ball Corp. Fast forward six years, and Jodi still works full-time at Ball, and also volunteers in the warehouse every Tuesday evening! She explained, “I have been volunteering somewhere since I was 10. My family didn’t have a lot, and with 6 children in the family, I remember my parents purchasing canned food that had been discounted. I believe all people should have access to basic necessities, and it feels good to give back to the community where I live.”

December — Markit On Demand
Markit On Demand employees have provided over 760 hours of volunteer service in the last two years! Several times each month, Markit employees volunteer in small groups, and stay for a full-day. This allows our warehouse team to get to know the volunteers better, and it allows the volunteers to assist us with specialized jobs that often require significant detail, or they supplement our regular volunteers who are on vacation or are out sick. We sincerely appreciate all of the help provided by Markit on Demand!

January— Bill Cameron
Retired as a construction engineer and researcher, Bill came to us with many skills, and a willingness to help! In the past six months, he has helped us with nearly every warehouse function, including driving a truck to Elder Share sites, restocking shelves during the busy Feeding Families distribution, distributing food through Mobile Pantries, and sorting non-perishable food. Bill shared, “I like volunteering at Community Food Share because the staff and other volunteers are delightful to be with and I feel appreciated.”

www.communityfoodshare.org
did you know?

$1 = 3 meals

**Staff**
- Jeremy Arensdorf, Warehouse Team Leader
- Joshua Arensdorf, Warehouse Coordinator
- Fred Brock, Driver/Warehouse Associate
- Gerry Bristow, Director of Finance/IT
- Sue Ericson, Volunteer Coordinator
- Susan Finesilver, Corporate Relations Manager
- Kristina Galvin, Direct Distribution Coordinator
- Debbie Gill, Donor Services Coordinator
- Jay Halsey, Agency & Programs Manager
- Amy Hurst-Brehm, Direct Distribution Coordinator
- Nick Lehmann, Warehouse Associate
- Neal McAlister, Director of Communications
- Karen McManus, Food Procurement Manager
- Adam Neidig, Assistant Director of Operations
- Michelle Orge, Executive Director
- Tammy Palombo, Donor Services Coordinator
- Diana Preston, HR Manager
- Abel Ramirez, Direct Distribution Coordinator
- Christina Sarellano, Agency & Programs Coordinator
- Anne Shanahan, Research Manager & Community Liaison
- Pat Stilwell, Driver/Warehouse Associate
- Nina Stubblebine, Volunteer Manager
- Stephen Stroh, Custodian
- Terry Tedeschi, Director of Development
- Mark Winters, Driver/Warehouse Associate
- Cassie Zamora, Driver/Warehouse Associate

**Board of Directors**
- Brian Larson, Chair
- Rebecca Hall, Chair-Elect
- Claudia Barkmeier, Secretary
- Molly Keveney, Chair Emeritus

**Board Members**
- Courtney Banayad
- Mark Biggers
- Brian Harvey
- Jeff Knobel
- Kristin Macdonald
- Gordon Pedrow
- Deborah Read Fowler
- Peter Storz
- Matt Zavala

**Our Mission**
To be a leader in our community’s effort to end hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

**Stats At-A-Glance**

In 2015, we distributed more food than in any other year in our 34-year history!

- **8.7 million meals** were distributed (1 meal = 1 pound) valued at over $14.7 million. All food was distributed free of charge, through 43 Partner Agencies and by direct distribution.

- **3,328 volunteers provided 34,331 hours of service**, which is equivalent to 16 full-time employees!

**650 S. Taylor Avenue**
**Louisville, CO 80027-3067**
**303-652-3663**

**www.communityfoodshare.org**

**Follow Community Food Share on Facebook and Twitter for volunteer opportunities, event info, and news!**

- www.facebook.com/communityfoodshare
- @commfoodshare

**Charity Navigator’s Highest Rating**
We have received Charity Navigator’s highest rating for 11 consecutive years. Charity Navigator is America’s premier charity evaluator. Only 1% of charities rated have at least 11 consecutive four-star ratings.