



# Food for thought

SPRING 2017

## THE EVOLUTION OF A MOBILE PANTRY

Centennial Elementary School in Broomfield

In 2015, we collaborated with our partner food pantry, Broomfield FISH, to operate a summer mobile pantry at Centennial Elementary School. Boni, a volunteer, stopped to talk with one of the teachers. She was alarmed to hear that “during the school year, kids’ behaviors change as holiday breaks approach.” Students grow anxious, because they know that without school breakfast and lunch, they’ll have to skip meals.

Thank goodness for people like Boni. She couldn’t stand the idea of our community’s kids going hungry, and she worked to find a solution. She approached her church about getting involved—Discovery Christian Church in Broomfield—and congregants provided enough nonperishable food for more than 300 food bags to be distributed to families before spring break.

“Students grow anxious, because they know that without school breakfast and lunch, they’ll have to skip meals.”

A few months later, Broomfield FISH joined the effort. With their help, Boni and her fellow volunteers distributed another 350 bags before summer break.

Eager to expand their impact, Boni and the team from Broomfield FISH approached Neal McAlister, our chief operations officer, for help. “Let’s bring a truck!” he responded. And so began this year’s monthly mobile pantry at Centennial Elementary School.

Evolving the bag program into a mobile pantry has allowed us to get more food to families on a regular basis. Previously, bags sent home with students had to be small and light enough for an elementary schooler to carry. Now, with parents present, and cars to tote food instead of backpacks, families receive 80 pounds of food—roughly four grocery bags.

The quantity of food has increased, and so has the variety. “Thanks to Community Food Share, they’re getting so much more—including produce, milk, and meat,” shared Karen Steele, board member at Broomfield FISH.

Turn the page to read about the new, exciting addition to our mobile pantry program!



Scooters are meant for fun. But this fourth grader used his to carry groceries home from the mobile pantry.

# Hello!

## A Note From the Executive Director

Two years ago, I wrote this column to you for the first time as Executive Director of Community Food Share. I shared some of our big goals and aspirations, and I am proud to say that we are meeting or exceeding them—and establishing new ones!

One of our goals was for 50% of our total food distribution to be fresh produce or protein items. I thought we set the bar pretty high, but I am proud to share that just two years later, we are on track to meet our increased goal of 75%!

Another goal was to complete a community needs assessment around food security, and we are in the final phase of this collaborative project with our partner agencies. We look forward to sharing the results of this unprecedented research and analysis with you in the upcoming months.

The needs assessment provides valuable input to our current strategic planning process, which will guide Community Food Share's future for the next 3-5 years. After incorporating board, staff, and stakeholder input, we expect to have a strategic plan in place by the end of 2017.

These big-picture projects happen alongside our daily work of distributing food to more than 40 partner agencies in Boulder and Broomfield Counties, as well as through our mobile pantry, Elder Share, and Feeding Families programs.

I'm a big believer in exclamation points (much to the dismay of the editor of this newsletter!!), but I can't help it! These are really exciting times at Community Food Share!

Sincerely,



Michelle Orge  
Executive Director

### THE BAKER'S DOZEN CLUB

Community Food Share is launching our official Monthly Giving Program—the Baker's Dozen Club—and you're the first to hear about it! You choose the amount that you feel comfortable donating on a regular basis and the best date for your donation to process each month, and we do the rest. Monthly giving allows you to increase, decrease, pause, or end your donation at any time. As a monthly donor, you allow Community Food Share to budget for food procurement year-round.

**\$10 each month provides dinner for a year**  
**\$30 each month provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a year**

Join the Baker's Dozen Club now and qualify for exciting incentives!  
Visit [www.communityfoodshare.org/monthly](http://www.communityfoodshare.org/monthly) to get started.

# PRESENTING THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR FLEET: A MOBILE PANTRY TRUCK

A conversation with Neal McAlister, Chief Operations Officer

## Q: What is a mobile pantry?

A: We have a great network of food pantries throughout Boulder and Broomfield Counties, but sometimes our clients can't get to them. It could be a transportation issue; poor health or a medical disability; or even a conflicting work schedule. A mobile pantry—or a “pantry on wheels”—allows us to bring the food to them. We park a truck in a strategic, underserved area and stock tables with fresh produce, dairy, meat, and other non-perishable staples, and clients collect groceries free of charge. In just a few hours, we can serve up to 350 families.

## Q: How is the new mobile pantry truck different from Community Food Share's other refrigerated trucks?

A: We have operated mobile pantries since 2015 with our refrigerated box trucks. They have one large compartment, and each pallet of food has to be loaded and unloaded using a pallet jack and lift gate. With a mobile pantry truck, the food remains on the truck, because there are three roll-up doors on each side and one in back, and staff and volunteers can slide a door open and grab individual boxes of food to restock the tables. This saves about 1.5 hours of loading time at each mobile pantry distribution.

## Q: How will the new truck affect Community Food Share's mobile pantry program?

A: Put simply, we can reach more people with more food. The new truck gives us the capacity to distribute 1.5 million additional pounds of food annually, and we can accept more local donations of fresh produce, because we can now distribute it within 48 hours. With quicker setup and teardown, we can distribute food to multiple sites a day with the capacity to reach five times more households, including more senior clients.



## WHO “SHOPS” AT A MOBILE PANTRY?

By Julia McGee, Director of Communications, after visiting our mobile pantry at Centennial Elementary School

Cheryl and Mandy are foster moms, literally and figuratively. Mandy told me she was picking up food for another family. “You need food? You need love? I’m your girl.” About six months ago, she noticed her grandson’s second grade classmate Kayla wasn’t getting enough food at home. She began hosting Kayla for playdates—an opportunity to ensure she had a snack and dinner after school. When Mandy learned about the mobile pantry, she began picking up groceries on behalf of Kayla’s mom.

When I turned to Cheryl, she said, “I didn’t participate last month, because I didn’t need to. But this little one fell into my lap two weeks ago.” When Cheryl found out six-month old Claire was being medically neglected, she became Claire’s foster mom. After the expenses of bringing a new baby home, Cheryl turned to the mobile pantry to supplement her family’s food budget and ensure she could continue providing meals for her two sons and new daughter.

I had the privilege of meeting many visitors like Mandy and Cheryl, and I asked the same question: “What brought you to the mobile pantry today?” **Though every story was different, I recognized a theme—parents were there out of love for their children and the drive to do whatever it takes to keep them healthy and help them thrive.**





Demonstrate corporate social responsibility and boost employee engagement!

## COMPETE TO BEAT HUNGER CORPORATE CHALLENGE

May 8-24, 2017

Corporate Challenge is a friendly competition among a group of local companies, to raise dollars and collect food for Community Food Share. Organizations of all sizes participate. Winning companies receive prizes (and bragging rights)! Plus, employees learn about local hunger and poverty issues through grassroots involvement.

Corporate Challenge is customizable, and corporations approach it in a variety of ways. We will work with your team to devise the most effective plan for your group!

The challenge provides a hands-on opportunity for team building and leadership.

Employees will be participating among many thousands of other employees in Boulder and Broomfield Counties who are joining the fight against hunger. In 2016, 35 companies and more than 12,000 employees beat our \$400,000 goal and raised \$468,000 and collected 63,000 pounds of food. This provided nearly 1.4 million meals to our hungry neighbors. Join the fun, as we work to exceed last year's results.

## corporate CORNER

Our Corporate Partnership Program offers ways to get involved in the fight against hunger. The benefits include corporate recognition and employee engagement.

### Volunteer

This is a way to build teamwork! Consider incorporating volunteer shifts as part of new-hire orientation.

### Engage

Energize employees by coordinating a food and fund drive. They'll be proud to work for a company supporting vital community work. Consider a corporate match, too!

### Learn

Schedule an education session. We'll provide a speaker and discuss ways to be involved.

### Donate

Underwrite a Community Food Share program, help cover procurement costs, or make a gift to support our mission.

For more information about Corporate Challenge and other corporate engagement opportunities, Contact **Susan Finesilver**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at [sfinesilver@communityfoodshare.org](mailto:sfinesilver@communityfoodshare.org) or (303) 652-3663 ext. 209.

# BOULDER COUNTY DONATES 10,000 POUNDS OF PINTO BEANS TO COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

Excerpt from the *Times-Call* | December 22, 2016 | Author: John Fryar | Edited by Community Food Share

Boulder County donated 10,000 pounds of pinto beans—grown on county-owned, open-space agricultural lands by Longmont-area farmer Jules Van Thuyne Jr.—to Community Food Share.

Julia McGee, Community Food Share’s communications director, said if they were to buy the same amount of pinto beans elsewhere, “It would have cost us nearly \$5,000.”

Community Food Share will distribute the beans through Feeding Families, mobile pantries, and partner agencies such as the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Bridge House, Broomfield FISH, the Emergency Family Assistance Association, the OUR Center, and Sister Carmen Community Center.

Neal McAlister, Community Food Share’s chief operations officer, said in a statement that “the pinto bean donation is huge for us. It’s a significant quantity, but they also cleaned and processed the beans before donating them to us.”

“That makes all the difference,” McAlister said, “because it saves so much time on our end. After repacking, they’re ready for distribution to the families and individuals we serve.”

Pinto beans are one of several varieties of dry beans that Boulder County farmers grew, up until about 25 years ago, according to Jennifer Kemp, a Parks and Open Space Department local food and outreach specialist. However, area farmers’ planting of dry beans decreased due to increased pressures of weeds and disease. Van Thuyne approached the county last year, expressing interest in trying to grow a new, hybrid pinto bean variety developed by Colorado State University.

Van Thuyne’s successful harvest produced about 150,000 pounds of beans, with 50,000 pounds going to the Parks and Open Space Department to sell or donate.

Kemp said the department’s agriculture staff decided to donate 10,000 pounds to Community Food Share for distribution to the agency’s clients.

McGee said Community Food Share’s goal has been to distribute 9.3 million pounds of food in Boulder and Broomfield counties this year, “and because of our commitment to nutrition, at least 75 percent of the food will be fresh produce, dairy items, or high-protein foods.” With the county’s donation, “we’re now 10,000 pounds closer to that goal.”



Cliff Grassmick, Staff Photographer, Times-Call



Community Food Share receives nearly 200,000 pounds of fresh produce every growing season from more than 30 Colorado farms, gardens, and growers.



# OFFSITE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the arrival of our new mobile pantry truck and the resulting increase in mobile pantry and Elder Share distributions, we need additional volunteer support.

**Mobile Pantry Assistant** | Assist with set-up and help clients collect food.

**Site Coordinator, Site Helper, Client Check-In, or Delivery Driver with Elder Share** | Transport food from our warehouse to senior distribution sites; assist shoppers; or deliver food directly to homebound seniors. We are specifically looking for volunteers who can make a six-month commitment for two shifts per month.

<b>Where:</b>	Offsite
<b>When:</b>	Please contact our volunteer department for an up-to-date schedule
<b>Shift Length:</b>	2 hours at mobile pantries; 2-5 hours with Elder Share
<b>Sign Up:</b>	Visit <a href="http://www.communityfoodshare.org/volunteer">www.communityfoodshare.org/volunteer</a>

**Hunger Hurts the Whole Community Food & Fund Drive** | Volunteers are a crucial part of this annual event's success! We need grocery store greeters to encourage shoppers to donate and drivers to transport food donations to our warehouse. Evening shifts available.

<b>Where:</b>	Participating grocery stores in Longmont and the Saint Vrain Valley
<b>When:</b>	Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 9
<b>Shift Length:</b>	2.5 hours, between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM
<b>Sign Up:</b>	Sign up at <a href="http://www.communityfoodshare.org/hunger-hurts">www.communityfoodshare.org/hunger-hurts</a>

## Volunteer Spotlight



### DeBobes Family

For the last two years, the DeBobes family has spent Tuesday evenings bagging produce and sorting bakery items. When we asked Stephanie, mother of three, why they're so committed to CFS, she replied, "We feel blessed that we have so much, so it's good for us and our kids to know that we can help others who have less. From a family sense, it's time every week that we can spend together, and we walk away feeling like we have done something to help a lot of people." Dennis, Stephanie, Austin, Lowen, and Anna: thanks for being our weekly warehouse warriors!

**Gleaning Opportunities** | Help plant and pick fresh produce that will be donated to Community Food Share. Great opportunity for corporate and community groups, families, and individuals.

**Where:** Gardens and farms in Boulder and Broomfield Counties (outdoors)

**When:** Weekdays and weekends, end of March through October

**Shift Length:** 1-3 hours

**Sign Up:** Contact Leigh Pond at (303) 525-3491 or [lpond@communityfoodshare.org](mailto:lpond@communityfoodshare.org)

## New Three-Year Partnership with AmeriCorps' Harvest Against Hunger Program



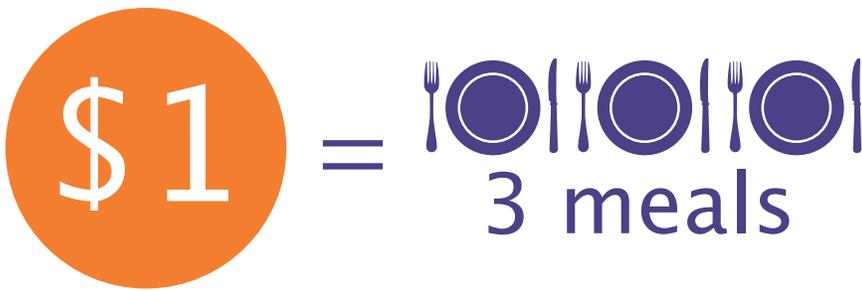
Please join us in welcoming Leigh Pond, our current Produce & Gleaning Volunteer Coordinator. Wave hello in the warehouse, or join her in the fields for harvesting!

We are thrilled to welcome an AmeriCorps VISTA member as our new Produce & Gleaning Volunteer Coordinator. AmeriCorps is a domestic service organization. VISTA members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. This position will allow us to increase donations of Colorado grown produce by strengthening our existing farm relationships and building new partnerships with local growers. We will welcome a new VISTA member each November for the next three years.



## National Charity League

The National Charity League (NCL) is a non-profit that brings together mothers and daughters committed to community service. Middle and high school girls from the Boulder Chapter come with their moms on Tuesday evenings, and because they bring a larger group, they're able to accomplish multiple tasks in one shift. Sandy Hartgens, Vice President of Philanthropy, shared, "CFS has been phenomenal to us. It has brought so much laughter and fun to the entire group, and you can see the bond that takes place between the moms and their daughters." NCL: thank you for the ongoing help...and giggles!



# Our Mission

To be a leader in our community's effort to end hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties

## Upcoming Events

### Hunger Hurts the Whole Community Food & Fund Drive

**April 7-9**—The food, funds, and time donated during this event will help Community Food Share distribute 9.3 million meals this year!

**Get Involved**—Give online at [www.communityfoodshare.org/give](http://www.communityfoodshare.org/give); purchase or drop off non-perishable food donations at participating grocery stores; or sign up to volunteer as a store greeter or driver. More information at [www.communityfoodshare.org/hunger-hurts](http://www.communityfoodshare.org/hunger-hurts).

### Volunteer Appreciation Week

**April 24-28**—A week-long event that coincides with National Volunteer Week, and our opportunity to recognize our fantastic volunteers.

**Get Involved**—Activities are planned for volunteers every weekday, including catered lunches (generously donated). Volunteer or simply stop by to participate! Keep an eye on our website for more information.

### Compete to Beat Hunger Corporate Challenge

**May 8-24**—This is a friendly competition among local companies to raise dollars and collect food for Community Food Share. It is corporate social responsibility in action!

**Get Involved**—For more information or to register, visit [www.communityfoodshare.org/challenge](http://www.communityfoodshare.org/challenge) or contact Susan Finesilver at [sfinesilver@communityfoodshare.org](mailto:sfinesilver@communityfoodshare.org).

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#### Charity Navigator's Highest Rating

Community Food Share is proud to have received the highest rating—four stars—by Charity Navigator, America's premier independent evaluator. We have received this honor for 12 consecutive years, which places us in the top 1% of charities nationwide. The rating reflects Community Food Share's sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.



**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00

**Feeding Families (onsite pantry):** Wednesday, 10:00-3:45 | Thursday & Friday, 8:30-1:45

**Small Food Donations Accepted in Main Office:** Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30

**Dock Receiving Hours (large food donations):** Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00

(Questions? Call our food procurement manager at (303) 652-3663 ext. 211)