



# Impact Report: Stronger Together

March 2021 marks 12 consecutive months of providing one million-plus pounds of food. That equates to 900,000 meals each month! It's a triumph made possible by hard work, collaboration, and the tremendous generosity of our donors.

At Community Food Share, the pandemic presented a complex crisis: the increase in demand and rising food costs coupled with significant disruptions to volunteerism and our food supply created the perfect storm, unlike anything we've seen since the Great Depression. Recovery to pre-COVID-19 food insecurity rates will take years.

For as long as it takes, Community Food Share will be here. With you, we can build a stronger community, one meal at a time, for the 1 in 8 people in Boulder and Broomfield Counties facing food insecurity.

## Since March 2020, your support has enabled Community Food Share to:

- ◆ Increase distribution by 30%
- ◆ Provide 30,000 meals per day (23% more than pre-pandemic)
- ◆ Increase food purchasing by nearly three times to meet elevated need and cover rising costs
- ◆ Innovate and expand existing programs
  - Shift Feeding Families, our onsite pantry, to a menu-based, no-contact drive-through model
  - Bring pop-up drive-through food pantries to underserved areas in our community
  - Launch a permanent on-campus food pantry with CU Boulder
  - Increase food distribution to Partner Agencies by 25%
- ◆ Launch new partnerships to increase food distribution to those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic
  - Offer order-ahead options to residential Elder Share program sites that serve older adults
  - Partner with Via Mobility to offer food box delivery to participants who are homebound

## And yet, we still have more to do.

We anticipate that the increased need will last for a significant amount of time; once the economy rebounds, it will take time for families to get back on their feet.

## Our emerging priorities include:

- ◆ Grow our Garden Share program
  - Three new land plots to grow fresh produce and focus on nutrition education
  - Hire a farmer to manage crops
- ◆ Invest in community liaisons to understand barriers to food access and address participants' cultural and dietary needs and preferences
- ◆ Further expand current programs to meet the increased need and reach underserved groups
  - Diversify and grow our food purchase program
  - Expand home delivery for Elder Share
- ◆ Invest in technology for Feeding Families' online ordering platform
- ◆ Increase our warehouse space by 20%, including cold storage for fresh foods, to expand our capacity for optimizing programs and services



## A Hand Up, When Opportunities Are Down

In her late fifties, rapid and severe degeneration in Debra's eyes led to an unexpected, early retirement from her nurse practitioner career. Today, at the age of 62, Debra is legally blind. A few years away from collecting the full retirement payouts that she has earned, Debra relies primarily on her savings. She remains mobile by using public transportation.

March 2020 arrived, and this was no longer an option. Debra is considered high-risk for COVID-19; stepping onto a crowded bus for a grocery store trip became too unsafe. Like others in our community, the pandemic was a tipping point — the push that caused her to seek help for the first time.

The combination of her shrinking savings account and the inability to shop for her food led Debra to Community Food Share. "I finally realized I really could use some help. I, very hesitantly, allowed myself to let go of my lifelong philosophy that you don't ask anyone for help."

Shortly after, Debra began receiving weekly grocery deliveries from our food bank. "Because of Community Food Share, I've been able to do the things I love like cook and preserve food. That makes me happy."

We know the impact of this crisis will continue at a high level for some time. We are incredibly grateful for your outpouring of support over the past year.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we remain optimistic. We are drawing upon lessons learned and your generous support to meet today's needs and plan for the future. We will continue to be here for our neighbors through our community partnerships and network of more than 40 Partner Agencies, meeting the need for as long as it takes.

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

\$1 helps provide  
3 meals for  
neighbors impacted  
by food insecurity

- ◆ Food insecurity in Boulder and Broomfield Counties has increased by an estimated 35%:
  - 1 in 8 people are now experiencing food insecurity in Boulder and Broomfield Counties — up from 1 in 11
  - 1 in 7 children are now facing hunger — a 64% increase
- ◆ Pre-pandemic, Community Food Share distributed approximately 800,000 pounds of food per month
- ◆ Distribution increased to a record-setting 1.1 million pounds in March 2020
- ◆ In April 2020, Community Food Share set another record for total food distributed in one month: 1.2 million pounds
- ◆ Currently, Community Food Share distributes enough food for 30,000 meals per day and averages 1-1.2 million pounds of food distributed



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