

SUMMER
2021

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

Meeting People Where They Are

Pop-up pantry helps a family tradition continue

On a cloudy Saturday morning in May, Anna* and her two young sons pulled into the parking lot of Clinica Family Health. They weren't there for a doctor's appointment, dentist visit, or a COVID-19 vaccine, however. They were there to get groceries.

Since last summer, Community Food Share has partnered with Clinica Family Health to host pop-up food pantries. These distributions have taken place throughout Boulder and Broomfield Counties to address the new wave of hunger that rippled across our community.

"It really is an effort from the community for the community," said Susan Wortman, Vice President of Development at Clinica.

"With the pandemic and so many people losing their jobs, people are struggling to feed their families. Every little bit helps."

When Anna was first greeted by our volunteer, she confided that if it weren't for the pantry that day, she didn't know how she was going to feed her

family through the week. She's not alone — one in eight of our neighbors experiences food insecurity. A testament to the ongoing need, the pop-up pantry distributed three full trucks worth of food to help feed nearly 400 people that day alone.

From the backseat, one of Anna's sons eagerly asked if we had any cereal. Each week, he and his brother look forward to their Saturday morning breakfast, a ritual that has brought joy and togetherness to their family during such a challenging time. On this particular Saturday morning, however, their bowls were empty.

By the time their car pulled away, the boys' tiny laps were piled so high with cereal they could barely see over the boxes. The smiles on their faces were contagious! "Knowing that everyone is going home with food for the week is an incredible feeling," said Susan Sweet, who volunteered alongside her sons that morning. "So many people are grateful that Community Food Share is here, and it's just awesome to have a tiny part in it," she added.

While the pandemic presented significant setbacks to ending hunger, it also opened the door to opportunities for innovation and collaboration like this one. As we navigate this "new normal" together, we're committed to remaining nimble in our strategy to create a hunger-free community — all thanks to supporters like you.



Manuel shows off his smile at the pop-up pantry.

Caroline Colvin Photography

*Name has been changed to protect privacy.



A NOTE FROM KIM

The height of harvest season has arrived in Colorado. As farmers market stalls begin to overflow with Palisade peaches, Munson Farms' iconic sweet corn, and a medley of Colorado-grown produce, the same transformation takes place in our warehouse. Produce is a priority at Community Food Share, so we provide it to our partners and participants year-round. Summer and fall are a special time, however, because we connect the people we serve with fruits and vegetables that are grown right down the road.

Much like the variety of vendor stalls we see at the market, I marvel at the many growers whose bounties line the aisles of our pantry and fill the orders destined for our Partner Agencies: I see carrots from Longmont's Aspen Moon Farm, parsley and oregano from our garden plot at the Boulder Public Library, zucchini from our volunteer Carol's home garden, and lettuce grown by second graders at Emerald Elementary School.

Whether you're known for your green thumb or you're a first-time gardener, you can help us provide even more locally grown produce. When your garden grows a few too many cucumbers, drop them off at our outdoor farm stand — most donations are in the homes of people we serve within a day or two! If you're looking for an extra dose of Vitamin D and vista views, volunteer with us on nearby farms. Know a farmer? Connect them with us for opportunities to donate surplus produce or recruit our volunteers to glean their fields. All of these activities and more are available through our Garden Share program — join us!

For all you do, thank you.



Kim Da Silva
CEO

Volunteer Spotlight



Joanie Tanous

Joanie first volunteered at Community Food Share thirty years ago with her colleagues at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. "I always knew that I wanted to continue to contribute," Joanie says. "Being able to serve the community is huge to me." When the pandemic hit, she was able to start volunteering with us consistently. Joanie takes participants' orders in Feeding Families, our onsite pantry, and she's exploring additional strategies for recycling and composting in our warehouse — helping us reduce our carbon footprint even further. Joanie, we are lucky to have you!

Get the Facts on SNAP

At Community Food Share, we empower our neighbors to overcome life's setbacks. In a year when grocery prices rose at a record pace, we've added a new service to help community members make their budgets go further: SNAP outreach and application assistance.

What is SNAP?

It's our country's largest hunger-relief program, and it's administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receive monthly funds (provided on a debit card) that can be spent exclusively on groceries.

How can SNAP funds be spent?

Participants can spend their monthly SNAP allowance on food items at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other authorized food retailers. The Double Up Food Bucks program doubles the value of SNAP benefits spent on produce at participating locations. Locally, a participant can get \$20 matched for a total of \$40 to spend at the Broomfield and Boulder County Farmers Markets — helping people bring home more fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting local farmers.

Who uses SNAP?

People living in households with low incomes are eligible for SNAP. The program primarily supports children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

How does SNAP benefit the community?

The program benefits all of us. In addition to improving food access, SNAP generates and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation, particularly in communities where economic boosts are needed most. A growing body of research shows that SNAP also lowers health care costs, improves academic achievement in kids, and helps aging adults live stable independent lives.



Average monthly SNAP funds per individual in Boulder & Broomfield Counties

BENEFITS CAN BE SPENT ON:



Produce



Dairy



Meat



Baby Food

BENEFITS CANNOT BE SPENT ON:



Alcohol



Non-food Items



Tobacco Products



38% of SNAP households in CO include children

\$15  \$25+

Every \$15 spent in SNAP benefits generates \$25+ in local economic activity

WHY COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE SUPPORTS SNAP

Along with the many reasons listed above, SNAP can reach many more people and offer food assistance on a much larger scale than food banks and food pantries. In other words, we know that the charitable food system cannot solve hunger alone. Community Food Share and our 40+ Partner Agencies are part

of Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks serving every county in the nation. Our collective impact is only a fraction of SNAP's effect on ending hunger: **for every meal that the Feeding America network distributes, SNAP provides nine.**

Hunger Doesn't Take a Break



Many kids think summer break is the best time of the year: no classes, family vacations, and spending countless hours in the pool with friends. For many families, however, summer break is less about fun in the sun and more about coping with added challenges like paying for childcare and providing three meals a day — because no school means no school lunch.

Kids are more likely to experience summer hunger as families struggle to make up for those lost meals. And while community meal sites help bridge the gap, they are sometimes difficult for families to access due to the limited number of locations and lack of transportation.

Community Food Share is helping families put food on the table by offering mobile pantry distributions throughout the summer at Sanchez Elementary in Broomfield. We are also continuing to work with the Longmont Youth Center to provide extra groceries at sites in Longmont. For more information, visit communityfoodshare.org/get-food.

In times of uncertainty, we know how important it is to come together to help those who are most vulnerable. No kid should have to worry about missing a meal. Together, we are ensuring that no child goes hungry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG
21

Farm to Fork Dinner

Dine outdoors with the Flatirons sunset as your backdrop. Savor a locally-sourced, family-style meal prepared by our region's top chefs.

SEPT
3

Tee Up! Against Hunger Golf Tournament

Join us for a scramble format tournament at Coal Creek Golf Course in Louisville. Register to play or become a sponsor.

NOV
5-7

Let's Bag Hunger Fund & Food Drive

Give funds, food, and time during this hallmark event, founded by the *Daily Camera*. We're hopeful that we will once again be stationed at King Soopers stores throughout the community.

Visit communityfoodshare.org/events for more details.

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