



Hunger Doesn't Take a Break

The Impact of Summer Hunger on Our Community's Children

More than 300,000 students across Colorado rely on the Free lunch program.

When Kelly brought snacks in for her son's Kindergarten class, she was unaware of the immense impact she would end up having.

The kids lit up with delight, but it was the teacher's response that struck a chord with Kelly. "I fear this is the last meal some of these children will have through the weekend," the teacher shared.

This small interaction five years ago inspired Kelly to find the resources, support, and determination necessary to start a meal assistance program at Crestview Elementary.

Fast forward to today, the program has achieved astounding success! Over 60 children and their families receive food weekly from the program throughout the school year. This accounts for more than 15% of Crestview's student population, who depend on the program to sustain them through the weekend.

As impactful as Kelly's program is, the demand for assistance extends beyond this, as 25% of students rely on free or reduced-price lunches to obtain essential nutrients during each school day. With Summer break now in full swing and students home from school, children who depend on the school's meal programs must find other ways to get the nourishment they need for healthy growth and development.

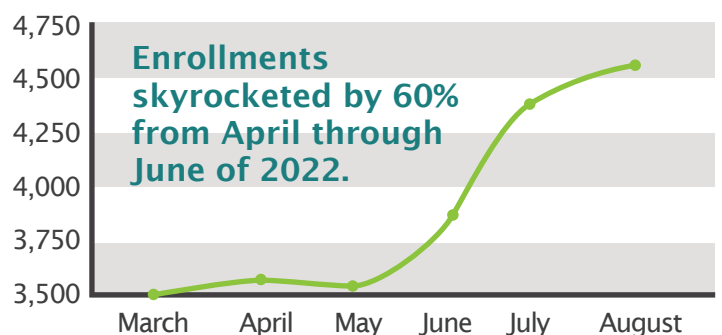
The Effects of Summer Hunger

Food insecurity is particularly difficult for children. Hunger and inadequate nutrition can cause cognitive and physical impairments during critical development that lasts a lifetime. School lunches play a vital role, and during the summer months, those regular meals are unavailable. Many times, children receive their healthiest meals at school, helping support their academic achievement. According to the School Nutrition Association, children who receive school lunches consume fewer empty calories and more milk, fruit, vegetables, and fiber, thanks to the USDA's dietary standards.

Strategies for Addressing Summer Hunger in the Community

It takes all of us to support these children when needed most. Community Food Share partners with organizations such as the Boulder Valley School District to supply the food they need to maintain summer meal programs for students and their families. Individuals like Kelly lead the charge in finding solutions to the issue at hand, and community members like you can help through raising awareness and sharing your time and resources when children need it the most.

When the new school year starts, Kelly will be at Crestview Elementary, giving students and their families one less thing to worry about. Let's take a note from Kelly's book and leave no doubt that the children of our community know they will have food on their plates regardless of the time of year.



A NOTE FROM KIM

As we look back on the first half of 2023, I can't help but feel a sense of urgency to address the challenges our neighbors experiencing food insecurity are facing. The recent cuts to public assistance programs have put a tremendous strain on our community's most vulnerable. In the time since these cuts took place to programs such as SNAP and Medicaid, we have seen record highs in enrollments and visits to our programs.

Here at Community Food Share, we can't ignore the gravity of this situation. We're determined to ensure everyone in our community has access to nourishing meals, especially during the challenging summer months.

Hunger knows no season, and neither does our incredible team, who have been working tirelessly to meet these growing needs head-on. As we work towards this mission, we know we can't do it alone. The unwavering support of our community members is essential in the fight against hunger, helping create a healthier, well-nourished community. To showcase the impact of our supporter's generosity, we've included a snapshot highlighting the difference your contributions made in the first quarter of 2023.

Through this three-month period, we distributed more than two million meals throughout our community. Your unwavering support played a crucial role in making this possible. By working together, we can overcome the challenges our neighbors are facing and ensure that our community remains strong and resilient. Thank you for your continued support, and for being a vital part of our mission to fight hunger.

Sincerely,



Kim Da Silva
CEO

Our Donors impact through the first 3 months of 2023.



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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

2023 Q1 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2,347,313

Total Meals Distributed

29,391

Unique Individuals and Households Served

2,816,775

Total Pounds Distributed

WRITING A NEW CHAPTER FOR COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE — OUR THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

Embracing Change to Reinforce Our Mission and Impact

Community Food Share reported record highs in enrollments in FY23.

July marks the start of a new fiscal year for Community Food Share, and we are excited to announce the unveiling of our refreshed three-year strategic plan. The rising number of individuals and families relying on our services underscores the necessity to continually enhance our distribution network and reassess how to optimize our resources.

We are fortunate to have a committed network of community partners, volunteers, and staff, whose insights have helped shape all elements of the refresh. Through surveys, focus groups, internal/external audits, and collaboration across the organization, we aim to address our opportunities for improvement, and amplify our strengths.

The strategic refresh will be a key emphasis over the next three fiscal years, as we aim to enhance our mission's success across the organization. This realignment will bring several exciting updates and additions to our programs and services. One such improvement is refining our food sourcing and distribution process, focusing on meeting the unique dietary and cultural needs of our shoppers, to better serve our neighbors.

This initiative to continuously improve upon how we work towards our vision of a hunger-free community would not be possible without the continued dedication and heartfelt generosity of our unparalleled supporters.

Together, let's make a difference in the fight against hunger and create a brighter, healthier future for our entire community.

Our strategic refresh will revolve around four interconnected pillars, with Feeding People at the forefront.

FEEDING PEOPLE

Align our goals with the ever-evolving landscape of hunger relief and strive to ensure all of our neighbors receive the nourishment they need.



SUSTAINABILITY

Optimize resources and operations to better serve our community.



EDUCATION AND EVALUATION

Boost awareness and perception surrounding food insecurity.



COMMUNITY

Fortify and expand partnerships with collaborative organizations; enrich the volunteer experience and offer more opportunities for involvement and engagement.



Small Businesses Spotlight



Redgarden Restaurant and Brewery: A small business having a BIG impact

Small businesses are the heart of our community, and their support makes a significant difference in the fight against hunger. There's no better example of this than Louisville's own Redgarden Restaurant and Brewery.

When they're not providing customers with high-quality food and beer, Redgarden always finds different ways to support Community Food Share. They've held fundraisers, donated products for events, and hosted our volunteers following shifts at our warehouse. All while fostering the welcoming, neighborhood environment they specialize in. With creativity and commitment, businesses like Redgarden can support the mission to nourish our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Here's a few ways how any business can make an impact:

Host a Fundraiser

Organize events, activities, or drawings, and donate proceeds to Community Food Share.

Employee Volunteer Days

Businesses of all sizes can schedule team-building volunteer shifts at our warehouse, fostering a sense of shared purpose in giving back to the community.

Provide In-Kind Donations

Donating products, services, or your expertise can help offset expenses, allowing us to redirect funds to our programs.

Advocate for the Food Bank

By helping promote our mission, your clients, employees, and patrons can learn about the work we accomplish together, and its impact on our neighbors.

Coordinate an Internal Challenge

Through employee giving, engage your team(s) in a fun, competitive way, while having a positive impact on the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Farm to Fork

Join Community Food Share's summer gathering, Farm 2 Fork, featuring a farm-fresh meal with local ingredients, set against the Flatirons' stunning backdrop. Learn more at [Communityfoodshare.org/f2f](https://communityfoodshare.org/f2f).



Open House Event

Interested in going behind the scenes to see how we distribute over 10 million pounds of food



a year? Stop by our open house and learn more about how we're fighting hunger in the community.

Read more about how we are making an impact together on our blog.
Visit communityfoodshare.org/blog.

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