



Annual Report

2020 – 2021



Inside

A Letter From Our Leadership

Our Mission & Vision Statement

Leadership & Board of Directors

Testimonials

New In 2021

By The Numbers - The Impact of Your Gifts

Supporting Foundations, Donors & Sponsors

How You Can Get Involved



A Letter From Our Leadership

The pandemic of 2020-2021 was a historic time for humanity. Upon the reflection and soul-searching that so many of us have done in the last year, we find ourselves overwhelmed with both pride and humility for all that Cultivate Food Rescue accomplished. When the pandemic hit, we looked at each other and asked, "Where is our food going to come from?". Until that time, 90% of our supply was prepared food that could go straight into meals. We depended on unused food from university and school cafeterias whose doors were now closed. As celebrations ended, extra meals would no longer come from weddings, sporting events, and other catered dinners. Moreover, if children weren't attending school, how would they receive the meals we prepared?

Our answer quickly came as calls flooded in for us to take unprepared food from these same (and many new) organizations. It required a pivot to now prepare the food ourselves. Our food rescue operation doubled, collecting over one million pounds! We hired five additional staff members including a food sourcing agent, an additional chef, and three administrative positions.

We changed our backpack delivery logistics to accommodate school staff schedules. Some schools did curbside pickup for their virtual learners while other staff hand delivered meals to children in their homes. Recognizing the need to reach the food insecure where they live, we launched

the Cultivate Cares Food Network (*See Page 07*). CCFN coordinates with pantries to have our food readily available in the communities that we serve, providing them with valuable perishable items like milk, cheese, proteins and many others. We will continue to grow this endeavor, launching our capital campaign in 2022 with the goal of constructing a community cold storage hub for our network partners.

Dedicated volunteers continued to cultivate our mission, allowing us to increase our backpack meal output. We attracted the attention of 4-H members in the Meat Hunger program (*See Page 09*), formally partnering with them to acquire meat from 72 livestock animals. Our board of directors served tirelessly, navigating us through these changes. Our staff adjusted to masks, zoom meetings and personal struggles, never wavering from their dedication.

We want to thank each and every partner of Cultivate. In the wake of one of the hardest years ever, among all the despair and division, let us stand tall and relish in the good that we have done. Let it also propel us forward with ambition and excitement for the year ahead. Whether donating, volunteering, or leading, I implore each of you to continue cultivating the good that we do. We renew hope, one meal at a time.

Jim Conklin
Executive Director & Co-Founder

Randy Z
Co-Founder, Director of Operations
& Executive Chef



Our Mission

Cultivate Food Rescue is devoted to organizing community resources to fight hunger and reduce food waste.



Vision Statement

Through strategic partnerships, Cultivate Food Rescue will be a leader in food rescue, procurement, redistribution and education to meet the nutritional needs of communities.

We serve tens of thousands of people in St. Joseph, Marshall and Elkhart Counties by creating nutritious and excellent-tasting frozen meals using food that has been prepared but not served by local catering companies, restaurants, universities, K-12 schools, farmers, 4-H programs and other food businesses. Additionally, we partner with hundreds of local food pantries to stock their shelves with fresh food products for families and individuals in our community.

Staff

Todd Zeltwanger

Director of Fund Development

Christine Germann

Associate Director of
Planning & Marketing

Lainie Holland

Project Coordinator

Shelly Alwine

Volunteer Services &
Special Events Coordinator

Bob Herbert

Food Sourcing Agent

Greg Myszak

Food Rescue Driver

Rich Kolczynski

Food Rescue Driver

Kevin Guenther

Chef

Sadie Ritschard

Chef

Laura McNally

Communications &
Education Coordinator

Derek Conklin

Fund Development &
Operations Intern

Board of Directors

Anna Wasierski

Registered Dietitian
Healthsteps, Inc.

Bill Zimmer

Retired
TSI Technology Group

Hugh Johnson

Chief Fire Starter
J2 Marketing

Jessica Brookshire

Senior Program Director,
Office of Clinical Partnerships
University of Notre Dame

Jim Conklin

*Board President
(Through June, 2021)*
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Cultivate Food Rescue

Joan McClendon

Associate Director of
Experiential Learning &
Leadership Development
University of Notre Dame

Rachel Rawls

County Extension Director
and Agricultural & Natural
Resources Educator
**Purdue Extension
-St. Joseph County**

Steve Hunter

Vice President
Quality Dining, Inc.

Tom Edgerton

Vice President
Retired
Edgerton Travel Service

Troy Holland

*Treasurer & Board President**
**Effective July 1, 2021*
Regional Audit Leader
RSM

Lin Burns

Retired
Quality Dining, Inc.

Amanda Zaluckyj

Attorney
Jones Obenchain, LLP.

Testimonials

"I'm not sure what I'd be doing for food if I wasn't getting these meals. I don't have transportation, and with my diabetes and leg issues, I can't get to the bus, so it's been a real-life saver. And, they're actually good! You don't find that much, good frozen meals. And you really get a good-sized portion too."

-Air Force Veteran 1979-1986

"We are so appreciative of Cultivate and their willingness to support our medical team with tasty meals as we collectively work to bring those impacted by COVID a healing presence."

-Saint Joseph Health System

"For the past three years, Cultivate has provided weekend meals to Madison STEAM Academy families. These Cultivate meals fill a huge gap in feeding our most needy students and their families at a time when they are home more and many are experiencing greater need."

-Barb Schmitt (Madison STEAM Academy)

"Cultivate has been so helpful to us during the last month making sure that we can continue to meet the need of feeding people in our community. Since the pandemic hit and we have been serving our hot lunches out the door Monday through Friday, Cultivate has been supplying us with milk, bread and other food surplus that has helped us serve close to 31,000 meals to women and children in our community!"

-St. Margaret's House

"The idea of feeding families and children with food which would normally go to waste is something special. We have issues with unity in our nation, but there is nothing more unifying than the effort put forth by Cultivate. Cultivate simply helps people. I am so thankful for the opportunity to support Cultivate both corporately and personally."

-Doug Smoker (Smoker Craft. Inc.)

"I felt, and still continue to feel, helpless about all of the hurt and need in our community right now, but doing a shift at Cultivate gives me some hope that we are going to get through this. It's incredibly inspiring to see the partnership that Cultivate has formed with local businesses, restaurants, schools and universities in our area."

-Carrie Walsh (Lead Volunteer)





New in 2021

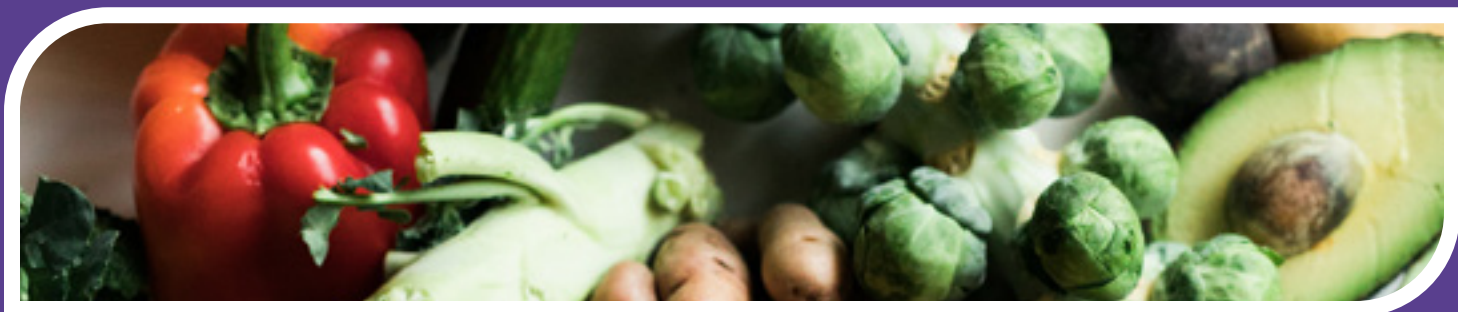
Cultivate Cares Food Network

To expand our reach in the community, Cultivate Food Rescue launched the Cultivate Cares Food Network (CCFN). We carried out this effort with the partnership of enFocus, a local nonprofit that empowers talent to transform communities in the region. CCFN leverages a network of local food donors and vendors to source perishable, staple items for free or at wholesale prices.

Food pantries regularly run out of perishable items like fresh fruit and vegetables, milk and bread; items which are necessary for a healthy, nutritious diet. Food pantries and soup kitchens in our three-county area regularly order and receive items that Cultivate offers them for

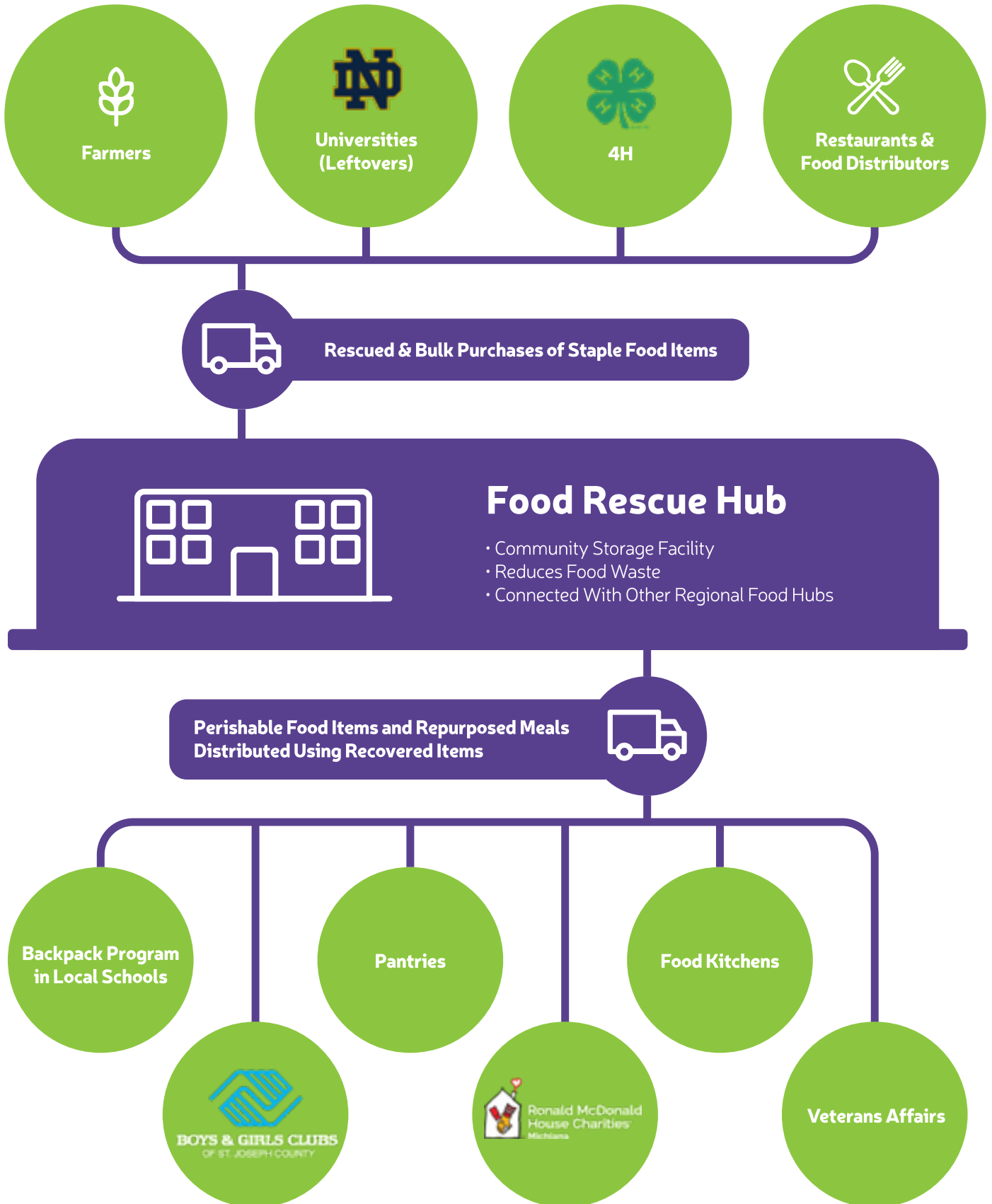
free. In order to make the logistics of this redistribution process smoother, Cultivate has partnered with a software developer to create a food inventory, ordering and distribution tracking system.

Cultivate Cares Food Network has developed a system that rescues excess food, builds partnerships, and connects available food with those who need it most. Our emphasis this year is building our capacity to grow this model so that we can meet the needs of those we serve and prevent the cycle of trauma that comes from food insecurity.



Food Hub Model

Servicing St. Joseph, Elkhart and Marshall Counties





Meat Hunger: Cultivate's Farm to Table Program

The program created by two former 4-H members, Emily and Noah Zimmer, Meat Hunger locally sources food to feed those in need while supporting the educational endeavors of our local 4H programs. Meat Hunger originally started as a livestock buyers group that raised funds to purchase livestock at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair and donated it to those in need, often Cultivate Food Rescue. With the Zimmer siblings entering their final year of college, Meat Hunger formally merged with Cultivate in February of 2021 and transitioned into a Cultivate Farm to Table program.

This year, the program was able to support local 4-H members through acquisition of 72 livestock animals at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair. The protein from these animals was distributed to local pantries and used in meals to feed hungry children within our community. After a very successful transition year, Cultivate Food Rescue is working with Purdue Extension to expand the Meat Hunger program and create a Meat Hunger SPARK Club. Through education and volunteerism, 4-H members will work with the Meat Hunger program to raise funds and actively participate in the purchasing process at the fair. This program lives Cultivate's vision by combining food procurement and education to meet the nutritional needs of communities.



Growing & Evolving: Organizational Development

As Cultivate continues to grow and expand its reach, our staff, board and policies also continue to evolve. Within the past year, we have added three new administrative staff members to help with marketing, fund development and project management, one new chef, and a food sourcing agent to manage our pantry partnerships and inventory needs. We have also had the pleasure of working with three interns and two enFocus fellows.

We are dedicated to feeding as many hungry people as we can and reducing food waste in the process, and that starts with the important work of organizational development. Our dedicated board members have been working patiently with us as we develop policies and practices for both our board and our staff. Our goal is to carry out our mission as efficiently as possible, and we know that our internal practices play a big role in our ability to do just that.





Transform How You See Food

The Covid-19 pandemic hit us hard as individuals, as a community, as a country, and globally. But imagine living through the past year without the security of knowing where your next meal was coming from. The last year has been an even greater reminder of why the work we are doing is so important. People you encounter at the store are hungry. People you interact with at school or church are hungry. People in your own neighborhood might even be hungry. Prior to the pandemic, 45,000 children were on free and reduced lunch programs in St. Joseph, Elkhart and Marshall counties. We have an opportunity to reduce that number by a greater amount every year.

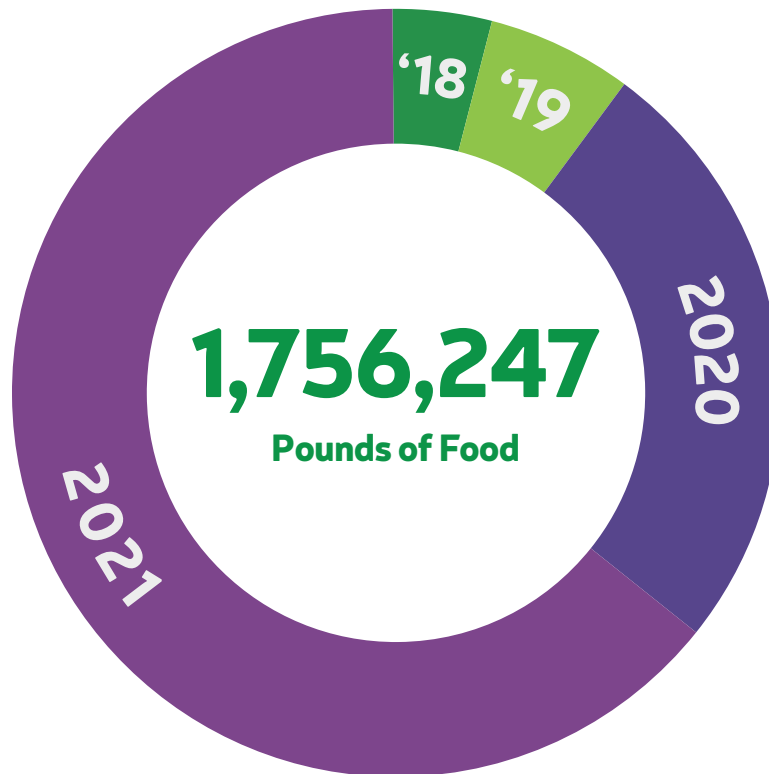
This year 1,000 of those students will receive nutritious weekend meals to supplement the 68-hour gap between lunch at school Friday and school breakfast on Monday. We are driven by a mission to reduce food waste and food insecurity. The numbers say a lot, but the greater impact is found in the individual life that is changed by the food we offer them. Nourished children are less likely to misbehave. Attendance improves. Academic performance improves.

A hungry stomach is now satisfied. An individual finds renewed hope because they aren't constantly plagued by their need for food. It's not just food. It's hope, aspiration, ambition, potential. Transform how you see food.

By The Numbers

The Impact of Your Gifts

Total Pounds of Food Rescued Since We Began



90%

Rescued Within
the Last Two Years

848%

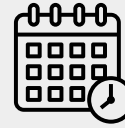
Growth in Rescued
Food Within the
Last Two Years.



1,121,457 lbs

Pounds of Food Rescued

July 2020 – June 2021



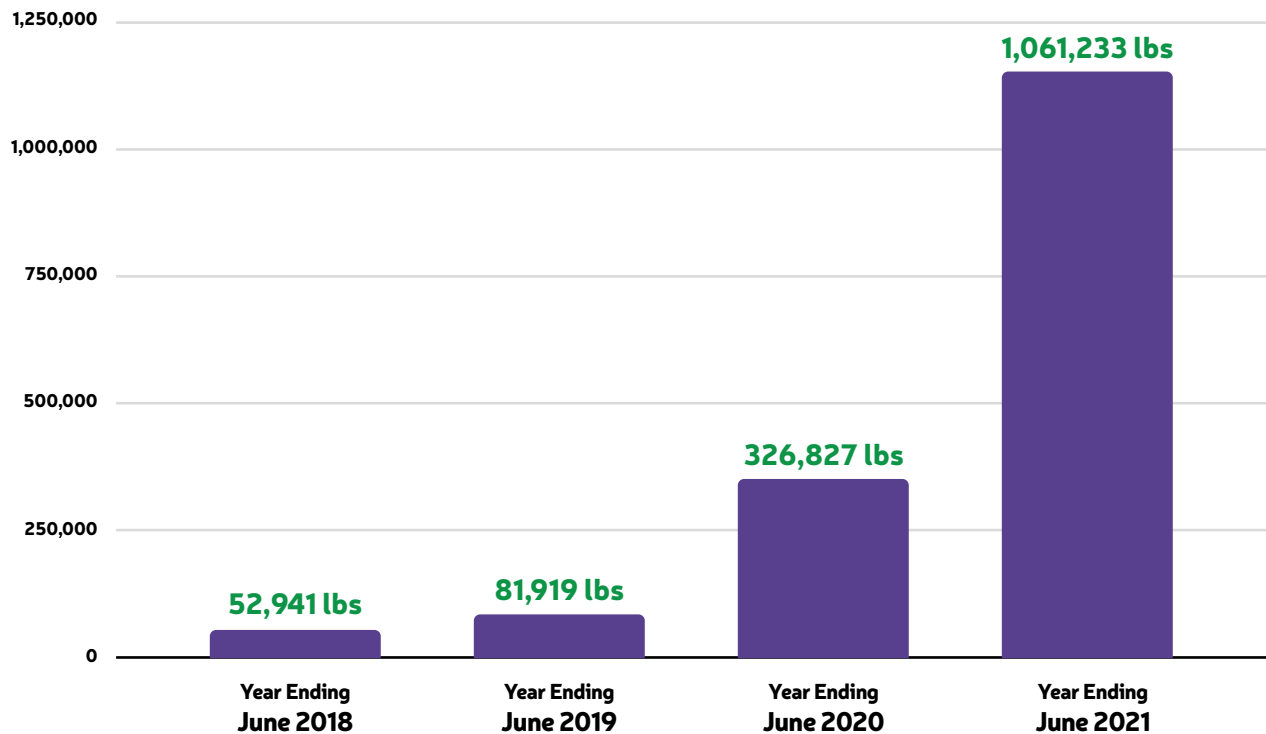
1,758,000 lbs

Pounds of Food Rescued

Since 2017

Pounds of Food Distributed by Cultivate

Individual Meals & Bulk



332 Volunteers
Per Month

January 2021 - June 2021 (Avg.)



5,182 Hours
Donated

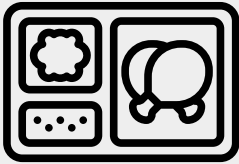
January 2021 - June 2021

“There were few reasons to leave my house during the shutdown, but doing a shift at Cultivate was one of the rare exceptions. Most inspiring has been meeting the other volunteers who walk through the door and are willing to give up a few hours of their week to help people they will never even meet. People of all ages from all around town who see that need too and want to do their small part to bring hope to their neighbors. It makes me so proud and grateful to live in our amazing community.”

- Cultivate Volunteer Leader

Impact By The Numbers

Food Distribution



Frozen Meals

Year Ending June 2021:

**214,432
Meals**

All Time:

**374,195
Meals**



Backpacks Filled

Year End 2021:

**35,739
Backpacks**

All Time:

**62,366
Backpacks**



Total Pounds
of Food Distributed

2021:

**1,061,233
Pounds**

All Time:

**1,522,920
Pounds**

Food Recipients

Top 10 Meal Recipients

(Year Ending 2021)

Packaged Meals

Total Pounds

(Meals & Bulk Distribution)

1	South Bend Community Schools	81,228	117,500
2	Clay Church Food Pantry	23,400	123,438
3	Plymouth Community Schools	13,116	16,395
4	Boys & Girls Club	11,696	14,620
5	Veteran Affairs Center	10,920	14,344
6	Food Bank of Northern Indiana	10,800	34,416
7	Elkhart Community Schools	9,504	11,880
8	Success Academy	9,300	11,625
9	WaNee Community Schools	6,990	8,738
10	Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ	4,344	82,963
	Total	181,298	435,919

Top 10 Recipients

(All Time)

Packaged Meals

Total Pounds

1	South Bend Community Schools	150,885	219,344
2	Clay Church Food Pantry	24,180	132,451
3	Food Bank of Northern Indiana	23,800	56,391
4	Plymouth Community Schools	19,595	24,674
5	Elkhart Community Schools	17,493	22,190
6	Veterans Affairs Center	13,620	17,719
7	Wa-Nee Community Schools	13,440	16,980
8	Success Academy	12,624	15,888
9	Boys & Girls Club	11,696	14,620
10	Food Fighters of John Glenn Community	7,954	47,253
	Total	295,287	567,510

Financial Summary

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021, Prior Year

	Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2021	Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2020	Variance
Public Support & Revenues:			
Individual Contributors	\$304,114	\$363,419	
Corporate & Government Contributions	\$367,109	\$313,366	
Grants	\$634,141	\$545,306	
Special Events	\$129,002	\$41,715	
In-Kind Contributions	\$778	\$27,316	
Total Public Support & Revenues	\$1,435,145	\$1,291,123	\$144,021
Program Revenue - Rescued Food	\$2,014,982	\$1,088,243	\$926,739
Total Support & Revenues	\$3,450,128	\$2,379,366	\$1,070,760
Expenses:			
Program Services Food Rescued & Hunger Relief			
Program Expenses Less In-Kind Food	\$609,803	\$598,420	\$11,383
In-Kind Food	\$1,608,571	\$588,968	\$1,019,604
	\$2,218,375	\$1,187,388	\$1,030,987
Supporting Services:			
Management & General	\$135,418	\$86,320	\$49,098
Fundraising	\$296,282	\$160,179	\$136,102
Total Supporting Services	\$431,70	\$246,499	\$185,201
Total Expenses	\$2,650,076	\$1,433,888	\$1,216,188
Change in Net Assets From Operations	\$800,052	\$945,478	(\$145,427)
Interest & Investment Income, Net	\$21,183	\$2,761	\$18,421
Change in Net Assets	\$778,868	\$942,717	(\$163,849)

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2019 and 2020 and YTD Ending June 30, 2021

	Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2021	Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2020	Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Total Cash	\$474,031	\$275,544	\$96,601
Accounts Receivable	\$1,500	\$52,250	\$116,757
Inventory Rescued Food	\$905,686	\$499,275	
Total Current Assets	\$1,381,216	\$827,069	\$213,359
Total Fixed Assets (Buildings/Furniture/Equipment/ Depreciation)	\$1,031,784	\$913,409	\$175,183
Total Other Assets	\$5,840	\$5,840	\$59,138
Total Assets	\$2,418,841	\$1,746,318	\$447,679
Liabilities & Equity			
Total Current Liabilities (Accounts Payable/Payroll/Taxes)	\$50,116	\$87,129	\$2,587
Long-Term Liabilities			
Mortgage	\$351,819	\$421,066	\$125,913
Total Liabilities	\$401,935	\$508,195	\$128,500
Equity			
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,238,037	\$319,180	\$31,712
Net Income	\$778,869	\$918,942	\$287,468
Total Equity	\$2,016,906	\$1,238,122	\$319,180
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,418,841	\$1,746,316	\$447,679





Thank You

Every meal we deliver, every pound of food we rescue, every pantry we serve, every student we impact is a direct result of the constant support we receive from **individual donors, corporate sponsors, generous foundations, food donors, our incredible volunteers and community supporters.** Thank you. We truly could not do this without you. 2021 has already been a great year and we are looking forward to building on this momentum with your generosity!

Supporting Foundations, Donors & Sponsors

AEP Foundation

Beck Foundation

Community Foundation
of Elkhart County

Community Foundation
of Marshall County

Community Foundation
of St. Joseph County

Elkhart County United Way

Inspire Brands
(Arby's) Foundation

Kroger

Leep Family Foundation

Marshall County United Way

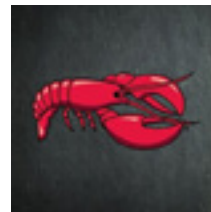
NiSource Foundation

St. Joseph County United Way

Truck Sponsors



2021 Food Donors



Meat Hunger Donors



Joel Laidig
Edward Jones Investments

South Bend Ethanol Plant

Janette Lichtenbarger

St. Joseph County Farm Bureau

4-H Members
Kaitlyn & Riley Prince

Wyatt Merchants

Golf Outing Sponsors

Title



Eagle



Birdie







2020-2021

Backpack Sponsors

Valedictorian

Judy & Larry Garatoni



Salutatorian



Honor Roll

**Areeba &
Kashif Shaikh**



Straight A's



Joel &
Kendra Laidig



meijer





Not Just Food. Potential.
Transform how you see food.



Not Just Food. Aspiration.
Transform how you see food.



Not Just Food. Ambition.
Transform how you see food.



Not Just Food. Hope.
Transform how you see food.

How You Can Get Involved



Make Your Gift Monthly Sponsor A Backpack

\$35 / Month

Provides a child with six meals each weekend. With your support, we can provide healthy, nutritious meals to students who face food insecurity.



Give Online

Donate Now!

CultivateCulinary.com/Donate

Your contribution will go directly to the program of your choice!



Give By Mail

Mail To:

**Cultivate Food Rescue
1403 Prairie Avenue
South Bend, IN 46613**

Make your check out to
Cultivate Food Rescue



Corporate Sponsorships

Visit cultivateculinary.com/partner-with-us for more information or **contact Todd Zeltwanger at toddzcultivateculinary.com**

**Your Company or
Business Can Sponsor**

**10, 25, 50,
or 100 Students**

These students will receive Cultivate meals throughout the school year with your support!



Volunteer

Volunteering with Cultivate is a fun and easy way to serve the community! We love working with individuals, companies, teams, organizations and small groups to transform lives in Northern Indiana.

Sign Up!

CultivateCulinary.com/Volunteer

or contact

shellya@cultivateculinary.com



Renewing hope one meal at a time

1403 Prairie Avenue,
South Bend, IN 46613

(877) 725-2016
cultivateculinary.com