



MARYLAND
FOOD BANK

UNTIL HUNGER ENDS.

WINTER 2016

Making an Impact at Every Level

INSPIRING CHANGE ON THE GROUND
AND BEHIND THE SCENES

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MARYLAND FOOD BANK

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Ending 2015 on a High Note*



Our Focus in 2016

Although 2016 is well underway with the arrival of this publication, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable success of the Maryland Food Bank in increasing food distribution into our communities.

As a result of the food bank distributing significantly more food than anticipated in recent years, the Maryland Food Bank has become an increasingly complex operation. Serving more than a thousand distribution partners from facilities in Baltimore, Hagerstown, and Salisbury, the Maryland Food Bank now provides the state with more than 44 million meals annually, having doubled overall food distribution to 53 million pounds from 26.5 million in the last four years alone.

While the rapid expansion succeeded in fulfilling our mission-driven objective of feeding more hungry people, the food bank must now become an organization that can not only sustain this level of activity, but be positioned to meet the needs of a greater number of people in years to come.

The Board of Directors is extremely proud of the food bank's achievements, however our long-term objective of ending hunger in Maryland is dependent upon our ability to operate efficiently, now and into the future. For this reason, our focus in 2016 will be to increase our operational efficiency at our new higher capacity.

Rest assured that all those impacted by hunger — including individuals within the organization's service area that have yet to be reached — are at the top of our minds in every important decision the Maryland Food Bank makes. We are committed to feeding just as many people in 2016 as we did last year, and we are confident in the ability of our exceptional staff to carry out the mission of ending hunger in Maryland.

Of course, our philanthropic community plays a vital role in this effort as well. Our growth and success in reaching more hungry Maryland families is only possible due to the continued support from benefactors like you. Simply put, without you, there is no us, and the hundreds of thousands of people we serve across the state would not have food to eat.

The work we do — what you support — is unique in the nonprofit world. Your gift creates a tangible result: people in need receive food. We know that by ending hunger today, we are creating a safer, healthier, more productive, and educated Maryland for all.

Your contributions and efforts are what make the Maryland Food Bank successful. We cannot thank you enough.

PETER B. ROSENWALD II MFB BOARD CHAIR



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**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**
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Holiday boxes are distributed to families in need by MFB partner Soul Harvest in mid December.

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Kids Get a "Giant" Boost From MFB

In 2012, Giant Food pledged to help the Maryland Food Bank elevate our child hunger program with a generous gift and a three-year commitment. Their support enabled us to launch MFB Kids, an initiative that expanded our School Pantry, Supper Club, and Summer Club Programs and provided a platform to highlight our child hunger-relief efforts in holistic terms.

"Giant's top charitable priority has always been to help alleviate hunger in the communities we serve," said Jamie Miller, manager of Public and Community Relations for Giant Food LLC. "With food at the core of our business, we understand how important it is to provide support for community members, especially children, facing food insecurity."

Over the last three years, Giant's investment in the food bank allowed us to advance our childhood hunger initiatives at multiple levels, from increasing our purchasing power and helping us better stock our school pantries with nutritious foods, to funding key capital projects such as the vans that are used for daily meal deliveries to childcare centers and providing capacity-building resources for our partners.

Today, the food bank can look back and say Giant's investment helped provide millions of meals to children who may otherwise have gone to bed hungry, or entered their classrooms with empty stomachs.



And just as this three-year commitment was coming close to an end, Giant Food not only renewed their commitment, but increased it significantly so that we can do even more in the coming years.

"Giant's relationship with the Maryland Food Bank is more than 30 years strong; and throughout this long and productive partnership, we've seen

first-hand how the Maryland Food Bank makes real differences in the lives of so many," Miller explained.

As we move into 2016, the food bank can breathe a deep sigh of relief knowing that Giant's powerful support will continue to help expand our efforts to fight child hunger in Maryland for many years to come.

INVESTING IN REAL CHANGE

In West Baltimore, children face a wide range of challenges from an early age. At William Pinderhughes Elementary and Middle School, Principal Federico Adams says the Maryland Food Bank's school pantry provides families in his community with a lifeline, paving a path toward better academic performance, mental and emotional stability, and physical health.



For many of the students in our community, hunger is a real and persistent problem. Our partnership with the Maryland Food Bank allows our school to serve as a support system for those families who may otherwise not have the ability to provide their kids with healthy, consistent meals."

—Principal Federico Adams

The Case for Monthly Giving



For many years, Joyce T. Mitchell came face to face with thousands of children who had been abused and neglected while working as a Baltimore City juvenile court judge.

"I saw needy kids," she said. "Sometimes you had families who could not afford to give these children basic necessities."

Unstable food and shelter were a factor in about 90 percent of the cases she heard, helping her realize she had to do something to help. That's when Mitchell began donating to the Maryland Food Bank.

"I wanted to make sure every child possible would have something to eat," Mitchell said. "The mere thought of a child going without a meal, it just hurt me and it became a very personal matter."

Although she's now retired, Mitchell is still dedicated to helping kids. The food bank's work of providing meals to those with the greatest need continues to resonate with Mitchell.

"I chose the Maryland Food Bank because [they] deliver food straight to these children," she said.

For more than a decade, Mitchell has been a reliable donor. Recently, she became a regular monthly donor so she could consistently help feed others.

"When I rank organizations that I feel are making a difference, the Maryland Food Bank is at the top of the list," she added.

Monthly donations go toward supporting all MFB programs that put food on the table for people across the state. For Mitchell, it means she's helping cover costs to buy and transport food directly to children in need.

"Donations from the Monthly Sustainers Circle are really valuable because they allow us to spread out our spending beyond buying food," said Mel Brennan III, vice president of programs. "Sometimes the vans that deliver meals to schools need gas. Donations like this allow us to fill up the tank and get our vehicles moving to deliver meals to the people who need it most."

To sign up for monthly donations call 410-737-8282 or visit mdfoodbank.org/donate.

INVESTING IN REAL CHANGE

MFB Van Driver Kisha Stevenson gets to see the reaction of the kids who benefit from MFB programs when she delivers meals each day. Stevenson has been delivering meals to schools and community clubs for about three years, and said the children are always excited to see her.

"At the school, they're just so excited that they run up to me and can't wait to ask what I've brought for them. They always say 'thanks food lady!' with big smiles."

—Kisha Stevenson

Your Monthly Gift Matters

Join our Monthly Sustainers Circle

For more information, call us at 410-737-8282

MAKING AN IMPACT AT EVERY LEVEL

There are many hunger-relief organizations in Maryland, and each agency plays a different role. Several focus on education and awareness, some on hunger-related policy, and still others on directly serving a specific community.

**What sets the Maryland Food Bank apart?
We do all of this, and so much more.**

As many of you know, the food bank is the only organization in the state that is capable of putting millions of meals on the tables of struggling families each and every month.

More than half a million individuals rely on our distribution network for food; and if our impact was taken out of the equation, food-insecure Marylanders would lose access to hundreds of thousands of meals we channel into communities every single day.

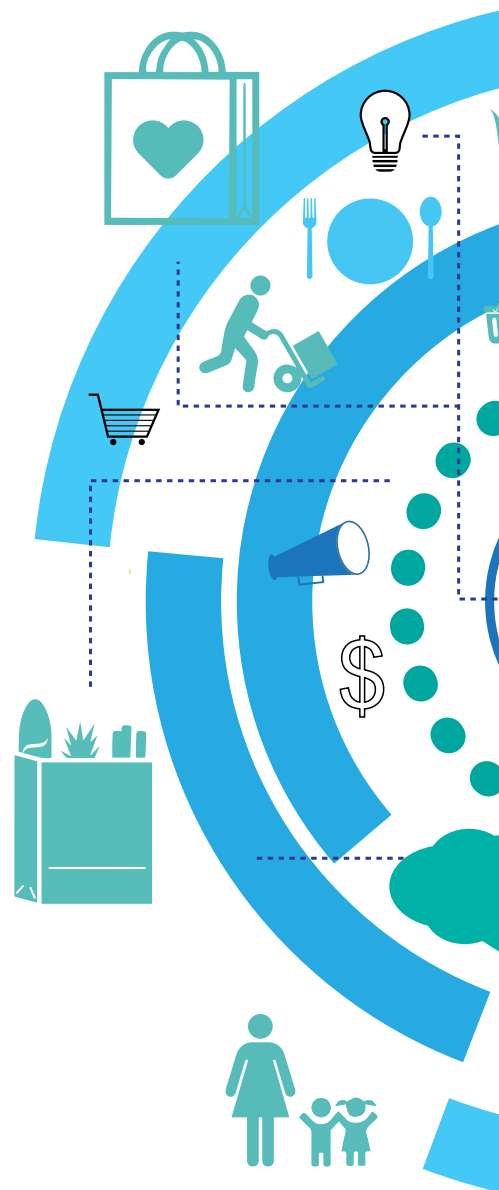
What many people don't realize, however, is the food bank's influence reaches well beyond our ability to distribute food to households in need.

LEVERAGING A SHARED VISION

At its core, the Maryland Food Bank is driven by the understanding that, while we are feeding people today, we must also create a future where hunger does not hold us back; a future in which every Marylander can succeed, be healthy, and reach their full potential.

Over the years, Maryland businesses, individuals, and legislators alike have seen what happens to a community when food is made available to struggling families.

The idea of ending hunger in Maryland today is no longer a pipedream, but rather, a goal that is limited by funding and public support. Every day, we are working to change that calculus.



“ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF HUNGER REQUIRES MORE THAN JUST THE PHYSICAL RESOURCES; IT REQUIRES A COLLECTIVE WILL AND SOMEONE TO LEAD THE CHARGE.”

—Interim President & CEO Beth Martino

hundreds of communities statewide. But even more important, perhaps, is that the food bank enhances thousands of local food pantries and feeding programs, ultimately strengthening every community and laying the groundwork for long-term progress.

INDIVIDUALS

The Maryland Food Bank works tirelessly to inspire, educate, and engage individual Marylanders to join the movement against hunger. We rely on our supporters to help spread awareness and create a shift in the way Marylanders everywhere view the issue of food insecurity. We are building a movement, and it is critical to our collective future that it succeeds. This is your opportunity to be a part of historic change in Maryland.

MORE THAN JUST A MEAL

Today the food bank's impact goes beyond our power to move food from one place to another.

On a macro level, our impact hinges on our ability to unify private agencies and public support to make access to food a priority in our state. On a micro level, our impact translates to the meal that made it to the table of a working family — or a grandparent, or a neighbor, or a child — who would have otherwise gone without nourishment today.

At almost every touchpoint in our work, we are reminded that food is more than just a meal. Even in some of the bleakest situations, a good meal will provide strength of spirit to a struggling individual; it

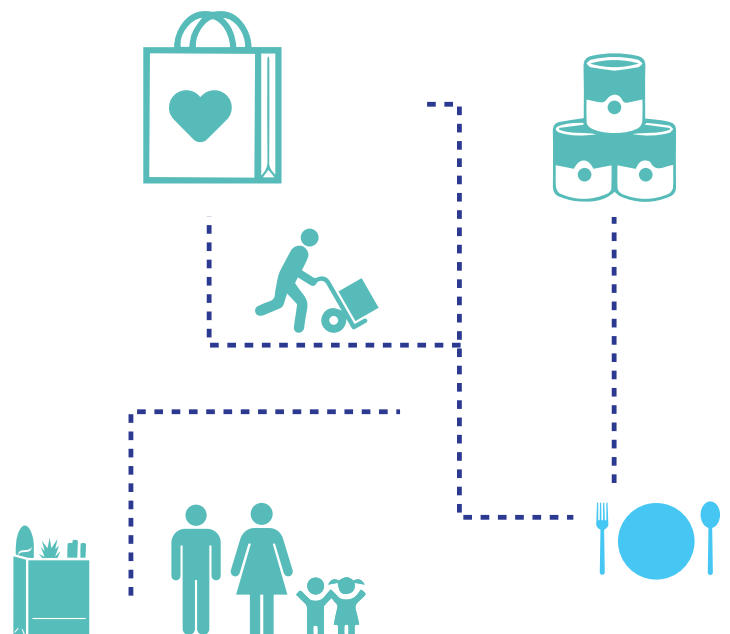
will give a community a reason to gather; it will set the stage for a shared family moment.

These are the intangible impacts of our work and your donations. And to this end, we rely on people like you — individuals who fully understand the importance of providing food to every food-insecure individual in our state.

“We simply cannot expect individuals to rise above the challenges that are present in so many communities without first providing them nourishment,” said Maryland Food Bank Interim President & CEO Beth Martino.

“Addressing the issue of hunger requires more than just the physical resources; it requires a collective will and someone to lead the charge.”

“We are leading that charge. And with your support we will create a future in which no Marylander is held back by hunger.”



Push for Produce Fueled by State



MFB Major Gifts Officer Michele Speaks guides Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford on a tour of the Baltimore warehouse last December.

Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford believes providing nutritious food to those in need is the starting point for strengthening Maryland communities.

"We want all of our citizens to be productive," Rutherford said. "And in order for them to be productive, they have to be healthy and have appropriate nutrition and housing. When our most needy person becomes productive, it benefits everyone."

Rutherford and his fellow state legislators understand the importance of improving the quality of life for all Marylanders, and it's a primary reason why they've been instrumental in supporting the Maryland Food Bank's efforts to eliminate hunger.

For the last six years, the state has provided special grants for the food bank to purchase a variety of items, such as vegetables and rice, to be distributed to those in need.

State funds are also allocated to contract growing, which involves hiring local farmers to grow fresh food for distribution through the food bank's Pantry on the Go program.

"(Contract growing) supports the local agriculture community, it provides increased market access for (those in need) and it also provides fresh food, particularly fresh produce, to individuals who may not have had much access to fresh produce," Rutherford said.

In appreciation of the state's backing, Gov. Larry Hogan was recognized as the food bank's Public Supporter of the Year in 2015. According to Rutherford, state leaders will continue to support the fight against hunger to create a better quality of life for all Maryland residents.

"It goes back to (the notion that) in order to be productive citizens, you have to have those building blocks for success and that starts with food," he said.

INVESTING IN REAL CHANGE

Tyrone, a Baltimore City resident, heard about one of the Pantry on the Go drops in August and walked to it with his elderly neighbor. The pair left a church parking lot where the distribution was being held with full bags of string beans and potatoes.

"It'll hold me over until I get my food stamps. I feel good because I have stamps, but this is something fresh to chow down on."

—Tyrone

Ending 2015 on a High Note



For many Americans, the holidays provide an opportunity to gather with family and friends around a nice meal. But for 1 in 8 Marylanders, holiday festivities can be a discouraging reminder of how hunger impacts their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

This past holiday season, the Maryland Food Bank's annual Pack to Give Back event enabled us to provide not just a meal, but a turkey feast to families who struggle with hunger on a regular basis.

"The need is great and it seems to be getting greater," said Pastor Billy Humphreys, who founded the Baltimore Dream Center 15 years ago in conjunction with the Pathway Church of God. "[These holiday boxes are] a huge blessing to families who are struggling at the end of the month and want to be able to provide a holiday meal."

With the help of dozens of organizations like Xerox, the Grainger Foundation, the Baltimore Orioles, CSX, FedEx, and Perdue, the Maryland Food Bank packed holiday meals for 80,000 food-insecure Marylanders during the

2015 Pack to Give Back campaign. In mid-November and through December, we distributed these boxes — and our mission came to life in the faces and voices of the individuals receiving them.

"We are really thankful that they're helping us. If it wasn't for this [box], we wouldn't know where to go for Thanksgiving," said Terri, a recipient and long-time volunteer at Pathway Church of God. "I have my three kids, and my grandkids, and then the lady down the street here — she's homeless. Her mother passed away so I invited her to come over for dinner."

Sharon, a single mother with a 10-year-old autistic son, explained the struggles of stretching her budget to feed her family, particularly when it comes to a holiday meal.

"You can't [stretch the budget]. That's why there are churches; that's why there's the food bank," she said. "My son, he loves to cook, so he's going to help cook the turkey. Corn is his favorite vegetable, so he wants to make corn for us."



Special thanks to the corporate sponsors who helped us pack 20,000 boxes for families in need during the holiday season.

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"We are really thankful that they're helping us. If it wasn't for this [box], we wouldn't know where to go for Thanksgiving."

-Terri

In addition to the turkeys and corn, the holiday boxes packed at the food bank were filled with all the ingredients needed for a holiday feast: stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, green beans, and mashed potatoes, to name a few.

After years of getting to know the people we serve, the food bank recognizes that holiday meals provide more than simple nourishment; they give families a reason to gather and celebrate.

"This is going to get the family together," said Marcelino, who planned to cook a Thanksgiving dinner for his mother this year. "When my father was alive, we used to get the whole family together. I'm hoping that this will get everyone back together."





Wes and Dawn Moore
Never Want a Parent to Think Twice
About How to Feed Their Children



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 #SaveASeat all year long for the 1 in 8 Marylanders facing hunger.

Donate today by texting SaveASeat to 41444

See a complete list of participating restaurants at mdfoodbank.org/save-a-seat

2015

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We would like to express
 our deepest gratitude to the
 following individuals for their
 leadership gifts in FY 2015.

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MARYLAND FOOD BANK BY THE NUMBERS



130+
Staff

+



3 branch
locations

+



1,250 distribution
partners

+



11,000
volunteers

+



65,000+
donors

=



more than
44 million meals

Thank you for being part of the
movement to end hunger in Maryland!

www.mdfoodbank.org

