



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FOOD BANK



FOOD *for* THOUGHT

FY2023 IMPACT REPORT

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FOOD BANK

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*The Anne Arundel County
Food Bank is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.
EIN: 52-1660473*

*Electronic copies of the
organization's audited financial
statements and IRS Form 990s
are available online at
www.aafoodbank.org.*

A New Path for the Food Bank, A New Era for Food Access

Fiscal year 2023 was a year of our staff members and board of directors asking tough questions and answering them with thoughtful, growth-minded plans for change. In January 2023, we implemented a new three-year strategic plan providing guidance for adjustments to reflect our position better as a community resource; bring greater efficiency to our operations; strengthen and expand our programs and partnerships; and build resiliency, equity, and justice into the core of what we do: partnering across Anne Arundel County to distribute nourishing food to our neighbors in need.

Expanding partnerships, building awareness, and responding to the needs expressed by our neighbors were central to our work over the past year. We broadened our Network Partner and Neighbor surveys to learn where and what we could improve. Based on the feedback we received, the food bank not only further increased its emphasis on providing access to healthy, fresh food options, but also prioritized the purchase of culturally relevant foods tailored to a variety of community needs. Staff and Board members made numerous public appearances to highlight the depth of food insecurity in our County and to advocate for support and systemic change. Through collaboration with numerous County agencies, we worked to identify food access gaps and then built out the programmatic responses necessary to begin to close them. Internally, we implemented a new food inventory system that has increased the efficiency of our warehouse, improved resource distribution to our Network Partners, and enhanced the accuracy of our reporting, all with an eye to being exemplary stewards of our resources.

We are extremely proud of our accomplishments outlined in this report, but we have no desire to rest on our laurels and maintain the status quo. While the upheavals and burdens of 2020 are thankfully now mostly unpleasant memories, disruptions showed bare the impact of food insecurity in Anne Arundel County. Unfortunately, challenges continue. Safety nets established during the pandemic, namely benefit increases in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), have been eliminated. Higher commodity prices and persistent inflation are driving too many families to make difficult decisions about paying for basic necessities.

As an organization, we alone cannot end food insecurity in our county. But we will work together with like-minded partners to ensure all Anne Arundel County residents know from where their next meal comes. The food bank will be an engaged member of the Anne Arundel County Food Council, established in May 2023 by an executive order from County Executive Stuart Pittman. The council is laser-focused on addressing inequity in our food system through the coordination of impactful policies and programs. We will also press forward as an advocate for state and federal legislation that improves food access for all our neighbors. From lessons learned in the past year, we will continue to streamline our operations and adjust protocols to ensure we are working as efficiently and effectively as possible.



We end with thanks to you — our friends, partners, and stakeholders — who have stood with us in our work and supported our programs with gifts of time, funds, and food. We are truly grateful for your support in fiscal year 2023 and in the future.


Brian Dague

CHAIR, AACFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS


Leah Aiello Paley, LMSW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUR NETWORK PARTNERS CONNECTING THE FOOD BANK WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Our core program is supplying our Network Partners across Anne Arundel County with fresh produce, lean proteins, shelf-stable foods, and basic necessities. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank distributes food and basic necessities at no cost to our partners, who then distribute these items directly to residents in need.

Our Network Partners are typically affiliated with community, civic, and religious organizations. Many are staffed entirely by volunteers, giving their time and energy to help our neighbors facing food insecurity.

The food bank greatly appreciates the hard work and dedication of our 76 Network Partners across the county operating 115 service sites: food, baby, and senior pantries and on-site feeding centers. In FY2023, we relied on Network Partners to help us ensure students in 31 county schools had nutritious, easy-to-prepare meals over weekends and holidays through our Backpack Buddies program.

575,839 Points of Service
in FY23

48,000 Average
Each Month

31 Baby and Senior Pantry
Partners Supported

**BACKPACK BUDDIES
PROGRAM** **1,000** Students
Served

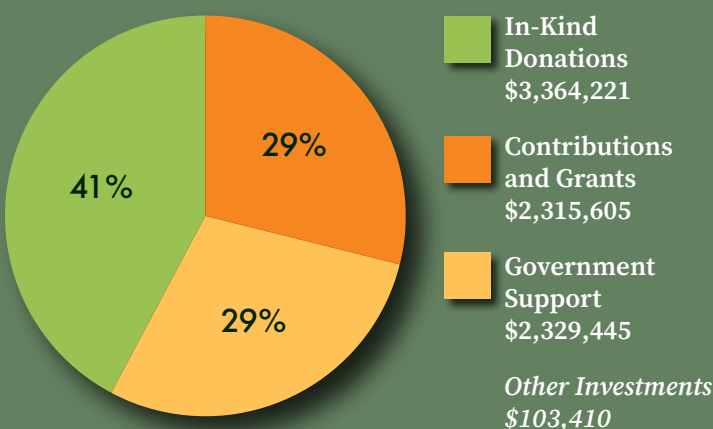
103,503 Weekend and Holiday
Meals Provided

"We reached out to AACFB and were blessed to be welcomed as a partner, because our partnership with the food bank quite literally kept us going. AACFB is still one of the biggest supporters of the work that we do. We couldn't be more grateful for the continued care and support we receive."

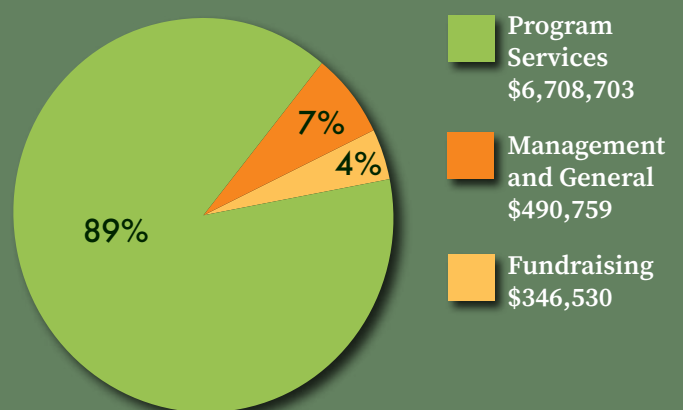
NETWORK PARTNER AND FOOD PANTRY OPERATOR LOVE WINS, SEVERN

FY2023 Financial Report

REVENUE: TOTAL \$8,112,411



EXPENSES: TOTAL \$7,545,992



VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank is grateful for all the volunteers who make it possible for us to move donated resources out to our Network Partners operating food pantries in the county. Individuals and groups from civic, community, and corporate organizations help us inspect, sort, and repack items for quick distribution.

IN FY2023, OUR WAREHOUSE VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 6,266 HOURS OF THEIR TIME, A VALUE OF MORE THAN \$170,000.



Thank you!



HOW WE GET OUR FOOD

In FY2023, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank distributed 3,406,634 pounds of food and basic necessities to our Network Partners operating food pantries, baby and senior pantries, on-site feeding centers, and Backpack Buddies programs at 115 distribution points across Anne Arundel County.

DONATED

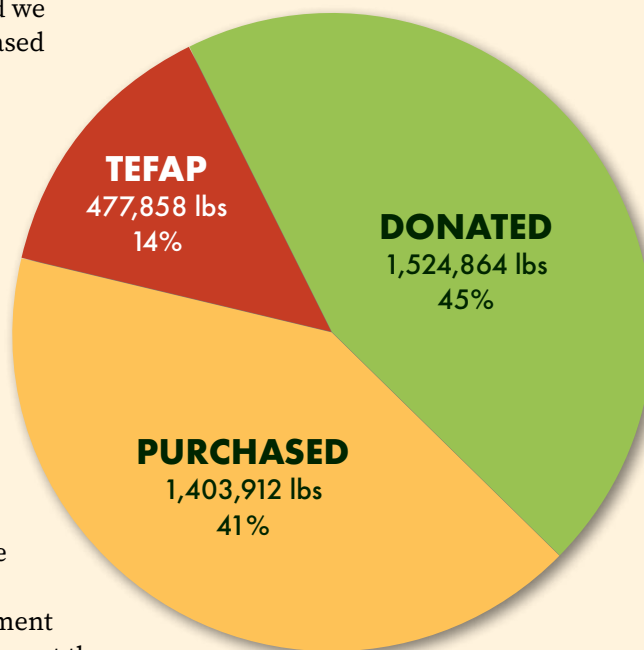
Almost half of the food we distribute (45 percent) is donated to AACFB. Community food drives are the most visible source of donations, including Harvest for the Hungry campaigns organized by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Association of REALTORS. The Retail Recovery program is also a significant source of donations. AACFB works with several grocery stores and retail centers, including Giant Food, Walmart, Target, Safeway, and Wegmans, for donations of items removed from shelves but well within food safety and expiration guidelines. Not only does the program prevent food waste, it provides thousands of pounds of high-quality food and basic necessities.

PURCHASED

A significant amount of the food we distribute (41 percent) is purchased by AACFB. The food bank has partnerships with several food distribution companies and regional farms to source fresh vegetables and fruits, lean proteins, and culturally relevant foods. The flexibility allowed by purchasing helps ensure AACFB's commitment to universal access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

TEFAP

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that helps supplement the diets of food-insecure persons. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank is the sole distributor of TEFAP food in the county.



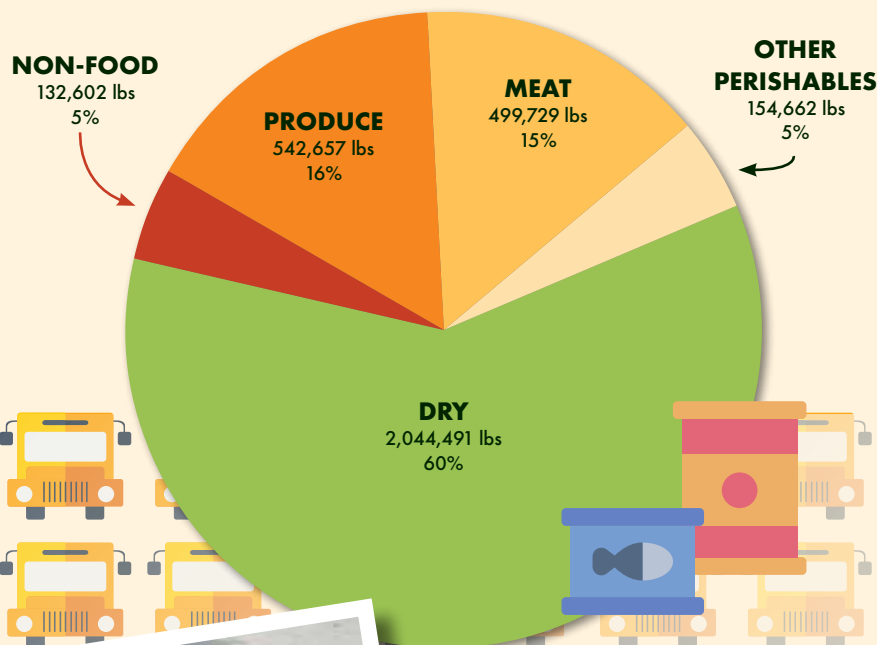
FOOD DONOR SHOUT-OUT

Each month, the food bank welcomes a long-distance semi hauling from Utah. On board are 24 pallets weighing in around 28,000 pounds and filled with frozen meat: a variety including ground beef, pork and beef roasts, sausages, chickens, and turkeys.

The generous, monthly donation is from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Church-owned farms and production facilities grow and produce millions of pounds of food each year for distribution to food banks and pantries across the United States.

WHAT WE DISTRIBUTE

Of the 3.4 million pounds of food and basic necessities we distributed in FY2023, a large majority (60 percent) were dry goods, which includes canned and jarred foods, pasta, rice, cereals, beans, and legumes. Meat, fresh vegetables, and fresh fruit combined make up about a third of our distribution, while other perishable items (breads, dairy products) and non-food items make up 10 percent. Non-food items include personal hygiene products, baby and adult diapers, and other paper products.



HOW MUCH IS 3.4 MILLION POUNDS?



**Imagine 113
fully loaded
school buses!**

DONORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

We are extremely grateful for everyone who contribute food to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The shelf-stable items that we collect through individual donations and food drives are a key component of the food we distribute.

Over the past few years, purchased food has taken a greater role in the variety we provide to our Network Partners. Purchasing food allows us to expand our offerings of fresh vegetables and fruits, lean proteins, and culturally relevant foods.

Monetary gifts to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank make this possible. We particularly appreciate the generosity of our donors making monthly contributions. These regularly scheduled donations provide us with the security to purchase the much needed fresh produce and other nutritious, healthy food. They also bring us flexibility when a need arises for specific items, such as baby formula or diapers.

Throughout the year, AACFB participates in two major fundraising campaigns (a summer match campaign with Crosby Marketing Communications and a year-end appeal). Giving Tuesday is also a major fundraising opportunity. In FY2023, 310 individual donors raised \$83,543 on this one-day event (held on the Tuesday immediately following Thanksgiving).

**THANK YOU TO OUR
DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED
MORE THAN \$2 MILLION TO
SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK'S
MISSION AND PROGRAMS.**

Feeding Hope: *A Fun Evening for a Serious Cause*

On May 18, 2023, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank hosted its second annual Feeding Hope event. Presented by M&T Bank, the event raised more than \$80,000 to help meet the unprecedented increase in requests for food assistance throughout Anne Arundel County. Over 200 food bank supporters gathered at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville to raise funds to help our food-insecure neighbors fill their tables with fresh, nutritious food.



During the event, AACFB recognized our Hunger Heroes — individuals and businesses that go above and beyond to help not just the food bank, but more importantly our neighbors facing food insecurity. This year's Hunger Heroes included: Crosby Marketing Communications (Community Partner), U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Action Group (Commitment to Service), and Rick Smoak and David Petrillo (Lifetime Impact).

Overall, the event was extremely successful, uplifting, and full of hope. Event attendees were treated to small plates from ten local restaurants, plus fine wine, beer, and margaritas, and live music by Red Betty & The Ruckus. Michael Hughes served as emcee, and along with a matching challenge from Sisco Associates, inspired the crowd to raise an additional \$21,000.

The AACFB thanks presenting event sponsor M&T Bank and every Feeding Hope event supporter who helped raise funds to further our work ensuring everyone has enough to eat in Anne Arundel County.



2023 MAJOR SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR

M&T Bank

PLATINUM



GOLD

Ethan & Jennifer
Dietrich Foundation



SILVER



**FEEDING
HOPE
2024**

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 22
Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville

A Look Ahead to FY2024

As one fiscal year ends, we look forward to what the next twelve months will bring. New and expanded programming is planned, which will allow us to meet our mission and make sure our neighbors in need have access to nutritious food.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

At the very start of FY2024, we were excited to launch the Mobile Food Pantry. On Monday, September 18, 2023, AACFB welcomed Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman, county Community Engagement Officer Courtney Buiniskis, and M&T Bank Senior Vice President Moke Wolfe for celebratory remarks followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Immediately following the ceremony, the mobile pantry visited locations in Lothian and Harwood, distributing fresh produce, meat, and shelf-stable foods to approximately 50 households.

The Mobile Food Pantry gives the food bank the ability to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen lean meats, dry packaged foods, and basic necessities directly to the communities where transportation and access to healthy food options are limited. The vehicle holds approximately 3,000 pounds of food and basic necessities, allowing AACFB to serve about 100 households with each visit. AACFB is working with numerous community partners to identify locations for future service, focusing on sites where food access is most limited.

EXPANDING BACKPACK BUDDIES

AACFB works alongside Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Network Partners to provide healthy foods over weekends and holidays to children on FARMS (Free and Reduced Meal System). Eligible students receive items for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with snacks, providing children with a sense of security and proper nourishment critical to academic achievement.

For FY2024, we added nine additional Backpack Buddies sites and will now provide weekend and holiday meals at 36 county public schools and four Head Start programs operated by the Y in Central Maryland.

FURTHERING OUR MISSION

In August 2023, food bank CEO Leah Paley received the official letter from County Executive Steuart Pittman appointing her to the Anne Arundel County Food Council. The council will address inequity in the county's food system by creating a mechanism to launch and coordinate food policies and programs to improve equitable access to nutritious food. Paley will also serve on the health and wellness subcommittee of the recently established Crownsville Advisory Committee. This advisory body will make recommendations on the future use of the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, taking into account the cultural history of the site, the health and wellness of county residents, the need of residents for recreation and parks, and necessary infrastructure to support those uses.



SPONSOR SHOUT-OUT

Amidst the well-wishers at the September 2023 launch of the Mobile Food Pantry, a sea of green stood out in the crowd. A large group of M&T Bank employees were present to celebrate, including Senior Vice President/Group Manager Moke Wolfe and AACFB Board Member and Regional Manager/Senior Vice President Helaine Barry. Not only has M&T been a generous supporter of the new mobile pantry ("Powered by M&T Bank"), the bank was also the presenting sponsor of 2023's Feeding Hope event. The food bank is thankful for M&T's steadfast corporate support of our mission in Anne Arundel County.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FOOD BANK

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Feeding Anne Arundel Since 1986



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FOOD BANK



**FY2023
IMPACT
REPORT**

Building for the Future

LEGACY GIVING MAKES A LASTING IMPACT

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Planned Giving program — **the Cornucopia Society** — to honor our legacy donors and their commitment to alleviating food insecurity in Anne Arundel County today and in the future.

Legacy gifts are a testament to your faith in our work and your belief in our mission. We are excited to honor these important donations and to celebrate our lasting partnership with you.

For more information or to share your plans, please contact Director of Development and External Relations Sarah Reilly at sarah@aafoodbank.org or 410-849-7507.

WHY CORNUCOPIA SOCIETY?

Depicted as a horn overflowing with fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts, the cornucopia is also known as the Horn of Plenty. The name itself comes from the Latin *cornu copiae* (horn of abundance). Western culture has long used the cornucopia as a symbol of the harvest's bounty.

The earliest references to a cornucopia are found in Greek and Roman mythology, dating back nearly 3,000 years. According to Greek myth, the baby Zeus who was destined to become chief of all gods, had to be hidden from his father, Kronos, who consumed all his children so as never to be challenged. The baby was kept in a cave with the goat Amalthea, who fed him.

When Zeus accidentally broke off one of her horns, it developed the power to provide food without end. **The creation of a legacy gift helps to ensure that the Anne Arundel County Food Bank too can provide food to our neighbors without end.**

