



FOOD BANK OF WYOMING™

Igniting the
power of
community
to end hunger



For the past two years, the University of Wyoming's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) in conjunction with the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, part of Wyoming's Nutrition Action Coalition, has donated much of the crop from their potato research program at the university's farm outside of Lingle to Food Bank of Wyoming. In September 2022, volunteers helped harvest and pack nearly 11,000 pounds of potatoes into 10-pound bags which were then distributed to our 150+ Hunger Relief Partners across the state to give to our neighbors experiencing hunger.

GIVE TODAY AT
wyomingfoodbank.org/give-impact-report





Facing Today's Challenges for a Brighter Future

It felt unimaginable two years ago, in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, that we would still be dealing with its effects today. But whereas the challenges first posed by the once-in-a-lifetime event — closed businesses, a surge in unemployment, the shuttering of schools — were painfully obvious, the present-day effects are less visible. They are not, however, less disruptive to Food Bank of Wyoming's commitment to providing anyone who needs it with the familiar, nutrient-rich food they need to thrive.

Inflation is currently at a 40-year high. This has caused the cost of basic necessities such as housing, transportation, groceries, and more to skyrocket, forcing more community members to seek food assistance to stretch their budgets. Food inflation is hitting Food Bank of Wyoming's budget, too, with some staples costing as much as 70% more compared to last year. Indeed, for the first time in many years, \$1 now only allows us to distribute enough food for three meals, not four — an enormous shift and the result of increased need, a rise in food and fuel costs, and a reduction in donated and government commodity food supplies.

To meet the needs of our neighbors experiencing hunger, we are spending an additional \$120,000 or more every month to purchase food — more than triple what we were spending pre-COVID. There are multiple factors causing this increase, including:

- A decrease in donated food from retailers, manufacturers, and agricultural partners.
- A decrease in food donated or funded through government programs.
- A year-over-year increase in freight costs adding to the overall cost for receiving food and trucking food to our distribution centers and partners.
- A year-over-year increase in the cost of food and amount of food we are purchasing.
- An increase in need for food. Compared to 18 months ago, families in the U.S. on average are spending \$460 more per month on food, housing, transportation, and other essentials.

Food Bank of Wyoming is adapting to these times by purchasing high-quality food to continue providing an array of nourishing options to our clients, including truckloads of fresh produce. Above all, we are remaining diligent in our efforts to do whatever we can to remove the burden of hunger from our neighbors.

Amidst these challenges we have been able to respond with more boldness, audacity, and perseverance than we could have dreamed. And that is because of our community of supporters — volunteers and donors who have recognized this critical moment and heeded the call with generous outpourings of support. Each of you has stepped up with your time and funds and validated that the unprecedented moves we've had to make to adapt were the right response for what our community has needed.

Thank you again for partnering with us. We are so thankful for you.



Sincerely,

Rachel Bailey

Rachel Bailey
Executive Director



**FOOD
BANK**
OF WYOMING™

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Our **2022 numbers** illustrate a sustained high need for food and innovative support throughout Wyoming



Individuals Served
61,880

Volunteer hours logged
12,135



Total Pounds of Food Distributed
9,270,290

Meal Equivalent for Pounds Distributed
7,493,484

Meals Distributed on Average per Day
20,530

Service Area Covered
97,093
SQUARE MILES

Number of Hunger Relief Partners
150+

Fresh fruits and vegetables as percentage of total pounds distributed
30%



How We Help

19+ MOBILE PANTRY SITES bring food and necessities where they're needed

Direct Programs

include Totes of Hope™ for kids, deliveries for homebound older adults, emergency relief, and more.

Funding

fuels operations through donations and ongoing foundational support.

96¢ of every dollar goes directly to our food distribution work

Food

comes from grocery rescue and donations. We also buy in bulk to help funds go further.

\$1 helps us distribute enough food for 3 meals

Together, we can.

150+ Hunger Relief Partners operate in communities throughout Wyoming

Hunger Relief Partners

like food pantries receive our food and distribute directly to people in need.

Staff & Volunteers

work every day to organize and distribute food to our partners and programs.

4,000+ VOLUNTEERS help sort and distribute food and necessities in a typical year

Our fiscal year 2022 audited financial reports will be available online in early 2023. To access financial reports from recent years and the upcoming FY22 report, please visit wyomingfoodbank.org/about/financials

FROM FAIRGROUND TO FOOD CENTER:

Buffalo's Monthly Mobile Pantry

A line of trucks, cars, and vans snakes its way around the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Buffalo on a blustery Tuesday morning. Outside the Community Building, stacks of boxes and bags filled with food grow higher and wider as volunteers file in and out of the entryway carrying load after load of potatoes, raspberries, frozen fish, green beans, and several other items. The space soon looks like a pop-up grocery store, just like each of Food Bank of Wyoming's 19+ mobile pantry sites does just before distribution begins.

Among the volunteers are a handful of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students, earning credit toward lettering in their activity with each hour they donate to helping feed their neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Bev, a teacher and the Buffalo FFA coordinator, is there, too, joking with the teenagers and helping pack food. "I take whatever is left back to the school for the kids," she said. "Having snacks on hand is helpful, especially because some of the students don't have much 'extra' at home."

While food insecurity has always been present in Buffalo, the COVID-19 pandemic and record-high inflation has caused the need for food in the community to noticeably increase.

"I never thought I'd have to worry about getting food or anything. But boy, when that virus hit, it just knocked everything out," said Sherree, one of the more than 50 people already waiting in line an hour before the pantry officially started, her friend Janice in the passenger seat. "Now, we don't know day to day what's going to be available in the stores."

Sherree is on disability and lives with her elderly mother. Janice is her neighbor, and the two are all smiles as they recall the many meals they've created using food from the boxes.

"We don't believe in wasting any of the food," said Sherree. "Nothing goes to waste."

"There's nothing that we can't use," added Janice. "We can always find somebody who needs it if we can't use it. But we usually use all of it."

Janice (left) and Sherree (right) are among the 150 or so people who regularly attend Food Bank of Wyoming's mobile pantry in Buffalo every month. The neighbors and friends say the food helps them stretch their budgets and nourish their families.





“

It gets pretty tight with our budget; sometimes we have to choose between prescriptions and food. So this is a life-saving gift for us.

The friends have crafted dozens of recipes together over the last two years, often making enough to feed coworkers and friends along with their own immediate families.

“It’s like Christmas every month,” said Janice. “We get excited to see what’s in the box.” Added Sherree: “We get giddy!” The two laughed. “But really, we’re very, very grateful for this food,” continued Sherree. “It gets pretty tight with our budget; sometimes we have to choose between prescriptions and food. So this is a life-saving gift for us.”

On average, 150 people attend Buffalo’s monthly mobile pantry.

Many people pick up for themselves as well as neighbors, friends, or family members who can’t take off from work or don’t have the transportation to get there.

Among the many people in line are several individuals who use the food boxes to supplement their limited incomes.

“I’m on Social Security, so I am on a budget. Everybody’s on a budget,” said David. “This definitely helps. The potatoes and the fruit are really good because they aren’t easy to come by. We’re grateful for anything that we can use.”

When the mobile pantry begins, a line of more than 60 cars is weaving through the fairgrounds. The whipping wind and dropping temperatures don’t deter the cheerful volunteers as they place boxes and bags of food into trunk after trunk, smiles on their wind-bitten cheeks. People in line return the smiles and depart with a wave. They are all part of the same community and there to support one another in whatever ways they can, be it with time and energy volunteered or smiles and thank-yous exchanged. 🍎



Fresh produce, dairy, bread, protein, and other staple items are distributed at Food Bank of Wyoming’s 19+ mobile pantries across the state every month. Volunteers organize and distribute the food, which is provided at no cost to clients.



Sustainability, Innovation, and Programmatic Growth

In order to fulfill our mission of igniting the power of community to nourish our neighbors experiencing hunger, the team at Food Bank of Wyoming relies on the people who can help solve the issue of food insecurity first-hand: The members of the communities we serve. All across Wyoming, we partner with a wide array of individuals, organizations, groups, and businesses to fuel our diverse programming, all with the goal of doing whatever we can to meet the needs of our neighbors in whatever way most benefits them.



The food and products that we donate are still in great condition, and you would just be heartbroken if you saw that go to waste knowing that people in our community can use it and knowing that we have the resources to get it to them.

One such business is Natural Grocers, whose locations in Cheyenne and Casper are longtime Grocery Rescue Program partners and donors to Food Bank of Wyoming through their “bring your own bag” program, which donates 5 cents per reusable bag brought by customers to the Food Bank.

In fiscal year 2022, Food Bank of Wyoming obtained and distributed over 4.4 million pounds of quality food items — nearly 48% of the total pounds of food distributed — through the Grocery Rescue Program. These were items from retailers with damaged packaging or other defects not affecting the products’ integrity — a bruise, perhaps — that were then delivered to Hunger Relief Partners to distribute to our neighbors facing hunger.

Katie Macarelli oversees Natural Grocers’ grocery rescue partnership with Food Bank of Wyoming and said it is a natural fit for them.

“The grocery rescue program is very important to us in terms of our founding principles, one of which is commitment to our communities,” she explained. “The other is environmentally; we do a variety of things to try to avoid food waste. We absolutely don’t want to see any good food go into the trash when there are families and folks that can use it. The food and products that we donate are still in great condition, and you would just be heartbroken if you saw that go to waste knowing that people in our community can use it and knowing that we have the resources to get it to them.”

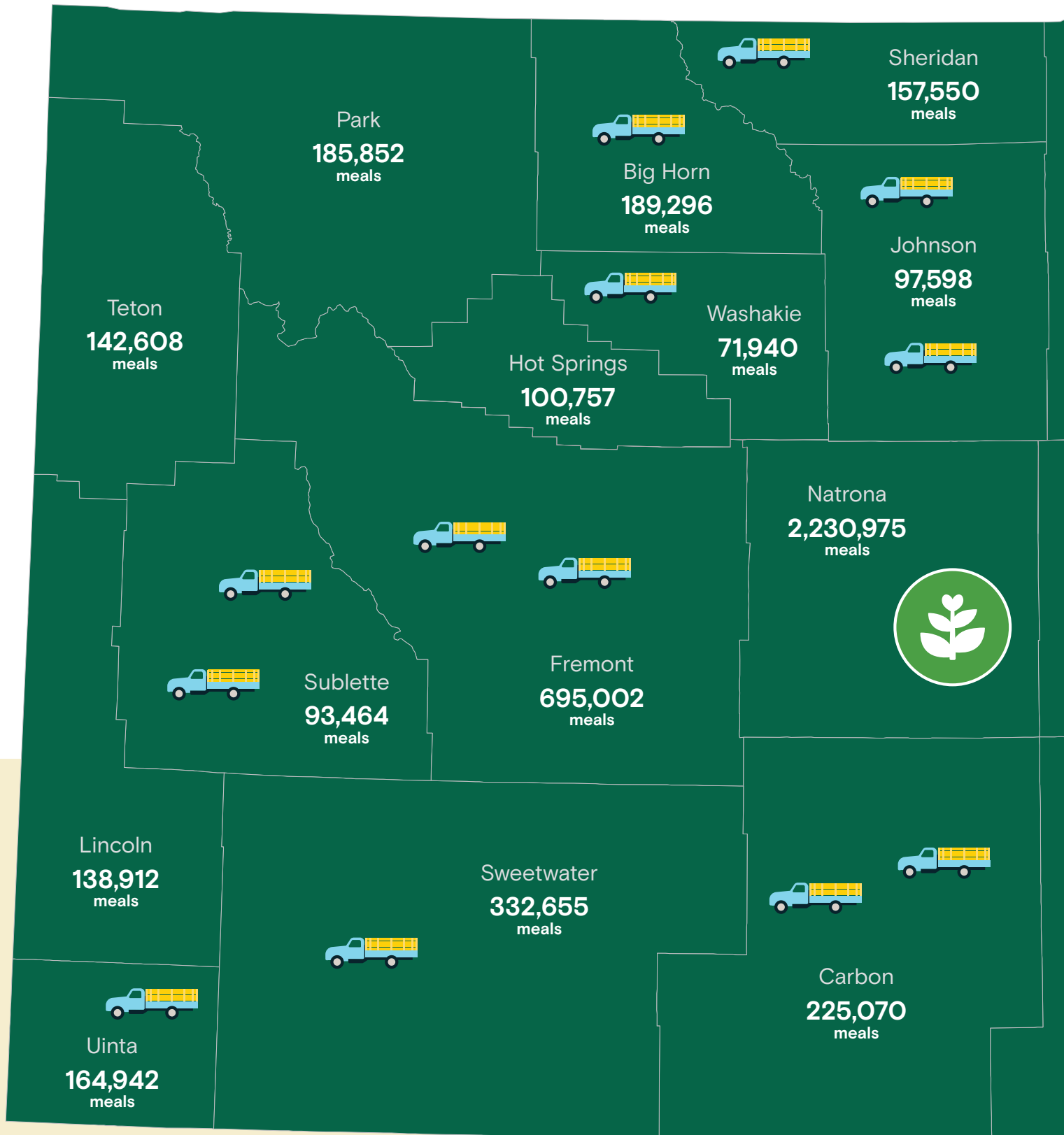
Another way Food Bank of Wyoming strives to provide our neighbors with the nutrient-rich food they need to thrive is through the FRESH Program, which supplies our 150+ Hunger Relief Partners with fresh produce at no cost. The amount has been steadily increasing since the program began in June 2021; currently, partners receive over 48,800 pounds of produce every month — the equivalent of nearly two 53-foot-long trailers.

The single largest amount of material sent to landfills in the U.S. comes from food waste. To reduce this amount and ensure our neighbors receive the nourishing food they need to thrive, in fiscal year 2022 Food Bank of Wyoming worked with retail and agricultural partners to procure and distribute over 4.4 million pounds of food through our Grocery Rescue Program.

We also benefit from the generosity of donors like the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) in Goshen County. In September 2021, SAREC, in partnership with the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program and Food Bank of Wyoming, planted, harvested, and donated over 6,500 pounds of potatoes to the Food Bank to distribute to our neighbors across the state. This September, they donated over 10,900 pounds of potatoes — an amazing contribution at any time, but especially now, when the cost of potatoes has risen by 71% in the last year.

By partnering with a diverse array of community organizations, programs, and thought leaders, Food Bank of Wyoming is able to strengthen innovative initiatives and programming like Grocery Rescue, FRESH, and more. It is through these partnerships that together we can truly meet the needs of the people in Wyoming experiencing hunger — and get one step closer to ending food insecurity for good. 🌱



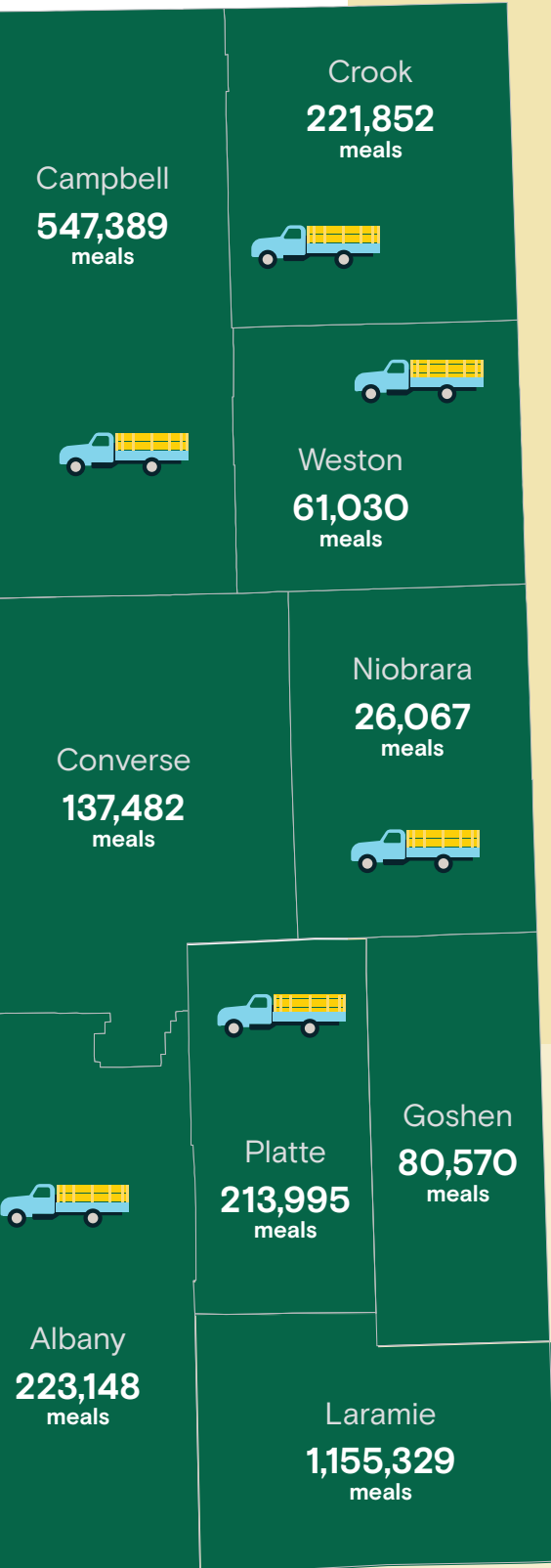




Nourishing Neighbors Across Wyoming

Hunger cuts across demographics and borders, indifferent to the past, present or future chapters of a person’s life. Through our 150+ Hunger Relief Partners and mobile pantries located across the state, Food Bank of Wyoming meets individuals wherever they need us, ensuring that anyone who is experiencing hunger gets the nourishing food they need to thrive.

The adjacent map demonstrates how we serve Wyoming, including the equivalent amount of meals provided per county in fiscal year 2022 (derived from total pounds distributed).



Food Bank of Wyoming Distribution Area



Food Bank of Wyoming Distribution Center



Food Bank of Wyoming Mobile Pantry

Note: The number presented in each county is the meals equivalent for pounds distributed there through our Hunger Relief Partners and mobile pantries in fiscal year 2022. Total pounds of food distributed across all of Wyoming in fiscal year 2022 was 9,270,290, the equivalent of 7,493,484 meals.



P.O. Box 1540
Evansville, WY 82636



Mailing Address
City, State Zip

LOOKING AHEAD

Taking Action to End Hunger, Together

Every day, thousands of people of all ages, walks of life, and backgrounds across Wyoming seek out Food Bank of Wyoming's services. These are our friends and neighbors, and could be any one of us if life took a sudden turn.

There is no single description of a Food Bank of Wyoming client, but there is a common throughline: They are people in need of food, and they know they can depend on our distributions and partnerships across the state to get the nourishment required to thrive.

In order to meet people where and how they need us most, Food Bank of Wyoming channels resources into a diverse array of programming. Mobile pantries fill the gap in areas where nourishing food is hard to access or beyond peoples' budgets. The Culturally Responsive Food Initiative provides neighbors with foods that are familiar and respectful of cultural preferences. Grocery rescue keeps good food out of the landfills and provides clients with the nourishing food they need to live well.

We are able to do all these things and more thanks to you, our dedicated and valued supporters. Thanks to you we are able to look forward to 2023 with hopeful anticipation and optimism, knowing that wherever there is a need, together we will find an innovative, effective way to meet it. Together, we can.

LEAVE A LEGACY:

Join the Heirloom Circle

Did you know you can include Food Bank of Wyoming in your will? By doing so, you'll be part of our Heirloom Circle and leave a legacy of generosity while ensuring future generations of Wyomingites have the food they need to thrive.

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jill Stillwagon at jstillwagon@wyomingfoodbank.org or 307-232-4009.



Inspired to learn more about how we are answering the challenge of hunger? Look inside for stories of impact, and find our full report online at wyomingfoodbank.org/impact-report