

# NOTES ON HUNGER

Spring 2022



**FEEDING  
AMERICA**<sup>™</sup>  
*Kentucky's Heartland*

## Responding to Kentucky's Tornado Disaster

On December 10th and 11th, tornadoes tore across Kentucky causing significant damage and loss of life. Of the 16 counties that FEMA declared disaster areas, 15 were in our service area.

Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland's staff **responded immediately** and **continues to respond**. First thing Saturday morning, we contacted our partner agencies in affected counties and recruited volunteers who packed and distributed transient food bags for emergency shelters. Next, we secured and readied an alternate warehouse location in Paducah to replace the PADD Food Bank in Mayfield that was completely destroyed

In the weeks following, Feeding America's nation-wide network of 200 food banks rallied behind Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland. We responded to neighbors in need in big ways:

- **Distributed 7,222 emergency food boxes via Mobile Food Pantries.**
- **Deployed four Mobile Food Pantries in Bowling Green, Kentucky, serving 2,000 households.**
- **Received and distributed over 70 tractor trailer loads of donated food from distributors such as Amazon, Food Lion, HEB, and General Mills as well as Feeding America and sister food banks across our national network.**
- **Distributed 649,636 pounds of donated food; equivalent to 541,363 meals.**
- **Extended \$338,784 in credits to our partnering agencies - church pantries, soup kitchens and shelters - for food and deliveries.**
- **Total distribution to tornado affected counties between December 10, 2021 and mid-February 2022 was over 1.5 million pounds of food.**

We're grateful for the support of our volunteers, donors, agency partners, and the Feeding America network. Our



shared mission, "No One Goes To Bed Hungry In Our Service Area," is being realized because your support has enabled us to serve our neighbors facing hunger before, during and after this disaster.

Our long-term recovery plan involves continuous assessment of food-insecurity in tornado affected counties. Strategies in development for those counties include:

- Fully funding Backpack Programs to address additional food-insecurity of school aged students and their families.
- Ramp up Mobile Food Pantries at schools.
- Continue increased support of our partner agencies - food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters..
- Deploy Kitchen Restock Boxes and fill the pantries of our neighbors facing hunger.

For more details about our tornado response visit our Disaster Response page at [www.feedingamericaky.org/tornadorelief/](http://www.feedingamericaky.org/tornadorelief/)

## A Partner's Perspective ...

Jackie Herndon has served as the executive director of Mayfield-Graves County Needline and Food Pantry for 13 years.

"I retired once but this is the best job I ever had, so I'm back at it," Jackie jokes.

The December tornado created an even bigger challenge for Jackie's community, which was already struggling to recover from the pandemic. "Tornado damage has even impacted the day-to-day routines of folks in Mayfield," Jackie says.

In light of these struggles, staff at the Needline are spending more



time with clients, many who have had limited social interaction over the past two years. "We've just slowed down and enjoyed talking to people more," said Jackie.

## ... and a Survivor's Story

**Tim** is one of many Kentuckians whose life changed on Dec. 10, 2021. His community of Mayfield was devastated by an EF-4 tornado. His home sustained significant damage and his neighborhood was in shambles. Still, like a beacon of hope, an American Flag waved proudly and untouched in his backyard.

"I was just kind of dragging my feet. I went up and down from the basement several times, thinking of additional things I might need. I decided that's not where I wanted to be, so I hit the road and took off." Tim said. Fifteen minutes later, the tornado destroyed his house.

"It was pitch black when I came back," he said. "You can't appreciate street lights until the power is gone and none of the street lights are working. The first thing I noticed was a stream of water, and I thought it was odd for so much water to be on the road. Later we found out that the water tower had collapsed.



As I approached my house, I saw all the damage, but your heart still hopes. It's hard to wrap your mind around it. This was my home. I had fixed the landscaping, the windows were new, my roof was three years old. It's hard to process."

"It's not just my home, it's many others, and it's just going to be a community effort," he said. "It's going to be a long process, not only for individuals but also for our community to start over from a place that we've never been. We've never been here before. We are very appreciative of what we've seen. Total strangers have come to help and we appreciate it."



1982-2022:

# 40 years of fighting hunger

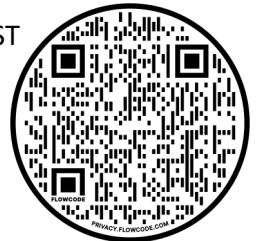
40 years | 42 counties | 3 celebrations

Join us for a night of celebration as we walk down memory lane with stories of our journey.

Casual picnic dinner will be provided.

- **Hopkinsville**  
May 12th, 5-7pm CST  
Western Kentucky Fairgrounds
- **Elizabethtown**  
May 26th, 5-7pm EST  
Hardin County Extension Office  
Services Center
- **Bowling Green**  
June 16th, 5-7pm CST  
Ephram White Park

Please RSVP via email to  
[40th@feedingamericaky.org](mailto:40th@feedingamericaky.org)  
or scan the code at right.



Feeding America is excited to announce the Walmart and Sam's Club Fight Hunger. Spark Change campaign, planned for April 18 - May 15, 2022. Funds raised stay local and there are three ways to give:

**1) Product Purchase:** Each participating item purchased in-store and online will unlock a donation equivalent to one meal secured by Feeding America® on behalf of local member food banks from each supplier.

**2) Register Giving:** Customers will have the option to give at check-out.

**3) Online Donation:** Customers can also give online. The online donation form can be found at [www.FeedingAmerica.org/](http://www.FeedingAmerica.org/) Walmart and [www.FeedingAmerica.org/](http://www.FeedingAmerica.org/)



# THANK YOU HUNGER HEROES

William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust	Realtor Association Of Southern Kentucky, Inc.
Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation	Walmart Foundation Community Grants
Morgan & Morgan	One Main General Services Corporation
Feeding America National Organization	TC Energy Foundation
Together Rising	Cracker Barrel Foundation
Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, Kentucky Medicaid	Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
AARP Foundation	ProFrac Services, LLC
Jeno & Lois Paulucci Family Foundation	Kroger Company Foundation
Lifepoint Health	Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation	United Natural Foods, The UPS Foundation
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.	Leichtag Foundation
David and Nicole Tepper Charitable Foundation	Mary Cofer Trigg Fund
Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation	United Way of Central Kentucky
Global Giving	Brenntag North America, Inc.
Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation	The Congregational Church of New Canaan
Share Our Strength	Legrand North America, LLC
WoodmenLife Chapters	United Way of Southern Kentucky
Anthem BlueCross BlueShield Foundation	Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Southwire Cares: Project Gift	Jeffie's Choice, Inc.
Lefkowsky Family Foundation	No Hunger Food Pantry
Schultz Family Foundation	Prince Charitable Trust
Sozosei Foundation	Reader Mood McClary Foundation, Inc.
The Papa John's Foundation, Inc.	Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
Tennessee Valley Authority	Newcomb Oil Company
Brother's Brother Foundation	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Central Kentucky Community Foundation	
Dollar General Corp.	

# Food for Thought

Jamie Sizemore, Executive Director

One of the most important programs in our FAKH mission is providing food, water and supplies during disaster relief efforts. When the devastating and deadly tornadoes hit Kentucky this past December, FAKH, our partner distribution organization located in Mayfield and many of our partner agencies were certainly put to the test. With 15 of the 16 Kentucky counties declared a natural disaster area by the federal government located in the FAKH service area, our own resources were stretched beyond their limits as we worked to meet the immediate and ongoing needs of the individuals and families impacted.




While a horribly tragic event unlike any I have ever witnessed in my lifetime, I am extremely proud of how resilient our employees, partner agencies and volunteers were during this time of crisis. I am amazed and humbled by the outpouring of support we received from the Feeding America National Organization, our network of sister food banks that serve Kentucky and across the nation, food manufacturers, corporations, local businesses and many financial donors. Without this critical support from so many sources, we could not have responded with the full force needed immediately following the storms and the continued disaster recovery efforts now in place for many months to come.

You'll also find in this edition, information on our efforts to get more fresh fruits and vegetables on the tables of our food insecure neighbors. Whether it's through the statewide Farms to Food Banks program, growing an extra row in your summer garden or volunteering with Glean KY in the South Central region of our service area, you can make an impact as one person.

And finally, FAKH is celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year. Who could have imagined that our food bank would grow from distributing 80,000 pounds of product to five partner agencies in our first full year to just under 21 million pounds to more than 240 partner agencies across 42 counties? To commemorate this special occasion, we will be celebrating with three regional events in Elizabethtown, Bowling Green and Hopkinsville. We hope you, as a valuable stakeholder of our organization, will join us at the nearest event as we recognize those who have "Come to the Table" to end hunger.

As always, thank you for your partnership.

*Jamie H. Sizemore*



**Kentucky Gives Day**  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | Backpack Greatest Needs

\$3 feeds a child in need  
\$120 sponsors a child for an entire school year



## Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

Providing fresh produce is a key part of our commitment to fighting hunger in Kentucky. The Farms to Food Banks statewide program helps Kentucky farmers cover the costs to harvest, package and transport fresh, edible agricultural products that they're unable to sell due to minor blemishes, size discrepancies or over production. This nourishing food is distributed free of charge to hungry Kentuckians throughout the state by food banks and partner agencies. Since the program's inception in 2011 over 11 million pounds of fresh Kentucky produce has been provided by 1,030 farmers.

### How can you help?

- Make a donation when filing your Kentucky taxes. Check the Farms to Food Banks Trust Fund box on line 38(e).
- Grow an extra row in your garden or if you have excess bounty, donate extra produce to a local food pantry.
- Volunteer to Glean in South Central Kentucky. FAKH and Glean KY have teamed up to collect excess produce from farms, orchards, farmers' markets and grocery stores to redistribute directly to local feeding programs. Visit [www.gleanky.org/volunteer](http://www.gleanky.org/volunteer), email [jerilyn@gleanky.org](mailto:jerilyn@gleanky.org)

## Give the Gift of Your Time April is National Volunteer Month!

Individuals and groups from all over our state give their time packing Backpack Program Bags and Senior Boxes at our Volunteer Center, while thousands of people serve at their local pantries and distribution events — getting food into the hands of their neighbors in need.

While we can boast some of the best volunteers in the Heartland, it takes a village to fight hunger, and a moment of your time can make the difference between an empty stomach or a warm meal.

If you have a break in your day or are looking for something meaningful to do, fill your time gap by filling the food gap with us!

To find volunteer opportunities in your area, connect with our Volunteer Coordinator, Kaitlyn: 270-735-1407, [volunteer@feedingamericaky.org](mailto:volunteer@feedingamericaky.org).



**YES, I WANT TO FEED THOSE FACING HUNGER**

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$100  \$50  \$25  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

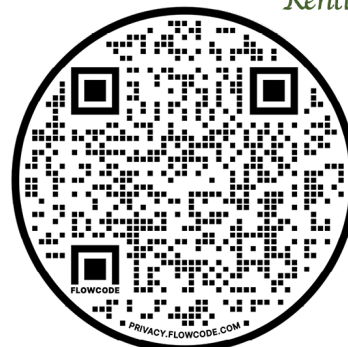
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland  
P.O. Box 821, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0821

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AMERICA**  
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