

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A YEAR OF ACTION





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

2024 was an incredible first year as [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org)! After rebranding from MEANS Database to FoodRecovery.org at the beginning of 2024, we knew that it would be a year of action for us and our partners across the country.

This past year, we saw more dairy, produce, and prepared meals across our system than ever before. We built up new and strengthened existing partnerships with warehouses, businesses, schools, farmers, manufacturers, and other food donors, resulting in a 53% increase in the amount of food donated via FoodRecovery.org compared to 2023. Our wonderful team worked hard to recover more than 81 million pounds of food and supplies across the country, supporting our neighbors in need while keeping perfectly great food out of the landfill.

While we were able to increase our impact in 2024, challenges surrounding supply chains, natural disasters, and infrastructure gaps pushed us to adapt throughout the year. To overcome these obstacles, we came up with new solutions and systems with our partners to achieve our main goal: to prevent wasted food and increase food donations.

Thanks to you—our community of supporters and partners—we are looking ahead to even more impact this upcoming year. In 2025, we plan to recover 100 million pounds of food and supplies, work in new areas across the country, and continue to build partnerships and community connections to make sure food is reaching our neighbors in need. I'm looking forward to working with you all this year—let's get started!

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Sammie Paul'.

SAMMIE PAUL

Executive Director

NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

To kick off 2024, we decided it was time to pivot towards a fresh look that conveys exactly who we are and what we do.

We rebranded to FoodRecovery.org- the same great organization with a clear-cut name describing exactly what we do:

Save Food. Feed People.

We traded in our can logo that represented our original concept—focused on nonperishable small food donations from restaurants, cafeterias, and events—for a new logo that highlights our role in coordinating food recovery—transportation and logistics of surplus food.

Under our new name and logo, FoodRecovery.org was able to recover nearly double the amount of food we recovered in 2023. We communicated our mission to new food donor partners, clarified our operations to those who were unfamiliar with us, and developed branding that identifies our services and goals.

As FoodRecovery.org continues to grow and serve communities across the country, we hope that our new name and new logo allows us to increase our capacity and serve more communities.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

At FoodRecovery.org, we strive to be as transparent as possible with our financial donations, grants, and expenses. We are so grateful to all our financial supporters who believe in our mission to assist nonprofits serving those facing food insecurity. See our income and expenses breakdown below, and read more about our financials from [Candid/GuideStar](#).

FIGURE 1.

A breakdown of our income for 2024

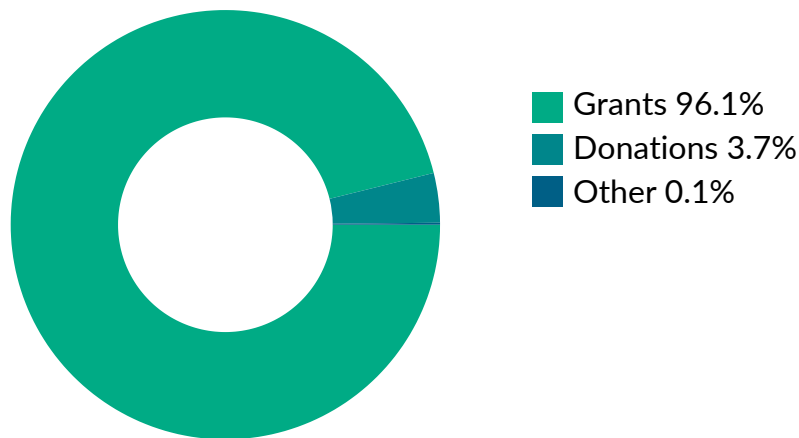
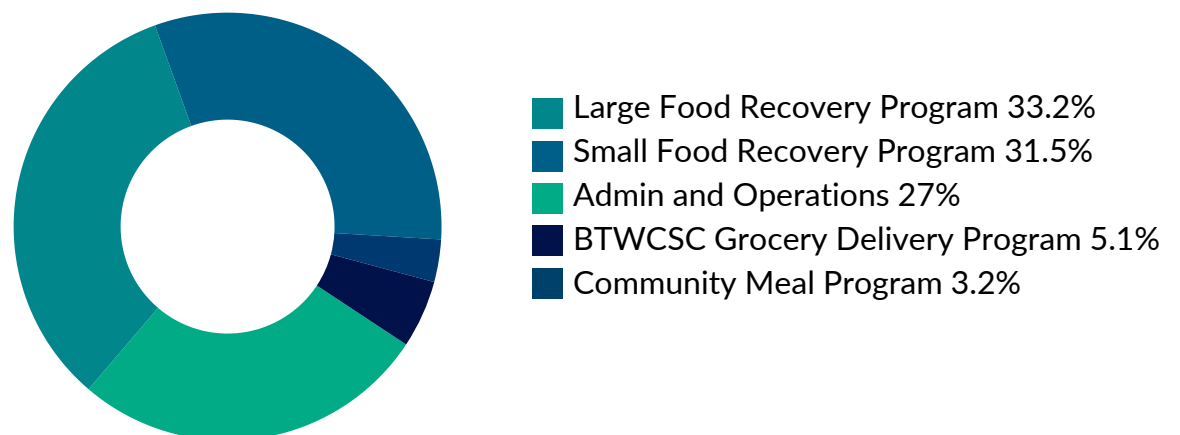


FIGURE 2.

A breakdown of our expenses for 2024



FOOD RECOVERY AT A GLANCE

In 2024, FoodRecovery.org recovered and donated **81,386,380 pounds** of food and supplies across the nation. Without this recovery, over 81 million pounds of surplus food and supplies could have ended up in a landfill, causing an estimated 62,561,401 pounds of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, we provided high-quality, nutritious food to families in need.

Along with our donations, our programming grew as well. We expanded school food recovery, deepened our relationships in communities such as New York and Rhode Island, and provided disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

This growth was not possible without support from the community. We received generous grant funding from organizations like UNFI, Grubhub Community Fund, Cargill, Irvin Stern, EPA Healthy Communities, StopWaste, EcoLab, and Gulf Coast Community Foundation which allowed us to provide delivery services all over the country. We also partnered with incredible food donors, financial donors, nonprofit recipients, and transportation teams to provide quality food for communities nationwide.

In 2023, we recovered 52 million pounds of food and supplies as MEANS Database. In 2024, we recovered over 81 million pounds as FoodRecovery.org. It was a truly an incredible year of growth, community, and impact.



Bananas donated to those impacted by Hurricane Helene



Prepared food donations delivered to Reformation Church Food Pantry by our driver, Jess Fortunato.

DONATION DATA OVERVIEW

In 2024 we continued our massive growth from food industry donations (i.e. warehouses, rejected truck loads, and other corporate partnerships)! All donation weights are verified by our nonprofit partners. Emissions estimates are calculated by separating donations into one of sixteen categories, and using the guidelines set by **Food Loss and Waste Protocol** (FLWP), developed by the World Resources Institute, Food and Agriculture Association, and the United Nations Environment Programme. *Water Waste Prevented* is a simple conversion of pounds of bottled drinks to gallons of water. Finally, donation values are derived from the \$1.97 per pound standard set by Feeding America.

THE NUMBERS



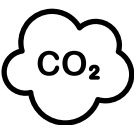
81,386,380 pounds

Gross Weight of Recovered Food and Supplies



2,884,686 gallons

Water Waste Prevented



62,561,401 pounds of CO2e

Offset Landfill Emissions



\$160,331,170

Value of Donations

WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are partnering with Brightly Ventures, Inc. to improve our offset landfill emissions estimates and generate funding from our carbon offsets. Once Brightly publishes their data we will revise all our offset estimates from 2020 onward.
- We are gathering more information from our partner organizations about their distribution networks to understand our reach and impact at a local level.
- We are improving our database and web-app to store and share more accurate donation data even faster.

LARGE DONATIONS

Every year, millions of pounds of high-quality food could end up in landfills because of short-coded dating, labeling errors, rejected loads, and surplus in the supply chain. FoodRecovery.org works with warehouses, distribution centers, manufacturers, farmers, and truck drivers to recover palletized and bulk-packaged food across the country.

In 2024 through our large donation recovery, we moved over 80 million pounds of palletized products and donated it all for free to food banks, food pantries, churches, and mutual aid groups serving their communities.



3,992,078 pounds of apples recovered and donated nationwide!



In December we donated 16,962 pounds of yogurt to a nonprofit in Idaho!

80,364,248

pounds of large food donations in 2024

4,215

nonprofit and business partners across the United States and Canada

CALIFORNIA

In 2024, our team worked to donate **7,203,058 pounds** of food, drinks, and supplies to communities across California!

This year, we collaborated with Oakland Unified School District and the nonprofit organization Food Connect to create a school food recovery program. Currently, the OUSD central kitchen has reconfigured their internal programming to reduce food waste and frequently donate surplus food from their school cafeterias to local nonprofits. So far, we have recovered 8,789 pounds of food from Oakland Unified School District!

Other notable accomplishments:

- **4,026,162 pounds** of high-quality products like milk, cheese, and yogurt donated to local nonprofits
- **52,926 pounds** of fresh produce and food transported with our nonprofit partner Laborers of the Harvest, supporting more rural communities in California
- **250 pounds** of food recovered from local music venues after concerts, thanks to our partnership with Musically Fed
- Supported and advocated for SB-1383 implementation with local businesses



55,457 pounds of shelf stable milk donated as disaster relief for the Eaton Canyon fire

7,203,058

pounds of food, drinks,
and supplies donated



Volunteers from Oakland Trybe handing out grapes provided by FoodRecovery.org

FLORIDA

In 2024, **29,788,756 pounds of food and supplies** were donated to Florida nonprofits! That is a 35% increase since last year. We diversified and started working with new partners across the state while continuing the successful program with Orange County Public Schools, who recovered **106,227 pounds of food this year**; it was another record breaking year!

Notable projects that were accomplished this year:

- Received grant funding from Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Bishop Parker Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, United Way Suncoast, Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Collier Community Foundation
- Completed the Gulf Coast Leadership Institute
- Supported a successful event food recovery at the Cognizant Classic PGA tour in Delray Beach, Ultra Music Festival in Miami and the Tortuga Music Festival in Ft. Lauderdale
- Wrapped up the Samoset Farm Stand project (our local farm partner, Honeyside Farms, closed)
- Advocated with the Zero Food Waste Coalition to have Florida senators and legislators support the Food Date Labeling Act
- Provided needed donated food in the aftermath of Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton

As we look at a new year, we excited to start the Fairness Project, that will pilot a new tiered notification system to give disadvantaged organizations additional time to claim donations, promoting a fairer distribution of resources, while continuing our existing programs across the state.

29,788,756

Total pounds donated in 2024

35%

increase in pounds donated
since last year



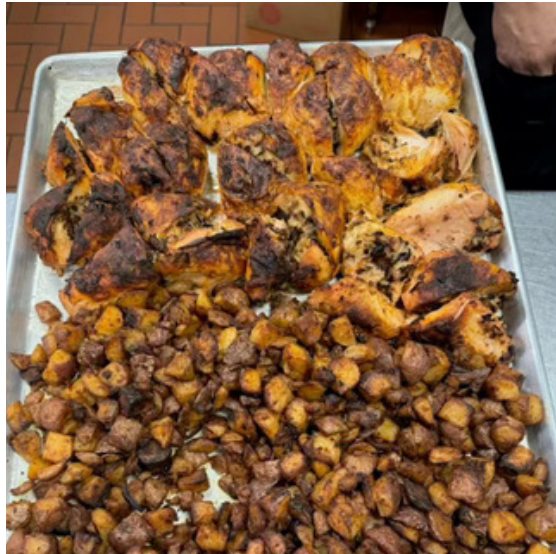
Emily volunteering with 360 Eats for the Community Meal Program that provided 200 meals to Pinellas County residents

NEW ENGLAND

In 2024, we strengthened our food recovery initiatives across New England through vital partnerships with Rescuing Leftover Cuisine and the EPA, focusing our efforts in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. A highlight of our impact was the September webinar collaboration with Epic Renewal, where we educated businesses about food donation opportunities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, helping to reduce food waste while supporting local communities.

225,304

Pounds of food donated in New England in 2024



We started recurring pickups from a cafe chain in RI and MA, delivering fresh bakery items to dozens of food pantries, shelters, and emergency food programs. We also partnered with several universities in RI to recover their surplus catered food—we love prepared meals!



In partnership with a warehouse in MA, we recovered hundreds of pallets of surplus product, from dairy to drinks. Here is a pallet of drinks being loaded for Providence Rescue Mission!

NEW JERSEY

In 2024, FoodRecovery.org continued to strengthen our food recovery efforts in New Jersey! This year, we provided over **1,306,867 pounds** of food from diverse programs across Camden, Hudson, and Monmouth Counties. That's a **77% increase** in food donated between 2023 and 2024!

Here are some of our most memorable moments from 2024:

- We recovered 3,123 pounds of food in partnership with Ranney School's student food recovery initiative, Panther Plates.
- We began our venue food recovery efforts with iPlay America and Freedom Mortgage Pavilion, donating 999 pounds of food to Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey and Market Street Rescue Mission.
- We donated food from the Fair Haven Farmers Market, Bell Works Fresh Market, and Haddon Heights Farmers Market.
- For the 2nd year in a row, we recovered 1,251 pounds of food from the Sea Hear Now festival in Asbury Park, even getting a feature on News 12 New Jersey!



Chef Theresa helping load delicious donations of prepared food from iPlay America.



Fresh produce donated by Springhouse Farms at the Bell Works Fresh Market

1,306,867 pounds of food donated

77% increase in pounds donated since last year

NEW YORK

This past year, FoodRecovery.org focused on expanding our work in New York. Through our partnerships with amazing organizations on the ground, we were able to donate **1,023,087 pounds** of food to groups helping New Yorkers facing food insecurity!

We've collaborated with Gotham Pantry, Sharing Excess, and Grassroots Grocery to provide thousands of pounds of fresh produce to several Tenant Associations at New York City Housing Authority buildings. In total, this program provided 598,200 pounds of produce to our neighbors across New York City!

We also recovered and donated many large palletized donations in Upstate New York. In March, we recovered 169,216 pounds of baby food! In October, we donated 35,760 pounds of apples to a nonprofit in Binghamton.



Director of Northeast Operations, Allie, helping serve community members in Brooklyn.



A NYCHA community member enjoying produce provided by FoodRecovery.org

1,023,087
pounds of food donated

598,200
pounds of produce provided
to NYCHA sites

HURRICANE RELIEF

In September and October of 2024, communities across Appalachia and the South were battered by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Floods caused by Hurricane Helene ripped through towns in North Carolina and Tennessee, cutting cities like Asheville off from the outside world. Communities in Florida were battered by tornadoes and floods stemming from Hurricane Milton. In response to these disasters, FoodRecovery.org worked with its food recovery partners across the nation to help support communities impacted.

- 359,620 pounds of food and drink were donated to our partners in Florida who were supporting their neighbors impacted by Hurricanes Milton and Helene.
- 115,060 pounds of food and drink were donated to partners of ours in Asheville, North Carolina, after Hurricane Helene devastated the region.
- Our corporate partners donated food and drinks to FoodRecovery.org, allowing us to provide much needed aid to hurricane survivors.
- Through our amazing team of donor partners, nonprofit recipients, and our large load team, we were able to provide hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and drinks to communities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee.



Fresh apples donated to partners in Florida



Bananas being distributed to Hurricane Helene survivors in North Carolina

847,508
pounds of food donated

COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM

In 2024, FoodRecovery.org continued our Community Meal Program thanks to our partnership with the Grubhub Community Fund! Through this program, we purchase catered meals from small and medium sized businesses, and donate those meals to nearby nonprofits serving their neighbors. These events happened across the country, from Florida to California, and many places in between!

We hosted an awesome Community Meal Program event in December with La Casa Norte in Chicago! 150 delicious meals of chicken, collard greens, green beans, yams, mac n' cheese, and cornbread were catered by Grubhub business 6978 Soul Food, and distributed to community members during an event. Alina from La Casa Norte said, "We were able to have this donation coincide with our Winter Wellness event... We had about 10-12 vendors who provided resources for our clients. Everyone LOVED the food. Our Programs staff had an arts and craft station, open mic, raffle and gifts for our clients." One quote from a client: **"It feels like the Thanksgiving dinner you'd have at home."**

1,830 meals served through CMP



Our Florida event with 360 eats.



Meals being distributed to LGBTQ+ seniors in NYC.

KEY PARTNERS



Amplifying our impact with 1% for the planet

This year, our team will leverage our 1% for the planet membership as an environmental partner to amplify our work and continue addressing the most urgent environmental issues of our time.



Providing meals with the Grubhub Community Fund

Our team continues to work with the Grubhub Community Fund to provide hot meals through the Community Meal Program, as well as nationwide food recovery to get surplus food to our neighbors in need.



Collaborating with food businesses & nonprofits

We deeply value our partnerships with food businesses—large and small—and fellow nonprofits to make this work happen!

IN THE NEWS

- [Candid: Philanthropy news](#)
- [Grubhub Community Fund](#)
- [Spectrum News 13 Florida](#)
- [Sarasota Magazine](#)



[CHECK OUT OUR FEATURE ON NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY!](#)

HOW TO SUPPORT

IN 2025



Donate

Your financial contribution helps us recover and distribute more food to our community. Every \$10 donated allows us to recover approximately 500 meals.

Here's how you could financially support us:

- **Donate Monthly:** Join our Sustainable Impact Circle with a recurring donation
- **One-Time Gifts:** Make an immediate difference with a single contribution
- **Corporate Matching:** Double your impact by checking if your employer matches donations
- Consider including FoodRecovery.org in your will & estate planning



Volunteer

Our food recovery work depends on dedicated volunteers:

- **Food Recovery Drivers:** Use your vehicle to collect and deliver food donations
- **Outreach Support:** Make calls to businesses and nonprofits in your community
- **Board Members:** Join our board to contribute to our organization's continued growth



Partner with Us

- **Restaurants and Food Businesses:** Become a food donor partner
- **Community Organizations:** Help us reach more people in need
- **Corporate Partners:** Support our mission through employee engagement opportunities, grants, sponsorships or in-kind donations

Stay in touch!

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