

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE TALKING POINTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Mission Statement:** To eliminate hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties through engagement, collaboration, and leadership.
- **Our vision:** A hunger-free community.
- CFS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- We are a member of Feeding America, the national network of 200 food banks. Together, we feed every county in the United States.
- We are also a member of Feeding Colorado, the network of five Feeding America affiliated food banks in Colorado. Together, we feed every county in the state. Our Feeding Colorado partner food banks include:
 - Food Bank for Larimer County; Weld Food Bank; Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado; and Food Bank of the Rockies (serves Denver, northern Colorado, the Western Slope, and the entire state of Wyoming)

HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY & WHY WE'RE HERE

- Hunger is a reality for 1 in 8 people in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.
- That's 46,000 people (13% of the population), including nearly 12,000 children (15% of the children in the two-county area).
- **Definition of "Food Insecurity":** Lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members (source: USDA).

WHERE DOES THE FOOD COME FROM?

- We collect food in three main ways:
 1. **Donated Food:**
 - CFS collects food from local grocery stores, food processors, retailers, and farms. The food that we "rescue" would otherwise go to waste, making our work extremely sustainable to the environment.
 - What types of food do food businesses donate? Foods that have damaged packaging; are approaching their sell-by date; seasonal items; and "ugly" produce (bruises, wrong size, imperfect color)
 - Community members host food drives to collect non-perishable foods for CFS.
 - CFS volunteers glean food from local farms when they have a surplus harvest.
 2. **Purchased Food:** To supplement donations and ensure we have the variety of foods necessary to meet the nutritional needs of those we serve, CFS leverages national and local relationships to purchase food at the lowest possible price.

3. **Government Support:** We receive some of our food through federal programs that are overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture.

WHERE DOES THE FOOD GO?

- Community Food Share distributes enough food for 22,500 meals a day.
- There are two ways that CFS gets food to people who need it:
 1. **Partner Distribution Programs:** CFS partners with more than 40 non-profit organizations to distribute groceries and meals in the community. Partner Agencies receive food from CFS for free, because every dollar a Partner Agency saves on food can be devoted to assistance with housing, healthcare, education, and other basic needs.
 - Partner Agencies include: Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Bridge House, Broomfield FISH, Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA), the OUR Center, Sister Carmen Community Center, and many more.
 2. **Community Distribution Programs:** CFS operates several programs that directly serve the local food insecure population.
 - Feeding Families: Our onsite pantry that serves families with children in the free or reduced lunch program.
 - Mobile Pantries: We bring “pantries on wheels” to neighborhoods of greatest need. Mobile pantries deliver fresh produce, dairy, non-perishables, and bakery items.
 - Elder Share: Similar to a mobile pantry, but specifically for seniors.

COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION & PROVIDING HEALTHY FOODS

- Our goal is to distribute 10.3 million pounds of food this year. At least 75% of our distribution will be fresh produce, dairy, or protein.

VOLUNTEERING AT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

- 4,500 individuals volunteer with us annually. They help power every aspect of our operation and account for 43% of all hours worked at Community Food Share.
- We offer a variety of volunteer opportunities available to individuals, groups, and families. You can be on the front lines (handing out food to clients at our distributions) or behind the scenes in our warehouse (sorting and stocking food).
- Every hour donated by a volunteer provides 80 meals!

FUNDING AT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

- More than half of Community Food Share’s funding comes from individuals donors!
- For every \$1 donated, Community Food Share can distribute 3 meals.
- 96% of donations go directly to support hunger relief efforts in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.