

Summer 2023

# AROUND THE TABLE

News and Notes on Solving Hunger in South Dakota

FEEDING  
SOUTH DAKOTA

MEMBER OF  
FEEDING  
AMERICA

## A Hand Up

How your support is creating solutions to hunger that go beyond the table.

Each time Janice\* pulls into her local mobile food distribution in Wagner, there are more cars waiting in line than the last time.

"I used to get here at 8 a.m. and there was probably one car. Now, today, I was here before 8 a.m. and already look at how many cars there are."

The reason why the line extends around the armory and on to Highway 46 is no mystery.

"It's hurting at the grocery store right now," she said.

Rising costs were a part of the reason why Janice and her husband made their first visit less than a year after retiring in 2021.

"We had thought, 'Okay, we've got enough.' Now, we're beginning to wonder if we do," she said.

**Your support of Feeding South Dakota has been vital to people like Janice and her neighbors.**

You're helping us to keep mobile distributions like the one in Wagner up and running — bringing good food and a hand up directly to those who need it most.

For Janice, it's not just about having someplace to turn to for help in tough times — it's about having someplace nearby. "If you pay for gas, you have less for groceries," she told us.

Right now, every bit of help counts. Thank you for giving a hand up to your fellow South Dakotans and creating solutions to hunger that go beyond the table.

*\*Name and photo changed to protect privacy.*



**“If you pay for gas, you have less for groceries.”**

— Janice\*



## AROUND THE TABLE

WITH LORI  
DYKSTRA, CEO



## Thank You Feeding South Dakota Family

Dear Friend,

I have a confession to make.

When I became *Feeding South Dakota's* CEO in 2021, I knew almost nothing about the Farm Bill. Specifically, how much of an impact this significant piece of legislation has on the lives of our neighbors facing hunger.

Why would I share this embarrassing fact with you? Because unless you're shaking your head in disapproval, you might not know much about the Farm Bill right now either.

And you absolutely should — we all should! Why? Two reasons:

- ✓ The Farm Bill includes funding for the nutrition programs that Feeding South Dakota and food banks everywhere rely on.
- ✓ The Farm Bill is up for reauthorization this fall. That means Congress can make improvements that will increase our ability to address hunger for the next five years.

If you're the spark behind our mission to provide access to food throughout South Dakota, then the Farm Bill provides kindling. The more kindling, the faster and wider your spark spreads.

On the next page you'll find an easy-to-follow guide about the Farm Bill. There you can learn more about what it means to Feeding South Dakota, and the changes that can be made by Congress to boost our response to hunger, empower our state's food producers, and improve access to food in native communities.

We've provided a few ways you can help spread the word and advocate for the changes you hope to see in the Farm Bill as well.

I hope you'll find it energizing — it's a big deal! You're a big deal, volunteers like Mary (see page 4) are a big deal, and what we're doing together is a big deal! With some help this fall, we can do more as we rise to the challenge of fighting hunger in our great state.

Thank you for continuing to lead our community by example.

With gratitude,



## There Are Many Ways to Give

Choose a way to give that is most meaningful to you, and know that Feeding South Dakota will work to ensure access to nutritional food for our neighbors facing hunger. **However you choose to give, you make a difference.**



### Donate Funds

Monthly Giving  
One-Time Gift  
Employer Match  
Planned Giving  
Donate Stock  
Donor Advised  
Corporate Giving



### Food & Fund Drive



### Volunteer

Find out more at  
[feedingsouthdakota.org/donate](https://feedingsouthdakota.org/donate)



# Your Guide to THE FARM BILL

What it is, why it matters, and how it can strengthen our response to hunger in South Dakota.



The Farm Bill is the centerpiece federal legislation for food and farming in the U.S., and it impacts access to nutritious food for the millions of people struggling with hunger in America, including thousands of South Dakotans.

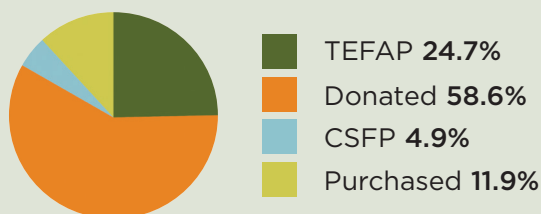
Hunger is a bipartisan issue and we're asking Congress to pass a strong 2023 Farm Bill that increases funding for key agriculture and nutrition programs.

## Why It Matters

The nutrition programs outlined by the Farm Bill, including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), work hand in hand with Feeding South Dakota to help families put food on the table.

The reauthorization process in 2023 is an opportunity to improve these nutrition programs, ensuring everyone who needs food can access it.

Feeding South Dakota Percentage of Meals by Source  
(July 2021 – June 2022)



## Why It Matters Now

The Farm Bill is reauthorized only every five years — which means the next renewal won't be until 2028!

The 2023 Farm Bill will have a major impact on Feeding South Dakota's ability to distribute food and meet the needs of the regularly changing landscape of hunger and its causes.

## What We Need

In the 2023 Farm Bill, Feeding South Dakota and Feeding America call on Congress to:

- Expand funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides nearly 25% of the food items Feeding South Dakota distributes.
- Reauthorize the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides the food distributed in every county of South Dakota through our Senior Box Program.
- Ensure sovereignty for Native communities, increasing food access by allowing tribal governments the flexibility to administer federal nutrition programs.
- Expand the availability of cultural foods.
- Increase SNAP's purchasing power and streamline eligibility to improve access to this program, which is the most effective anti-hunger program in the U.S.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Act Now

Visit our website for quick links to:

- Contact our National Delegation now, while the hard work is being done to structure the next version of the Farm Bill.
- Find links to templated support letters to send to Congress.



### Share

- Circulate this guide and encourage others to learn more about how food banks and nutrition programs work together.
- Follow us on social media to share our advocacy posts.



# Volunteer Spotlight: A Home Away from Home

How one part-time South Dakotan is creating community through acts of compassion.

Mary's not your typical snowbird.



Every year, she and her husband travel from Pennsylvania and spend six months living in Geddes, S.D., just a stone's throw away from Lake Andes.

That's where we met Mary loading food and milk into the cars of her friends and neighbors during a Feeding South Dakota mobile distribution.

It's one of the hottest days of the year — but she's not complaining.

Instead, she calls out to a fellow volunteer: "It's hot now, but do you remember how bad it was when we did this last summer?"

She then readjusts her floppy sun hat, hoists another gallon of milk from the pile, and returns to the line of waiting cars. Many of them are filled with people who waited hours to secure food from Feeding South Dakota's truck.

When they reach the front of the line, they're welcomed by the casual and familiar friendliness you come to expect from a born-and-raised South Dakotan.

***"I just like helping people and I like the smiles on their faces when you put the food in the cars," she said. "I love these people."***

— Mary

South Dakotans like yourself — and honorary ones like Mary — are the beating heart of Feeding South Dakota's mission. Thank you for leading with compassion to bring good, nourishing food to our fellow South Dakotans facing hunger.

# 6 Easy Ways to Take Action During Hunger Action Month

September is a time to amplify our voices and encourage others to join our fight to end hunger! Mark your calendar and get ready:

## 1 Double Your Impact During Hunger Action Month

During the month of September, our Board of Directors will be matching donations — dollar for dollar! This means **every \$1 given provides groceries for six meals** through our hunger-relief programs.

## 2 Snap a Selfie

Share a photo of yourself wearing orange and tell others why fighting hunger is important to you. Be sure to use #HungerActionMonth and #EndHunger when you post it on social media.

## 3 Spread the Word

Share our social media content throughout the month to bring awareness to your network. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

## 4 Volunteer

Encourage friends, family, or co-workers to join you! Find available shifts at [feedingsouthdakota.org/volunteer](http://feedingsouthdakota.org/volunteer).

## 5 Host a Food and Fund Drive

Get your community, club, school, or workplace engaged in the fight against hunger. We have a quick guide on our website to help you!

## 6 Get Educated

Education is empowerment! Learn more about hunger in South Dakota and start creating solutions to food insecurity in your community. You can start here: [feedingsouthdakota.org/about](http://feedingsouthdakota.org/about).



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