

Volunteer Newsletter

Your quarterly source for volunteer news and updates.



August 2026



Impact by the Numbers for FY26 Q1 - Q4:

*Pre-audited numbers

Hours:

66,382

Number
of Volunteers:

33,099

Pounds:

13,565,684

Our mission: to end hunger in South Dakota.

As the state's largest hunger-relief organization, Feeding South Dakota is providing food in all 66 counties in the state and fighting hunger in rural communities, metro areas and Native American Reservations through its programs and agency partners.

Your Support Warms Her Heart:

How One Devoted Mom and Foster Parent Is Making Ends Meet

Earlier this year, Stacy arrived at the Catholic Parish Center in Leola for Feeding South Dakota's mobile distribution. The monthly food giveaway is made possible by donors and friends like you.

Stacy is a loving mom to an adult daughter with special needs and a dedicated foster parent to as many as six children at a time. "Those who do foster care will probably do it for a lifetime, even though we don't always know if we will have one child or six children in our home!" she shared.

But caring for a large family comes with challenges. "The price for food is going up so high, and the older they get, the more they eat," Stacy explained. With limited access to fresh food nearby and many expenses paid out of pocket, having nutritious food close to home makes a difference.

Stacy and her family grow much of their own food during the summer and can produce to use throughout the year. But it isn't always enough to last, making Feeding South Dakota's Mobile Food Distribution Program an important resource for their family.

Each month, donor gifts help nearly 11,500 South Dakota families receive nutritious food close to home. "This [food] is the biggest need," Stacy emphasized. "This is why we really appreciate Feeding South Dakota's food program."



***... we really appreciate
Feeding South Dakota's
food program.***

— Stacy

Volunteer-A-Thon: Delivering Through the Decades

Celebrate Hunger Action Month with Feeding South Dakota during our first-ever Volunteer-A-Thon! Join us in Rapid City, Pierre, or Sioux Falls for a volunteer shift featuring your favorite decade of music—from the groovy 70s and totally awesome 80s to the nostalgic 90s and the hits of the 2000s.

For decades, volunteers have helped us deliver food and hope to neighbors across South Dakota. Join us as we celebrate the people who make our mission possible while packing, sorting, and preparing food for those facing hunger.

Enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages throughout the day, plus optional behind-the-scenes tours to learn more about Feeding South Dakota's mission.

For decades, Feeding South Dakota has been serving children, families, and seniors facing hunger—and none of it would be possible without volunteers like you.

Celebrate the past, make a difference today, and help build a hunger-free future.

Learn more and sign up to volunteer here: www.feedingsouthdakota.org/ham





Coordinator Corner | Ryan Teets

Western *Volunteer Coordinator*

This year, Feeding South Dakota is rolling out SIMC — a Feeding America platform that helps us better understand the neighbors we serve. By capturing basic information at our distributions, SIMC strengthens our ability to source the right food, make informed decisions, and advocate for our communities. It is a small step that makes a big difference.

Volunteers are at the heart of making SIMC work. From greeting neighbors as they arrive to helping with data entry, our volunteers are the face of Feeding South Dakota at every distribution where SIMC is in use. Their warmth and consistency turn a data collection process into a welcoming experience for every neighbor seeking food assistance.

As we expand SIMC to more locations this year, we want you involved. Find a distribution near you and email volunteer@feedingsouthdakota.org or call 605-335-0364 to be connected with your site's volunteer coordinator and learn how you can be part of this important work.



Coming Up

Feeding SD CLOSED

Labor Day

Monday, September 7

Feeding SD CLOSED

Native American Day

Monday, October 12

Feeding SD CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday,
November 26

Feeding SD CLOSED

Day after
Thanksgiving

Friday,
November 27

Hunger Action Day
Tuesday, September 29

Stacey's Heart for Helping Neighbors

What started as a winter project has become a weekly commitment to welcoming neighbors and making a difference.

What started as a winter project has become a weekly commitment for Stacey Nelson, who found a meaningful way to give back with Feeding South Dakota.

Stacey began volunteering at the start of this year after her neighbor, Rod, a longtime Feeding South Dakota volunteer, encouraged her to give it a try.

"I was looking for something positive to do during the winter months," Stacey shared. "However, after seeing the impact of the organization firsthand, I realized this was not going to be a temporary winter project but a continuous journey I look forward to every week."



Stacey enjoys the camaraderie among volunteers and the opportunity to serve in a variety of roles, from bagging fruit and labeling packages to filling boxes. She especially enjoys serving as a Neighbor Intake volunteer at mobile food distributions.

"I really enjoy the Neighbor Intake role because I am the first person that our Neighbors meet when they arrive," Stacey said. "My goal is to make them feel welcome, valued, and comfortable during a time that they might not be."

Stacey encourages anyone interested in Neighbor Intake not to be intimidated by the technology.

"Don't let the technology scare you away! If you can use your phone, you can do Neighbor Intake!"

Want to Give Neighbor Intake a Try?

With more than 100 mobile food distributions across South Dakota each month, volunteers are always welcome to help greet and welcome our neighbors.

If you're already volunteering at a mobile distribution, talk to the driver about getting involved with Neighbor Intake. Some technology expertise is required—just a friendly face and a willingness to help.



To learn more or receive additional training, email volunteer@feedingsouthdakota.org.

Thank you, Stacey, for showing us how a few hours of volunteering can make a lasting difference!

Thank You for Keeping More Kids Nourished All Summer Long

More than 1 in 3 of South Dakota's 113,750 food insecure neighbors are children, including 1 in 5 kids statewide. That's why programs like Feeding South Dakota's Summer BackPack Program are so important.

In Pierre, the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area partners with Feeding South Dakota to provide children with healthy, easy-to-prepare foods throughout the summer, helping bridge the nutrition gap when school is out.

"Those BackPacks are a crucial part of the summer," said Samson Boutchee, Director of Operations for the Club. "For them to help us feed our children is so important, and we are so grateful."

Samson said the impact goes beyond the food itself. "Our kids are blessed with being fed and nourished," he shared. Thanks to generous donors, children can have the nourishment they need to grow, learn and thrive, while families feel supported by a community that cares.

Your generosity makes programs like this possible. By helping ensure children have consistent access to nutritious food, you're supporting their health, well-being and ability to thrive—all while strengthening communities across South Dakota.

Thank you for helping keep more kids nourished all summer long.



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fed and nourished.***

— Samson

Another Way to Give: Help Stock School Food Pantries

As kids head back to school, there's another way you can help make sure they have what they need to learn, grow and thrive: host a back-to-school food drive.

For families experiencing food insecurity, the start of a new school year can bring added challenges. Beyond school supplies and new shoes, families may be struggling to keep enough food on the table—especially as children spend more time at home and need meals and snacks outside of the school day.

That's where your food drive can make a difference.

Food collected through community food drives helps provide food directly to children and families through Feeding South Dakota's partnerships with schools across the state. Many of our school partners dedicate a small space—a shelf, a closet or even an entire room—as a school food pantry. These spaces give families a place to access food when they need a little extra help.

A bag of cereal, a box of pasta, a jar of peanut butter or a can of vegetables can help a family stretch their grocery budget a little further. It can mean a child has something to eat over the weekend. And it can give parents one less thing to worry about.

Hosting a food drive is another way to give. Whether you organize one with your workplace, church, neighborhood, school or group of friends, the food you collect can go directly toward helping kids and families in your community.

As you think about ways to support our neighbors this back-to-school season, consider adding a food drive to your list. Your generosity can help fill a shelf, stock a pantry and, most importantly, help fill a child's plate.



FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA PANTRY BITES



Easy Sweet Potato Casserole

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Serves: 6-8

Calories per serving: 340

Ingredients



3-4 cups cooked yams
or sweet potatoes



2 tbsp butter, melted



2 tbsp brown sugar



½ tsp cinnamon



1 egg



½ cup milk



½ cup mini
marshmallows (*optional*)

Instructions



Heat oven to 350°F.



Mash the cooked yams or sweet potatoes in a bowl.



Stir in melted butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, egg, and milk.



Spread the mixture into a
greased baking dish.



Top with marshmallows, if
desired.



Bake for 25-30 minutes, until
warm and lightly golden.

Helpful Tips

No marshmallows? No problem! This casserole is delicious without them. You can also sprinkle a little extra brown sugar and cinnamon on top before baking.

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Contact Us

info@FeedingSouthDakota.org

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605-335-0364

