

AROUND THE TABLE

News and Notes on Solving Hunger in South Dakota



Thanks to You ...

**When Dennis Needed Support,
He Found it at Feeding South Dakota**

For the past year, Dennis has been driving 30 minutes from Lennox to attend the monthly mobile distribution at the Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Dennis makes ends meet on Social Security. "I get \$108 in food stamps and take medications. My income just doesn't last with the prices nowadays," he said.

With the pause of SNAP benefits in November, Dennis had an even bigger reason to rely on Feeding South Dakota. "I only got \$16 out of the usual \$108," Dennis explained. "I didn't know what I was going to do for a while." He later received the remainder of his benefits.

Smiling, Dennis expressed his gratitude for the mobile food bank. "It means a lot to me — Feeding South Dakota is great. There are so many people like me, and if it wasn't for places like this, I don't know what we would do ... if you look around, it is mainly all seniors. This is important."

Now, as our partnering agencies work to restock shelves following the holidays, your help is still needed.

For every \$10 you donate, Feeding South Dakota can provide 30 nourishing meals to children and adults experiencing food insecurity. Your generosity puts your passion into action, meeting today's urgent needs while helping create a hunger-free tomorrow, strengthening our communities one family at a time.

Thank you for all that you make possible. Please stand with us again to help ensure everyone enjoys equitable access to the nutrition they need. When challenges arise, you and Feeding South Dakota are there — meeting neighbors where they are, filling the gaps, and making sure no South Dakotan faces hunger alone.



"Look around at who's here — it's mainly seniors. This food assistance is important."

— Dennis



AROUND THE TABLE

WITH LORI
DYKSTRA, CEO

A Message From The CEO

Dear Friend,

As we step into a new year, I'm filled with deep gratitude for all that our community accomplished together in Feeding South Dakota's 50th year. Because of your generosity, hundreds of thousands of families had food on the table when it mattered most. Together, we provided millions of meals, supported neighbors facing hard times, and continued to build a foundation of hope across our state.

The past year brought challenges — from rising food costs to growing demand — but you helped us meet them head-on. Your compassion turned uncertainty into stability, and your support ensured that no one had to face hunger alone.

In this issue, we're celebrating the power of community: those who've turned compassion into action, rural neighbors finding hope through our programs, and the outpouring of support that answered our call for help. You'll also discover ways to keep that momentum going and stay part of the solution year-round.

Thank you for standing with us — for your kindness, your trust, and your unwavering belief that together, we can end hunger.

With gratitude,

Hope For A Brighter Tomorrow

Thank you for making this annual progress possible in Fiscal Year 2025. Your support sets the table for kids, families, and seniors experiencing food insecurity.

11.6M

Meals Provided



236+

Community
Partners
Supported

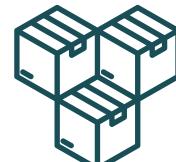


12,666

Families Served
at Mobile
Distributions
Monthly

66

Counties Served
Through Our
Programs &
Partners



188,351

BackPacks
Distributed
to Students



2,171

Senior Boxes
Distributed
Monthly



59,692

Volunteer Hours
Devoted to
Fighting Hunger

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Annual Report



Ipswich Families Share Impact of Food Assistance

Each month, the mobile food distribution in Ipswich brings neighbors together at the town's 4-H building in Edmunds County. Recently, one vehicle in line held three generations of the same family — grandmother Judy, daughter Dora, and granddaughter Brittney — patiently waiting in their van to receive food for their growing family.

Dora explained that for all of them, it is hard to make ends meet, especially with kids, Social Security, and the prices of everything. "It's extremely hard to choose between medication and what to do for the kids to be able to feed them."

Each grocery box is pre-packed with nutritious food, such as shelf-stable items, boxed meals, fresh or frozen produce, meat, or dairy products

At this distribution, frozen hamburger was offered. "We have not had hamburger for a while," said Dora.

For Brittney and her kids, all the food received is a great supplement for her family. "We usually use it with other things — to spread it out, working with all ingredients." With children ages 13, 12, and 6 months, keeping up with their growing appetites is a challenge. "They do eat a lot. My son is taller than me now, shoes and everything, but it's a lot of fun!"



Dora, Brittney and Judy

Judy, Brittney's grandmother, shared her appreciation for the program with a smile. "I get Christmas once a month!"

Dora echoed that sentiment, pointing out that the food boxes introduce them to new things they might not have tried before. "Some stuff you never ate before is offered. It's like Christmas — you don't know what you are going to get ... Some of us have never had organic, so

"I get Christmas once a month!"

— Judy

it's different. We have never bought frozen fruits. That's a good variety of strawberries and blueberries, so you can take a little bit out of what you need and put it in other dishes."

Brittney also explained that homeschooling her kids makes the food boxes even more valuable. "Three meals a day, and they get to practice a little bit to learn how to cook and practice with some things they have never seen before either; it's a win-win," she said.

Become a 605 Meal Maker and Have Your Gifts Matched All Year!

Would you like to help provide more South Dakotans with year-round access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive?

605 Meal Makers are generous monthly contributors whose recurring gifts create a vitally important year-round source of funding for Feeding South Dakota.

By working together in every season, we can meet the needs of our neighbors facing hunger, many of whom find themselves facing hunger suddenly and unexpectedly.

Thanks to a generous donor, every new monthly gift started in 2026 through the 605 Meal Makers program will be matched for the entire year! Thank you for standing with us in the fight to end hunger.



Community Members Receive — AND GIVE BACK

At Church on the Street's food pantry in downtown Sioux Falls, many community members who receive food also volunteer their time to organize and distribute food, offer advice, and provide additional support when they see a need.

Maria Standing Cloud knows what a difference this can make. She was once afraid to ask for help, but she has learned it's okay to accept help. She has been inspired to share her own story about surviving sex trafficking, showing up to volunteer when the pantry is open, and has even donated her clothes to others. Her story is one of resilience and the impact of giving back.

"Volunteering has been really good for us," she said. "It gives a sense of pride to be helping."

Standing Cloud strives to keep a positive attitude even during hard times. "I could be hurting, but I will walk around with a smile on my face so nobody knows. I'm not going to reflect my suffering on anybody else," she shared.

Other people notice, complimenting her dancing, her smiles, and her energy. When asked if she could offer advice to anyone struggling to put food on the table or make ends meet, she says, "Swallow your pride and ask for help. Utilize the resources that are out there."

Another client, Matthew, also helps by setting up the pantry before other clients arrive, lifting boxes, and assisting with the organization of produce.

"They all come in with helping hands and a grateful heart," said Pantry Director Amber Jones-Esquibel. "A lot of the food you see here comes from Feeding South Dakota," she said.

Providing dignity to all is important. "Not a lot of people want to say, 'I don't have money for food,'" Jones-Esquibel said. "So, I strive to create an environment where everyone feels welcome."

One of Feeding South Dakota's valued community partners, Church on the Street welcomes all people to their distributions of food and hygiene items in order to remove barriers for folks needing assistance. The organization is also able to provide blankets, coats, socks, and t-shirts.

"Not a lot of people want to say, 'I don't have money for food' ...I strive to create an environment where everyone feels welcome."

— Jones-Esquibel



Maria Standing Cloud

Good News for Charitable Donors!

Beginning with the tax year 2026 and beyond, a new "above the line" tax deduction for cash contributions will be available to taxpayers who take the standard deduction. Single filers can claim up to \$1,000. Married couples filing jointly can claim up to \$2,000. That means if you sign up as a monthly donor

to Feeding South Dakota, a monthly gift of \$83.33 from an individual or \$166.66 from a jointly filing couple would be deductible on your 2026 tax return.

The above is intended for information only. It is not tax advice. Please consult with a tax professional to discuss your personal circumstances.

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