



**FRANKLIN
FOOD BANK**



Annual Report 2024

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Dear Neighbors, Friends, and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for our shared journey and the unwavering strength of the Franklin Food Bank community. Our mission, since 1975, has been to serve our neighbors with compassion and respect, ensuring access to nutritious food. Our Choice Pantry, "Bodega Joe's," embodies our commitment to breaking the stigma of food assistance by providing a dignified shopping experience with culturally relevant, healthy fresh food. In 2024, we embraced this vision more fully than ever, recognizing that true nourishment extends beyond the dinner plate through innovative and holistic programs, which better address the root causes of food insecurity.

Our wraparound services, Beyond Food, include nutrition workshops and partnerships with healthcare partners, delivering vital health screenings. We've added resources like an on-site social worker to support housing, employment, and SNAP benefits enrollment. We have also taken advantage of collaborations with local advocacy groups to broaden our reach and deepen our impact.

We were beyond humbled and proud to have received a \$1 million grant from the MacKenzie Scott Yield Giving Foundation, a testament to our innovative approach, thoughtful programming and impeccable culture. This funding is helping the food bank to not only optimize operations but also provides a seed gift towards our dream of moving to a bigger location, which will enable us to address the growing numbers of neighbors in need with holistic, dynamic programming in this increasingly uncertain and challenging socioeconomic environment.

Thank you for being an integral part of this extraordinary journey.

With sincere appreciation,

Derek Smith
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Choice Pantry

Multilingual staff and volunteers welcome neighbors to our bustling and cheerful Choice Pantry, where they shop for the items their families *need* and *prefer* from a plentiful array of fresh, nutritious food.

Affectionately named “Bodega Joe’s,” our well designed and welcoming pantry provides an elevated experience, offering assistance with dignity and respect alongside music and joy. The food bank is being written about for its culture and has a model that can be emulated in other communities.

ANNUAL VISITS
TO THE MARKET

18,908

AVERAGE MONTHLY
SHOPPING VISITS

1,500+

CHILDREN SERVED
ANNUALLY

11,000+

AVERAGE FAMILIES
PER DAY

80

*Neighbors are not just welcome...
they are celebrated.*



Community Distribution

Community Distribution meets neighbors where they are in a more convenient location for families who do not have the resources to come to the food bank. Preselected fresh produce, bulk staples, and beverages are provided to our neighbors every month in this drive-thru or walk-up program delivered alongside strategic local partners and dedicated volunteers.

POUNDS
DISTRIBUTED

232,000

FAMILIES SERVED
MONTHLY

500+

Drive-through distribution provides easy access to healthy food.



Beyond Borders

We understand the power of collaboration; we must work together to fight hunger. As the largest feeding organization in the area, we partner with other nonprofits to provide them with food and household items for their clients.

POUNDS DONATED
TO ORGANIZATIONS

850,000

PARTNER
AGENCIES

40

PRODUCE
POUNDS DONATED

120,000

TOWNS
SERVED

15

*Broadening our reach beyond Franklin,
because hunger knows no borders.*



Nutrition *Empowerment*

Access to food is only part of the solution—knowing how to prepare healthy, nourishing meals is equally vital. For individuals and families facing hunger, nutrition education can be life-changing. Our Flavor Workshops offer hands-on learning experiences where neighbors discover how to create affordable, delicious meals using the ingredients they receive. These workshops build confidence in the kitchen, promote healthier eating habits, and empower participants to make the most of the food they have.

FAMILIES
IN ATTENDANCE

184

HOURS OF
LEARNING

2,208

We are helping to turn short-term relief into long-term well-being.



Beyond the Bell

Hunger has a profound impact on children— affecting their ability to learn, grow, and thrive. Through school-based Satellite Pantries, which provide immediate food to students and a more comprehensive food package - along with a referral to the food bank for more services - for families, we provide reliable access to nutritious food when it's needed most. Our cross-curricular and awareness campaigns further help shine a light on childhood hunger and inspire action.

STUDENTS
SUPPORTED

1,500+

SCHOOL
PANTRIES

3

Together, we are building a brighter, healthier future for every child.



Health Screenings

Healthcare screenings are especially important for people facing hunger, who are at greater risk for chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure but often lack access to regular medical care. Through strategic partnerships we offer onsite health screenings:

- A1c
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Cancer Screenings
- and more...

Participation in **these crucial programs grew by an impressive 68%** in the last six months of 2024, demonstrating the profound need and trust our community places in us.

SCREENINGS
PROVIDED

590+

FOLLOW UP
CARE REFERRALS

164

We are connecting neighbors to the healthcare they need.



Resource Navigation

We understand that hunger and malnutrition are interconnected with serious health and social issues. Throughout 2024, we worked to increase and enhance onsite wraparound services by working with numerous strategic partners offering health screenings (A1c, blood pressure, cholesterol, cancer), benefits enrollment assistance and more. More recently, we've integrated resource navigation with an on-site social worker (MSW). Available five days a week, they provide crucial support in areas like housing, employment, and SNAP benefits enrollment.

TOTAL BEYOND FOOD
EVENTS HELD ONSITE

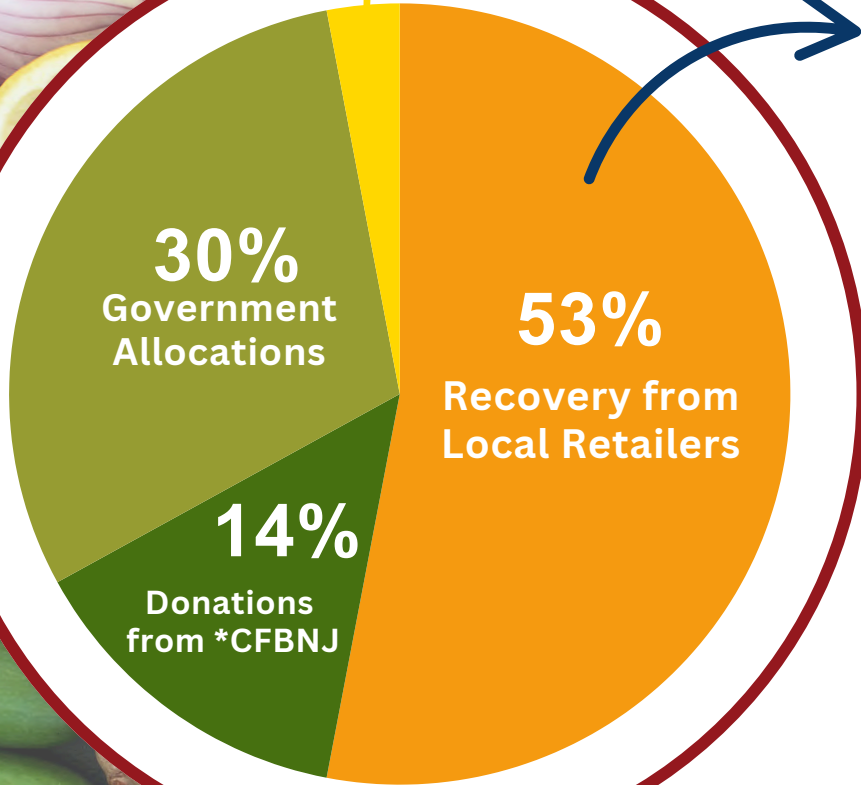
NEIGHBORS
ENGAGED

56

986

Ongoing support is critical to solving the public benefits puzzle.

3% Purchased & Food Drives



Why Food Recovery?

Despite the growing number of neighbors facing food insecurity, food waste remains a significant challenge. Every year, 92 billion pounds of perfectly good, safe-to-eat food items are discarded due to factors like cosmetic imperfections in produce, nearing sell-by or expiration dates, overproduction on farms, and damage during transportation. We are proud to say 53% of our food comes from food recovery, and adds recognizable brand selection to our pantry shelves helping to chip away at stigma associated with food assistance.



Job Creation



Deepen Relationships with Retailers



Enhanced Pantry Selections



Reduction in Food Waste

*CFBNJ: Community Food Bank of New Jersey, a Feeding America funded food bank

OUR IMPACT

At Franklin Food Bank, we are continually evolving how we define and measure success—looking beyond pounds of food distributed to the lasting impact on our neighbors' well-being. Food insecurity is a key social determinant of health, and the data makes it clear: addressing hunger is essential to improving overall health outcomes. That's why we invest in wraparound programs—nutrition education, healthcare screenings, and access to resources—that support the whole person, not just the immediate need. By tracking meaningful outcomes and focusing on long-term stability, we can better help our neighbors build self-sufficiency and create lasting change in our community.

POUNDS
OF FOOD

3.1 Million

MARKET
VISITS

18,908

DRIVE-THRU
VISITS

11,240

TOTAL
VOLUNTEER HOURS

17,452

POUNDS
OF PRODUCE

1+ Million

NEW FRANKLIN
NEIGHBORS

603

TOTAL
WRAPAROUND VISITS

986

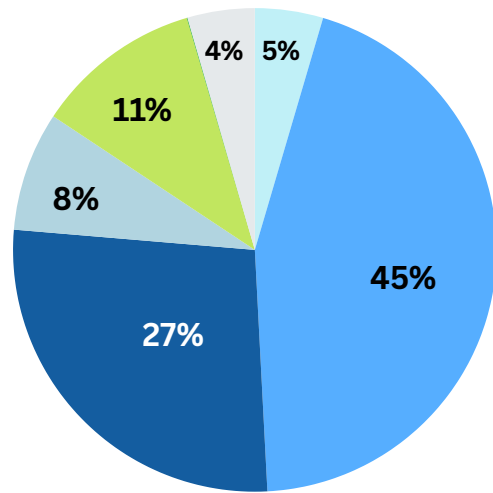
VOLUNTEER IMPACT
IN DOLLARS

\$590,227

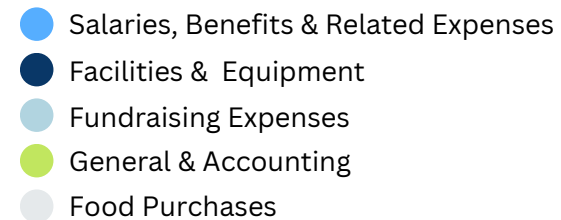
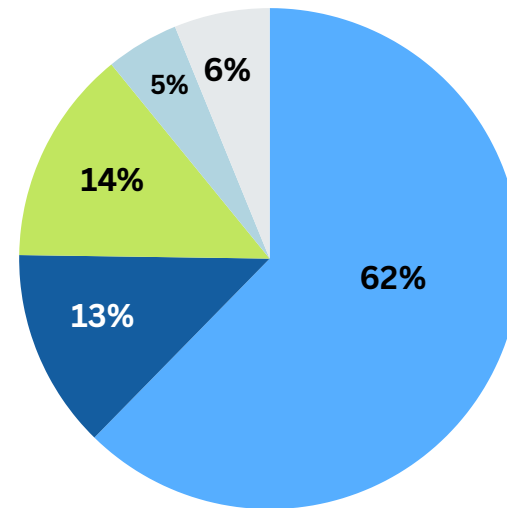


FINANCIALS

REVENUE
\$2,505,842



EXPENSES
\$1,793,387



IN KIND FOOD
\$7,919,358

In 2024, the Franklin Food Bank continued to uphold its strong commitment to fiscal responsibility, ensuring that every dollar received was managed with care, transparency, and purpose. We are proud to report that this year we received a transformational \$1 million grant from the Yield Giving Foundation. This generous support strengthened our ability to serve the community and reinforced the confidence that respected partners place in our financial integrity and strategic vision.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sonja Asante
Board Trustee



Ileen Bradley
Board Trustee



Claribel Cortes
Board Member



Alaina DeWitt
Board Secretary



Vaseem Firdaus
Board Trustee



Lorna Flynn
Board Vice Chair



John Galat
Board Treasurer



Barry Gilmore
Board Chair



Curt Lang
Board Member



Kevin McGuinness
Board Trustee



Melinda Posipanko
Board Secretary



Sami Shaban
Board Member



Derek Smith
Executive Director

THE TEAM

At Franklin Food Bank, we believe that dignity, respect, and community should be at the heart of everything we do. We work hard to ensure that every person who walks through our doors feels welcomed, respected, and celebrated. We are all CEO's - Chief Experience Officers - here to hold space for our neighbors in need.

Our diverse staff reflects the community we serve, most of whom started as volunteers and reside in Franklin. We foster a culture that uplifts both clients and team members. Even in the face of challenging work, we intentionally cultivate joy, inclusion, and a sense of team and family—because we believe that healing starts with how people are treated.

Our mission is to support the food needs of our local community in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.



*We're not just a team...
we're a family.*



STARTED AS
VOLUNTEERS

53%

BIPOC
65%

FRANKLIN
RESIDENTS
53%

MULTILINGUAL
29%

PARTNERS & COALITIONS



Department of
Human Services
Richard Hall
Wellness Center
Somerset Health
Initiative



SUPPORTERS



Anvi Group
Charitable
Foundation



Ellie Mae
Fund

James and Melanie
McNamara Family
Foundation



L'ORÉAL



Muslim
Foundation



The Tyler
Foundation





**FRANKLIN
FOOD BANK**

