



DEAR FRIENDS:

It's been a year now since the pandemic first struck — an astonishing, painful year. Loved ones lost. Families out of work. As many as 1 in 4 kids living with hunger.

This pandemic has laid bare the crisis of childhood hunger that has existed in our country for far too long. Even those who worked closely with kids are seeing it for the first time. “This has been a real eye-opener for some of our teachers to see how some of these kids are living,” said Carrie Futrell, assistant principal of Mountain View Elementary in rural Arkansas. “It puts things in perspective of how they come to school on a daily basis.”

Many kids are struggling even more to get the food they need; others are struggling for the first time. Still, there is hope — hope inspired in us by the heroes on the ground doing whatever it takes to feed children, the resilience of our nation's kids in the face of crisis, and the people who have stepped up to support them.

With an emergency grant you helped make possible, Futrell and her team bought an SUV to navigate muddy mountain roads and bring meals to isolated kids who might otherwise not eat. And the policy changes you helped implement have allowed schools like hers to feed kids outside of the classroom or cafeteria. In total, we've equipped thousands of school districts to feed millions of kids in the safe, alternate ways the pandemic has required.

There are countless school nutrition and local nonprofit staff working furiously to feed kids, at great risk to themselves and their families. Some have died because of the coronavirus. Many have suffered, but thousands remain committed to our nation's children, just as we do.

In this report, you'll hear from those community heroes and learn what your support over the past year did to empower them and lift up children in need, from helping serve communities of color, who have been hit hardest by the pandemic, to connecting families with food through our texting line. We can't thank you enough for standing with us.

But this crisis won't end with a shot in the arm or a parent's new job. Hungry children and their families will feel the impact of this crisis well into the future, and they are feeling it now.

We must continue our work to help feed these children today. As Futrell shared, “Without you, this wouldn't happen. If it wasn't for people like you, we would not be able to help others.”

We have to be there. Thank you so much for your support, and please stay with us in this fight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Shore".

BILLY SHORE
Executive Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Nelson".

TOM NELSON
President & Chief Executive Officer

Whatever It Takes

YOUR IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF HUNGRY KIDS



OVERVIEW

Since the coronavirus pandemic hit, your partnership has made a real, tangible impact in the lives of hungry kids. Together, we've listened to community leaders and provided the support they've needed to feed our nation's children, no matter the circumstances. Here's how:

GRANTS

For too many children, school meals are the only nutritious food they might get in a given day. That's why, when the pandemic closed classrooms nationwide, school nutrition staff like Gail Wolsch in small-town New Jersey jumped to find new ways to

feed these kids. "It's a non-stop situation," she recalled. "My head is spinning. Feed the kids. That's where my head is."

Thankfully, your support was already there to help. Wolsch used insulated bags she purchased with a previous No Kid Hungry grant to distribute meals at pick-up sites. And with emergency grants you funded, she launched grab-n-go feeding locations at two schools and a community center, where they're using the concession stand to safely serve daily breakfast and lunch.

Wolsch is just one example of many. Since March 2020, your

generosity has fueled grants totaling more than **\$66 million** to **1,800 schools, local nonprofits and food banks** across all 50 states, DC, Guam and Puerto Rico. These grants have funded everything from equipment like refrigerators and meal trucks to PPE, pallets of food and more.

Together, we're committed to empowering communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Since fall, more than two-thirds of your grant funds have gone to organizations working primarily in communities of color, while nearly a third have reached rural areas.

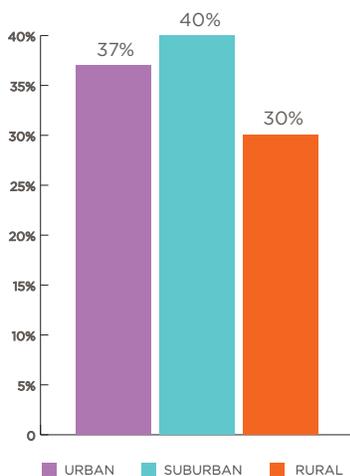
We've helped scale up the National Day Laborer Organizing Network's project to distribute food and nutrition education resources to low-wage immigrant workers and their families across the country, while your gifts are helping the DC public school system host grocery markets for families to take home groceries with school meals for their kids.

New Orleans's FirstLine Schools used our partnership to launch an initiative that's fed kids 200,000 meals and counting. A staff member shared, "It was a beautiful time of collaboration and problem-solving during the stress of an unprecedented nationwide health crisis."

We've even fueled chefs from Sacramento to Central Park as they found new ways to feed their communities in partnership with local school districts and agencies. In West Palm Beach, Fla., alone, chefs Zach Bell and Clay Conley have served some 240,000 meals to those in need.

As this crisis continues, heroes like Wolsch and the families she serves in New Jersey need you. "I don't know if you realize how much this actually does," she said. "I can't even tell you the thankfulness I have. People are so willing to give, and they should. For the forgotten districts like mine. We have to rely on you."

WHERE OUR GRANT MONEY WENT



Since the start of the pandemic, your support has helped serve kids and families nearly **1 BILLION MEALS** at schools and community sites nationwide.

ADVOCACY

From unemployment to illness and hunger, the pandemic has overwhelmed many of the social safety net programs meant to support families and children in need.

John Sasaki, communications director at California's Oakland Unified School District, has seen the results first-hand. One Oakland school reported that 80% of their families had lost one job in the household, and more than 60% had lost two jobs. "The need

was great already," Sasaki said, "but now it's just gone through the roof. Our families are struggling right now."

As families live with hunger in all corners of the country, we've gone to work with elected officials from both parties at all levels of government to get them the broad support they need.

Together, we successfully helped create, launch and extend a federal program to feed children called Pandemic-EBT, which



“Thanks to those waivers, the accessibility was so much easier. People felt more comfortable coming one day a week to get those meals, and they could go to the place closest to them.”

CHRISTA DEBOER, YOUTHRISE IN MINNESOTA

provides low-income families with funds to replace missed school meals during school as well as childcare closures. From March to September alone, families received \$10.7 billion in benefits to spend on food through this new program.

And after months of efforts with our nonprofit and chef partners, we successfully advocated for increased food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$25 a month per person to help stock more pantries and refrigerators at home for hungry kids.

We also supported the bipartisan FEED Act, which the White House recently made a reality with an executive order that increases FEMA assistance to help restaurants partner with nonprofits to feed children and families during times of need.

When the crisis hit, normal government rules for feeding kids through schools and community organizations simply didn't work in a pandemic. Our team worked closely with school leaders to identify challenges and helped secure critical waivers from the USDA that gave these programs the flexibility to reach countless children, from bringing meals

directly to isolated families and setting up neighborhood grab-n-go sites to feeding students' non-school-age siblings and more.

Despite these successes, too many kids are still living with hunger, and this crisis is far from over. Like Oakland's Sasaki, we must continue ahead until no child goes hungry.

“Whether a child has enough to eat should not be dependent on the zip code they're born into, the financial challenges that their parents have,” he said. “If our kids didn't have this resource, we don't know where they'd be eating, especially in a time like this.”





“The worst thing in the world is to have to worry about how you’re going to feed your family. To take that weight off is huge, so thank you, from the bottom of my heart.”

DARCEY, MOTHER, NEW YORK

AWARENESS & RESOURCES

While too many children and families were already living with hunger, the pandemic has seen scores experiencing it for the first time: getting in car lines for food, filing for unemployment, facing an empty kitchen table at home.

Darcey, a mother in small-town New York, lost her job as a diner waitress to the pandemic. Like so many others, she didn’t know what to do. “I was not thinking that it would impact me the way it did,” she shared. “I completely panicked. I had never gotten help. I felt like I’d lost so much control over myself, my bills, my daughter.”

But, together, we’ve been there for scores of parents like Darcey nationwide.

You’ve helped connect more than 230,000 families with food for their children through our new

meals finder map and expanded summer meals texting line, which highlight nearby school meals sites, food banks and more with a simple zip code search. We’ve also run targeted digital ads to help families discover and navigate food assistance programs like Pandemic-EBT.

And you haven’t just been there for families. As exhausted school nutrition staff scrambled to feed kids outside of the cafeteria and meet the ballooning need, our trainings and toolkits have provided key best practices on how to do it safely and effectively.

Our resources and numerous webinars have reached tens of thousands of school nutrition

professionals and local nonprofits, sharing insights on everything from rural and tribal responses to school districts’ innovations around feeding kids during the pandemic.

All of these efforts and resources are bringing more kids the food they need. You’re making that possible. And for parents like Darcey who need a hand, that’s a priceless gift.

Still, as the economic impacts of this crisis linger and deepen, these families need you. “I’m trying to prepare myself mentally, emotionally, for how different it’s going to be for me financially. For me, the struggle is probably just beginning,” Darcey said.

“No Kid Hungry really helps me. Every time I pitch something to my superiors and say No Kid Hungry, it gets approved. It doesn’t get questioned.”

MARCUS ALONZO, COACHELLA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, CALIF.



LOOKING AHEAD

The past year has been trying, difficult and eye-opening. Like those voices called out in this report, we can't thank you enough for the support that's helped feed so many children and brought relief to families in need.

But this crisis of hunger isn't dependent on a vaccine or the next promising jobs report. Its impact will be felt for years ahead, especially if we don't act. Children need your support.

Jenny Arredondo runs the nutrition program for the San Antonio Independent School District. An emergency grant you

supported has helped fuel 29 meals sites and 65 bus delivery routes serving some 30,000 meals a day during the pandemic. She recalled, "A little girl was handed her bag of food at one of our bus stops, and it's like somebody gave her a million bucks. A very sobering moment to know you're feeding kids who otherwise wouldn't have it at all."

Countless children are waiting for that next bag of food, that next meal. The heroes on the ground are working to reach these kids every day. You can help feed them and give kids the nutrition they need to continue growing, learning and just being

kids. With your support, we can continue the critical work of making sure no child in America struggles with hunger.

In the year ahead, we'll deploy "school meal navigators" to work in high-need communities, helping schools develop strong and flexible meal delivery programs throughout the crisis. As schools reopen, we'll provide funding and guidance to expand their feeding programs, provide grab-n-go meals and develop new, more effective models.

We'll raise awareness among eligible families about SNAP, WIC and Pandemic-EBT programs

while also training school staff on how to help enroll families in them. And to make sure those programs are strong, we'll continue to advocate for them through Congress and by collaborating with governors, mayors and state legislators.

We'll help states and cities maximize available nutrition programs and provide critically needed capacity through our staff to implement them. And we'll continue to focus on empowering those disproportionately bearing the brunt of this crisis: communities of color.

But we can only accomplish all this together. We can't do it without you, and there's not a minute to waste. Whether in San Antonio or South Carolina, kids are struggling. They need our help.

"Sometimes people see statistics on a sheet of paper. I see them in real life," Arredondo said. "I've seen kids that are physically hungry. The problem is extremely real. Any additional assistance that we get, I will always make sure it goes to the best use possible."

Please continue to stand with us for these kids and the heroes that serve them, whatever it takes.

Thank you.



P.O. Box 75475
Baltimore, MD 21275-5475
[NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG/GIFT](https://www.nokidhungry.org/gift)