

The graphic consists of several overlapping, stylized green leaves. The leaves are rendered in a vibrant green color with white outlines, creating a sense of depth and movement. They are positioned on the left side of the page, with some leaves partially overlapping others.

**FOOD BANK** FOR LARIMER COUNTY

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



# Hitting Our Stride

Dear Friends,

“Now, let’s get to work.”

That’s how I ended this very letter in last year’s Food Bank for Larimer County Annual Report. In the letter, I shared details about relocating our business office and distribution center from North Fort Collins to Loveland. I talked about all the change that seemed to be occurring at once: the move; a new location; new processes. “Let’s get to work” seemed appropriate given the task we were embarking on.

It’s now one year later and a time when we can look back to see if the work, the space, the new processes led to the desired result.

I’m pleased to say that the challenges we navigated in the moving process have paid off in many ways, including those we didn’t necessarily expect.

- With the increase in space, we distributed nearly 9 million pounds of food in 2019.
- In the month of May alone, we distributed 935,226 pounds of food – a new record at the Food Bank.
- In 2019, we were able to accept and distribute 44% more TEFAP– The Emergency Food Assistance Program administered by the USDA – up from 770,000 pounds in 2018 to 1.1 million this past year.
- In addition to more TEFAP commodities, we were able to accept a wider variety of products – like meat and dairy – which our clients love.

None of this would have been possible in our former distribution space. We were simply out of room. But with more space, and the right kind of space, along with enhanced procedures and a dedicated team, we have been able to realize our vision of distributing more nutritious food to those in need.

So, I guess it’s only fitting that I end this year’s letter with a similar call to action: Let’s get **back** to work!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Pezzani". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Pezzani  
Food Bank for Larimer County CEO

# Client Stories

**Geneva** has been coming to our pantry on Lincoln Avenue in Loveland since her husband died suddenly. "The Food Bank has helped me so much. I didn't have anywhere to turn or anywhere to go after my husband passed away. A friend of mine told me about the Food Bank, and she took me to the one in Fort Collins. It's been amazing. The help I've received from the Food Bank goes beyond the food."



"The Food Bank is really helpful," says

**Marijane**. "We can't afford bills with our small children." But thanks to their visits to our

Fresh Food Share pantry on Blue Spruce Drive in Fort Collins, Marijane and Skyler can make nutritious meals for their two boys, ages 2 and 3.



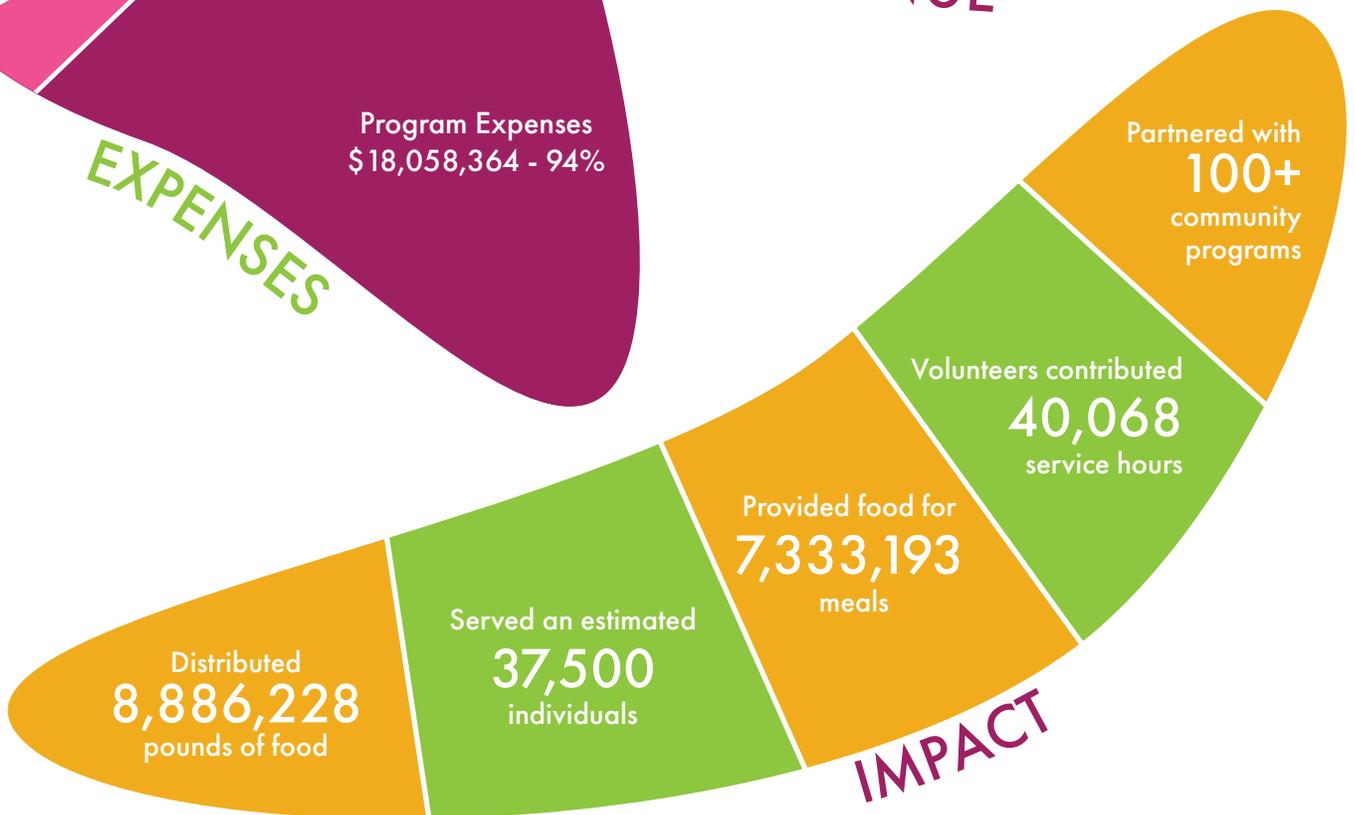
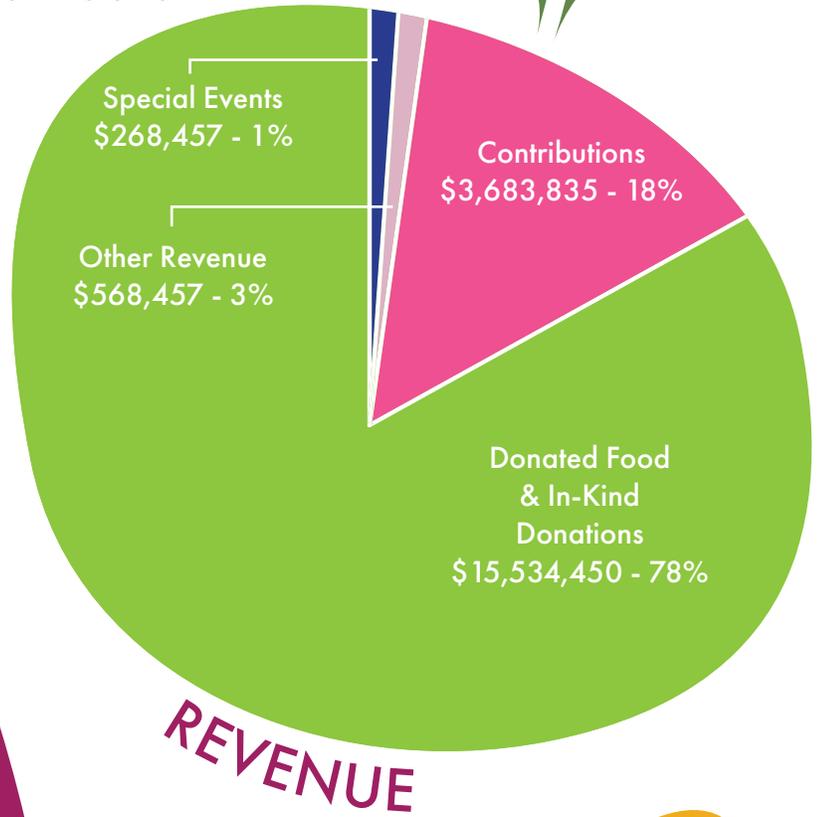
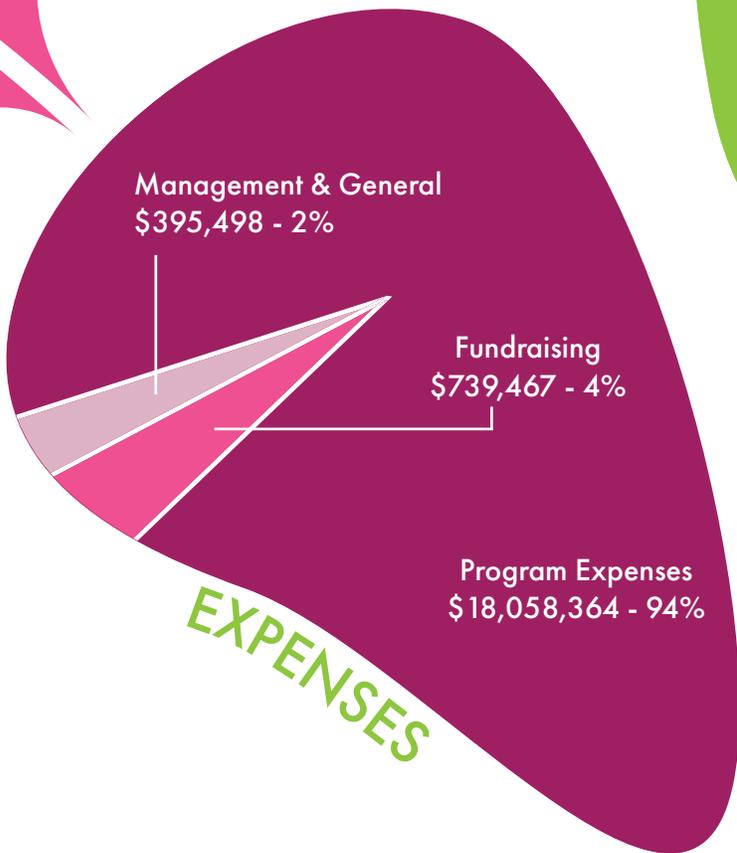
They especially appreciate the produce, meat and milk that they find at the Food Bank. The fruit is also a welcome treat for their boys, who particularly enjoy the apples and bananas. "Everyone here is also really nice and friendly."



**Richard** has been coming to our pantry on Lincoln Avenue in Loveland for a few months. Since the food that Richard picks up at the Food Bank is just for him, he sometimes passes on certain options because he knows he won't be able to use it all. "I like to leave the larger items for the families because I know they need it more than I do."

# Financials & Impact 2019

The Food Bank's success in Fiscal Year 2019 was directly linked to our community and the thousands of volunteers and supporters who freely gave time and money to help their neighbors in need. It is because of you that we were able to distribute millions of pounds of food and do so much more to strengthen our community.



# Helping Clients Close The Gap

Addressing food insecurity in our community requires a community effort. It takes all of us working together to solve the issue of hunger facing some 40,000 neighbors in Larimer County.

That's the basis for two new services the Food Bank is launching; Cooking Matters and SNAP Outreach.



## Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters is a partnership with Share Our Strength that is centered around teaching parents and caregivers with limited food budgets to shop for and cook healthy meals. Each six-week class is taught by the Food Bank's nutrition coordinator and begins with the basics of nutrition. Students then take a field trip to a grocery store to learn ways to make their budgets stretch further by shopping strategically. The class really heats up when students get in the kitchen, prepare meals and then share that meal together. At the end of each class, students receive groceries to take home to prepare the same meal for their families.

## Snap Outreach

Education is also a central theme behind our SNAP Outreach program. SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but you may know it by its more common name, food stamps. SNAP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and studies show that thousands of individuals who qualify for the program are not enrolled. SNAP Outreach aims to change that by working with our clients to understand the program and its requirements and then help them navigate the enrollment process.



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