



Mission - Provide food to all in need through community partnerships and hunger-relief programs.

FOOD BANK

FOR LARIMER COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Hitting Our Stride

Dear Friends,

It's safe to say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other. Many of us have faced challenges in our lives that we did not anticipate and the same has certainly been true for all of us at the Food Bank. As difficult as this year has been, I have been continually amazed by the performance of our team and the overwhelming support we have received from the community. It is this dedication and willingness to help that has allowed us to continue to support our neighbors during the pandemic.

Here are just a few examples of how that dedication has made a difference in the lives of our clients during the pandemic.

- Transitioning our two client-choice food pantries to a drive-up distribution model – literally overnight. This has allowed us to serve an average of 500 households per day in a safe and contactless manner.
- Revamping our volunteer program to safely and efficiently welcome volunteers to our facility. Since March, nearly 1,900 volunteers have given their time supporting the community through the Food Bank.
- Developing a Homebound Delivery Program for seniors 60 years of age and older who are unable to leave their home due to COVID-19, resulting in more than 500 homebound deliveries each month.
- Expanding our Kids Cafe program to support child feeding sites and afterschool programs by serving tens of thousands of meals and snacks since the pandemic began.
- Establishing a pop-up food pantry in underserved areas of our community where an average of 155 households receive food during each 90-minute event.

These are just a few of the ways we are stepping up to help our neighbors in need. We look forward to a time when this virus is behind us - a time when some of these changes are no longer needed.

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

Mira

Mira has been visiting the Blue Spruce Drive pantry for about three years. She fell onto hard times when a medical condition left her unable to work and she ended up with insurance bills so high that she often had to choose between medicine and food. Mira has had to stop taking certain medications in order to have enough money to purchase food to supplement what she finds at the Food Bank. "I'm more grateful now than I was in the past. I understand how precious food is now."



Marisela

Marisela, a mother of three, is like so many parents who turned to the Food Bank when COVID-19 hit. "I thank the food bank for giving us the help when we need it most," she says. "We struggled with three months of uncertainty and quarantine."



Many families without jobs - we were one of them." Marisela says the situation was compounded by her children being out of school. "It was a very difficult time for us. Thanks to the food bank, not a day was missing a plate of food in my home.

Blessings for you, the volunteers, who always treated us with kindness."

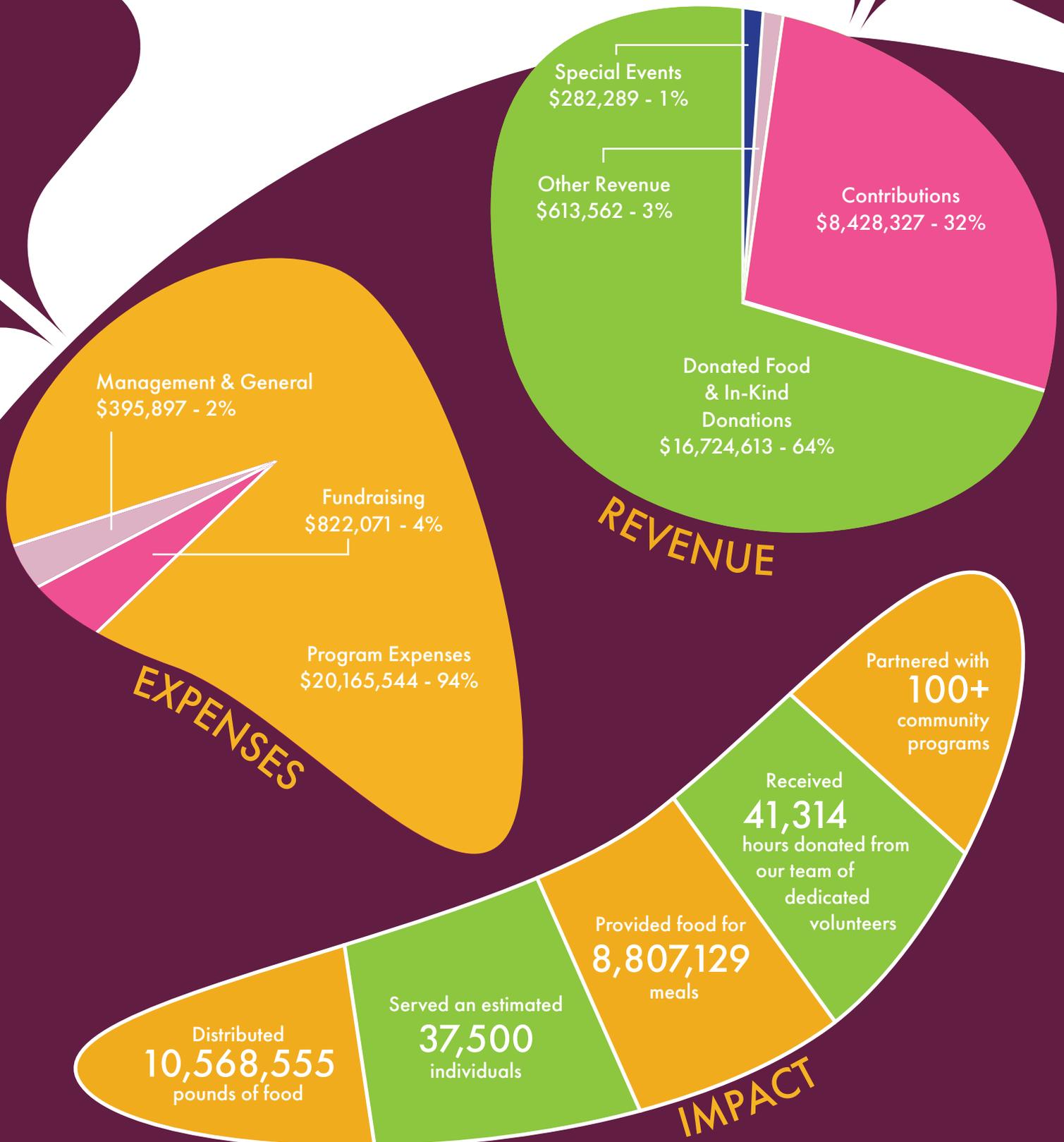
Sharon

Sharon is raising three teenagers and says, "Sometimes they eat me out of house and home." She is so thankful for the Food Bank and the support they provide. "I so appreciate what you do to help the folks of Colorado - especially the seniors. It is a blessing."



Financials & Impact 2020

The Food Bank's success in Fiscal Year 2020 is a direct result of the thousands of volunteers and supporters who freely gave of time and money to ensure that everyone in our community has access to food.



Helping Clients Close The Gap

A welcome outcome of the pandemic has been the renewed focus on those in our community who are struggling. Many of our clients who were having difficulty making ends meet before the pandemic are the ones having the toughest time now due to furloughs, reduction in work hours, or a complete loss of employment.



Homebound Delivery Service

In May, when it became apparent that the pandemic was going to be with us for a while, we began looking at ways to help those most impacted by the virus – our seniors. Initially working in partnership with Colorado State University, we established a Homebound Delivery Program. The program focused primarily on delivering food to seniors ages 60 years of age or older who were homebound due to the pandemic. When CSU's on-campus learning resumed in the fall and they were unable to continue the partnership, the Food Bank expanded its staff to support the program, making an average of 500 deliveries each month.

Pop-up Pantries

A major focus for the Food Bank in 2020 was equity and diversity and how it influences our mission. When our normal pantry operations were impacted by the pandemic, we looked at other ways to increase access to food for our neighbors, especially in underserved areas of our community. One solution was to create mobile "pop-up" food pantries where clients could get food even when their schedule didn't allow them to get to one of our brick and mortar locations.

Each pop-up pantry event routinely serves more than 150 households.



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