



2025 FoodRecovery.org Annual Report





Letter from Executive Director

2025 was a year of new challenges that reminded us why this work matters.

In January, we lost a significant EPA Community Change Grant that was set to drastically increase our operations in Rhode Island. Supply chain fluctuations and new tariffs throughout the year impacted our usual surplus food supplies. Then in November, SNAP cuts pushed millions of families across the country into food insecurity, turning to our partners for food assistance in unprecedented numbers. These setbacks could have derailed our mission to recover surplus food and get it to communities in need.

Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our partners — nonprofit organizations, businesses, volunteers, and donors — we continued connecting fresh, nutritious food with people who needed it most. When traditional funding fell through, our community stepped up. When policy changes deepened food insecurity, we deepened our partnerships.

This year, our community facilitated food recovery in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico, moving over 1 million pounds of food each week and preventing good food from going to waste while nourishing communities across North America. We expanded our reach, developed new partnerships with businesses committed to reducing food waste, and built a fairness algorithm to share food with more partners on our platform.

None of this would have been possible without you. To our nonprofit partners who welcomed donations with open arms and open doors. To our business partners who chose recovery over landfills. To our donors who believed in our mission when times got tough. To our incredible team of 10 who adapted, innovated, and never lost sight of why we do this work.

Challenging years reveal what we're made of. This year showed that together, we're made of resilience, creativity, and an unyielding commitment to our communities.

Thank you for making 2025 a year of impact despite the obstacles.

Food Recovery Overview

In 2025, we recovered 76,614,026 pounds of food and supplies, matching surplus and need in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico. Our programming stayed focused on large donations (palletized products coming from warehouses and distribution centers) and small donations (prepared food and grocery items from schools, restaurants, and festivals), with a few special projects like the Fairness Algorithm and RescueRoute.

This year we expanded immensely geographically, and we launched our Event Food Recovery Service: a more comprehensive offering for event planners and venues looking to donate their extra prepared food, and became a founding member of the National Food Recovery Association.

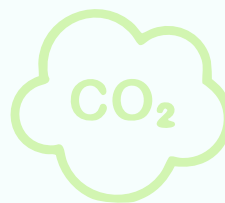
OUR IMPACT*



76,600,000
pounds Gross Weight of Recovered Food and Supplies



13,600,000
estimated Number of People Served



28,700,000
pounds of CO2-e Offset



\$137,000,000
Value of Donations

* All donation weights are verified by our nonprofit partners. Donations are separated into sixteen different food categories used to calculate carbon offsets. Emissions estimates are based on data provided to Brightly Ventures, Inc. by [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) from 2020-2023. Brightly is [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org)'s verified carbon credit partner with an approved project from Verra following the VM0046 methodology.

For more detailed financial information, please see our [Charity Navigator profile](#).



38,959 pounds of fresh cucumbers donated to our nonprofit partner in Florida!

Large Donations

In 2025, the Large Donation team recovered **75,941,348 pounds** of food, drinks, and supplies in the United States and Canada. All of these recovered products might have ended up in a landfill for reasons like short-coded dating, labeling errors, and surplus in the supply chain. Instead, they were all donated to nonprofit organizations serving their communities.

These high-quality food donations included products like cheese, yogurt, produce, potato products, chips, pasta, and meat. The drink donations included milk, water, juice, iced tea, and electrolyte drinks. We also donated non-food essentials like wipes, shampoo, and cleaning supplies. We even donated baby formula and ice cream!

All of these products were given away entirely for free to trusted nonprofit organizations. These incredible food banks, food pantries, and churches distributed our donations into their

communities to help families in need. This year, we deepened our relationships with our current partners and started working with over 50 new nonprofits.

Thanks to our dedicated partnerships, our organization was able to provide food assistance when our communities needed it most. During the California wildfires in January, we provided disaster relief by sending water and milk to impacted neighborhoods. In July, when the destructive flooding hit Texas, we donated shelf-stable milk to a local food bank. During the SNAP benefit shutdown, we donated millions of pounds of food to food banks experiencing record-high visits. We also donated 384,255 pounds of food and supplies to indigenous communities, which experience disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity.

298,429 pounds of water and milk donated to nonprofits in Los Angeles to assist with disaster relief efforts following the devastating wildfires.



But perhaps the Large Donation team's most exciting accomplishment in 2025 was Food Recovery's Project Smile. We set out to send a palletized donation to a nonprofit in every single state in the United States in one year, a task never accomplished in our organization's history. This year, we recovered water in Hawaii and recovered supplies in Alaska. We even donated food in Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. But we had 4 states remaining in the middle of December, so we had to get creative. Miraculously, a generous manufacturer made a donation of 24 pallets of baby formula. With one truck and 4 deliveries,

we were able to share this incredible donation with nonprofits in the last remaining 4 states. We accomplished Food Recovery's Project Smile and nonprofits received 6 pallets of baby formula right before the holidays.

In 2025, our large donation team recovered 75,941,348 pounds of food and supplies that may have ended up in a landfill and instead served an estimated 13,661,862 people. We are so proud of the work we do to help our neighbors and our environment. With the help of our generous food donors and incredible nonprofit partners, we can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2026.



Emily, our Director of Operations in Florida, and Karena, who leads Sustainability at OCPS, presenting at the Florida Food Recovery Forum.

State Specifics

FLORIDA

Total pounds: 25,180,278

OCPS: Since the start of the food recovery program in 2021, 362,431 pounds of food was donated to various nonprofits in the Orlando metro area. This year there was a 27% increase in donations, providing the equivalent of 112,707 meals. This is enough food to feed each resident in the Apopka and Winter Garden!

2025 STATS

135,249 total pounds of food donated

31 schools participated

32 nonprofits received recovered food

Florida Food Recovery Coalition:

After more than a year of work in partnership with the Zero Food Waste Coalition, Senator Rick Scott co-signed the FDLA in July 2025 bringing a much-needed Republican sponsor to the bill. FDLA aims to standardize confusing food expiration dates by creating two clear labels: “Best If Used By” for quality and “Use By” for safety, helping consumers to reduce food waste, and supporting donations by ending confusion about when food is truly unsafe or just past peak quality.

QUOTE FROM PARTNER:

“The donation from FoodRecovery.org really helped our organization serve the community and meet them where they are [at]. Every Friday, families from underserved communities look forward to a box of food; they are excited every Friday to receive free food. We have families, especially young girls, join our mentorship program through our Friday food distribution.”

—Amanda Chidzikwe, She-Lion Foundation

NEW JERSEY

This year, 234,452 pounds of food were donated in the state of New Jersey!

In 2025, [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) prevented food waste at some amazing shows in New Jersey. In collaboration with Freedom Mortgage Pavillion, 450 pounds of assorted food, including fresh produce and dry goods, were donated from a Dave Matthews concert to Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey's Camden campus. Our annual Sea Hear Now festival recovery resulted in the donation of 291 pounds of prepared foods, drinks, snacks, yogurt, and milk to 6 different nonprofit organizations in the Asbury Park area.

[FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) formally joined the Meal Recovery Coalition in 2025! In collaboration with Table to Table, Share

My Meals, Rutgers University Department of Family and Community Health Sciences and 12 other partners across government, public health, food service, and nonprofit sectors, the Meal Recovery Coalition is a New Jersey coalition focused on making prepared food donation the norm. Our Director of Operations: Northeast and California, Allie Wilson, contributed to the creation of prepared food donation guidelines for the state of New Jersey. Hopefully we will see more restaurants and food businesses donate their surplus prepared food as a result of these guidelines.

We continued our restaurant recovery program in partnership with Emporio Cafe e Restaurante and Sabor do Brasil. This year alone, these two restaurants have donated over 31,723 meals to 8 nonprofits across Monmouth County, NJ. That's over 61,211.36 pounds of food! To spread the word about this fantastic program, our Director of Operations: Northeast and California, Allie Wilson, presented a poster about this work at the Resilience and Resistance: Cross Pollinating Food Movements conference at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

In reaction to the SNAP cuts in early November, [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) partnered with small businesses across Monmouth County to host food drives. Ten local businesses in Asbury Park, Bradley Beach, and Wall came together to hold food drives on behalf of [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org), collecting food for our nonprofit partners Prevention Resource Network, Reformation Community Food Pantry, Mercy Center, Bradley Food Pantry, and Casa Freehold. Over 1,500 pounds of shelf-stable food have been donated to our five nonprofit partners from these food drives.

Our driver, Jess Fortunato, delivers food from the Sea Hear Now festival to our community partner, Mercy Center.



PENNSYLVANIA

In 2025, [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) donated **1,488,083.05 pounds of food** to nonprofits across Pennsylvania!

The week of Thanksgiving, one of our grocery store partners, McCaffrey's Market, reached out to [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) about some surplus Thanksgiving food that they were looking to donate. This partner graciously donated over 12,888 pounds of food, including Thanksgiving turkeys, brussels sprouts, gravy, and even prepared meals.

Our team of drivers took to the streets and shared the Thanksgiving spirit with ten nonprofit organizations in the Philadelphia metro area, who dispersed the donations to local communities. This Thanksgiving feast was shared with All Together Community Alliance, Bethesda Project, New Day Drop In Center, Breezy Mart, Inn of Amazing Mercy, Community Food Giveaway, Prevention Point, Third Eternal Baptist Church, Faith Assembly of God Church, and Garden of Health.

Turkeys from McCaffrey's being loaded up so they can be delivered to nonprofits across Philadelphia.

We are so grateful for the support of McCaffrey's for generously sharing their surplus food with [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org), allowing us to spread the holiday spirit with our food-insecure neighbors in Philadelphia and beyond.

CALIFORNIA

We donated **9,456,037 pounds of food** to nonprofits throughout California!

Thanks to our fantastic food donors and our large donation team, we were able to provide 9,340,427 pounds of food to nonprofit organizations across California.

Through a generous grant from StopWaste, in partnership with the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and our friends at Food Connect, FoodRecovery.org prevented 96,172 pounds of food from going to waste from OUSD's Central Warehouse.

Food such as salad, kale, tortilla chips, yogurt, rice, and much more, was shared with our nonprofit partners in the area, including Oakland Trybe, All Good Living, Mary Barber Ministries, White Pony Express, Hope 4 the Heart, and Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB).

[FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) was able to not only recover food from OUSD, but also provide donated food to Alameda County Community Food Bank! Over 473,747 pounds of food and drink were donated to ACCFB, providing much needed support to the Alameda County Community.





Prepared food donated by a catering company in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND

This year, 11,292 pounds of food were donated in the state of Rhode Island!

We started the year eager to expand our Rhode Island programming with the financial support of an EPA grant we received in partnership with the Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) and the Center for Ecotechnology (CET). Unfortunately, due to unprecedented funding cuts to governmental agencies, the grant we received was cancelled.

While this unexpected funding cut was a hurdle, our partners at the RIFPC continued to search for funding for this innovative collaboration between [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org), CET, and RIFPC- now known as the Food and Climate Action Partnership (FCAP). Thanks to the leadership of the RIFPC, and the innovative grant making of the Rhode Island Foundation, the Food and Climate Action Partnership (FCAP) received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation and we are picking up where we left off and working to continue expanding our work in Rhode Island!

Thanks to our partnership with Panera, we have been able to donate 4,730 pounds of food to nonprofit partners across Rhode Island- including Lincoln Housing Authority, Olmstead Gardens, Haitian Baptist Church of RI, and Salvation Army Pawtucket. Our fantastic drivers, Laurel and David, work hard to make these donations happen by continuously picking up donations from our Panera partners and building relationships with the nonprofits they drop off at.

[FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) has also continued our food recovery efforts with corporate cafeterias, office catering operations, and higher education institutions. Through our partnerships with the Rhode Island School of Design, Johnson and Wales University, and Brown University, we've been able to recover surplus food from campuses across Rhode Island! We've also been fortunate enough to receive donations from Morin Catering and FLIK Fidelity corporate cafeteria.

Our Executive Director, Sammie, and Rob from Breakthrough Ministries, unloading a food donation from the NACS Show in Chicago.



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

3,508,109:

Total pounds of recovered food and drink products

11: Nonprofit partners

55: Food donors

79: Volunteers

CHICAGO

With the support of NACS Foundation during their annual show and on-going food rescues from Chicago O'Hare International Airport, 2025 was a year of wild success.

FROM OUR NONPROFIT PARTNERS:

"Thank you, everyone, for supporting Breakthrough! We are deeply grateful to NACS & Food Recovery[.org]!"

–Tim Goldrick, Breakthrough

"[It] all worked out. Some great product. We are very grateful for the donation."

– Sister Stephanie Baliga, Mission of Our Lady of the Angels

A big thank you to the NACS Foundation, Chicago Food Rescue and Chicago O'Hare Airport for making 2025 a success!

NEW YORK

In December 2025, UpClear committed \$20,000 to [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org), joining forces to combat food waste and hunger across the United States. The partnership was forged through both organizations' shared membership with 1% for the Planet, uniting a corporate leader with a nonprofit on the frontlines of environmental and social impact.

UpClear's support will help [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) continue its proven model of turning surplus food into meals for families facing food insecurity. Every dollar donated through the platform distributes 66 pounds of food, equivalent to 55 meals. This partnership demonstrates the power of corporate commitment to drive real change, ensuring that edible food that would otherwise be wasted reaches the people who need it most.

Together, UpClear and [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) are proving that solving hunger and reducing waste aren't separate challenges but two sides of the same solution.

Special Projects

FAIRNESS ALG

The Problem: Our data showed that 5% of recipient organizations were claiming 50% of all donations, leaving smaller, less-resourced nonprofits unable to serve food-insecure residents effectively. To better understand this problem, our team worked alongside Penn State Professor Aydin Alptekinoglu and Boston University Professor Gerdus Benade. Together, we created a survey asking for feedback from nonprofits in Orlando and Manatee to understand how they procure food donations, how time was spent from staff and volunteers, and if they were able to claim rescued food with us.

Our Solution: The Fairness Algorithm: We developed a tiered notification system that gives under-resourced organizations additional time to claim food donations before notifying larger, more active organizations.

PILOT RESULTS

During the summer pilot (June-September), 97 donations were posted totaling 2,558 pounds of food.

4 Florida nonprofits received their first-ever donation since implementation.

RESCUE ROUTE

In partnership with Epic-Cure, FoodRecovery.org is working to find a solution to food lost during transportation to and from food businesses. Entire truckloads of good food are often considered waste due to minor imperfections, temperature issues, missed dock times, mis-labeled produce, and other avoidable problems. Our team currently recovers at least one rejected truckload of food per week.

To avoid good food going to the landfill, truck drivers need a fast, efficient, and easy way to donate rejected loads before their next delivery. The FoodRecovery.org platform plans to create a mobile-friendly way for truck drivers and nonprofits to donate and claim rejected pallet loads and facilitate the redistribution of hundreds of thousands of pounds of food nationwide.

Learn more at rescueroute.org/

EVENTS

Events often create waste: folks RSVP, but don't show or people do not eat as much as planned. So where does all that leftover food go? This paid, high quality food is often thrown away. Between 30-40% ends up in the landfill.

This year, [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) launched our Event Food Recovery program to help event planners and their clients make their event as sustainable as possible while giving back to the community.

We recovered food from 22 events across the US and Canada! Through these events, 5,987.50 pounds of food were donated — resulting in the donation of 5,012 meals to nonprofits across the country.

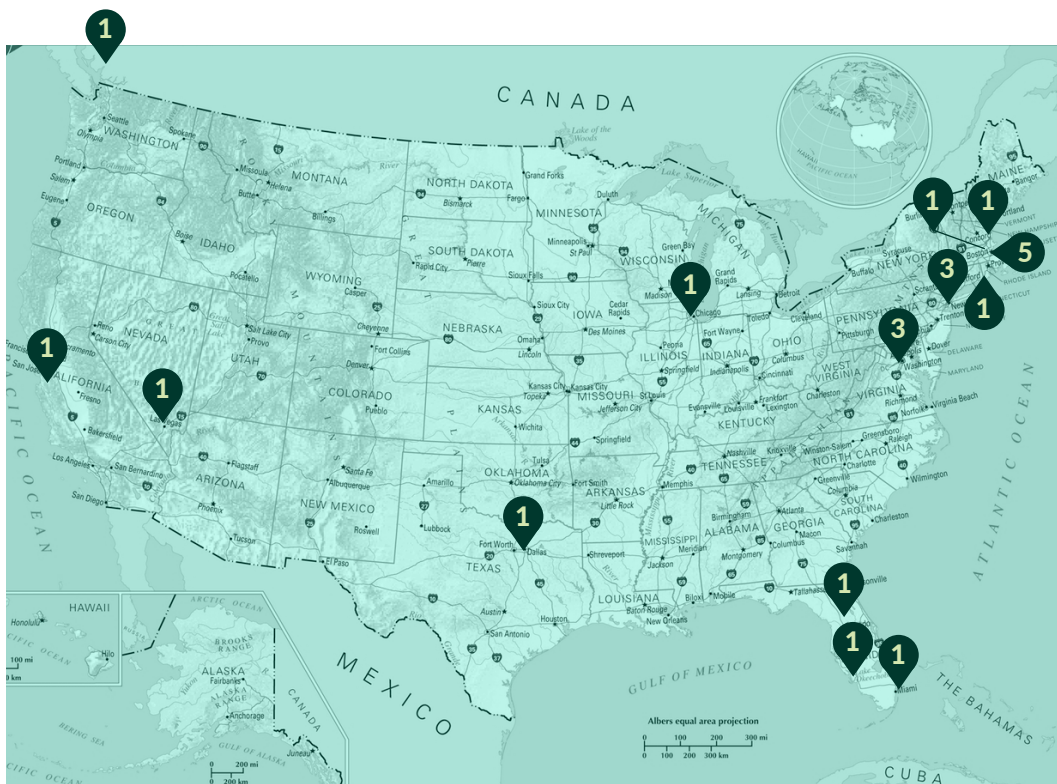
TESTIMONIAL

"We love you guys. We will take you with us everywhere we go. Everyone in any position of the events/hospitality industry should be using FoodRecovery.org. There are millions of hungry veterans, men, women, and children in every pocket in America. If we can help, we should. They handle all the logistics and negotiations, and at the end, they send you a deck with the impact stats from your donation."

– Jenn Wilson, WSQ Productions

22 EVENTS

- 5 in Boston
- 3 in DC
- 3 in NYC
- 1 in Dallas
- 1 in Vancouver
- 1 in Port Charlotte
- 1 in Westerly
- 1 in Half Moon Bay
- 1 in Portsmouth
- 1 in Somerville
- 1 in Miami
- 1 in Chicago
- 1 in Las Vegas
- 1 in Orlando





Two of our wonderful partners loading extra prepared food from an event for donation.

Looking at the Year Ahead

Looking ahead, [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) is deepening and expanding our programming with a sharper focus than ever on the communities that need us most. As federal food assistance programs faced significant cuts and uncertainty this past year, the critical role of food recovery in a resilient, equitable food system became impossible to ignore. When other safety nets faltered, food

recovery stepped in, connecting surplus food from businesses with the nonprofits, food banks, and community organizations working on the front lines. This moment reinforces why [FoodRecovery.org](https://www.foodrecovery.org) exists: not as a supplement to the food system, but as an essential pillar of it. In the year ahead, we are strengthening our platform, growing our partnerships, and doubling down on the initiatives and programs that move food from where it is to where it is needed most.



No senior should have to choose between medicine and dinner. Thanks to you, they don't have to. Breakthrough Fresh Market Community Food Pantry in Chicago, October 2025.

Support Our Work!

FUNDRAISING

Your support brings hope to the table, one neighbor and one community at a time.

When you give to FoodRecovery.org, you're turning surplus food into meals for families who need them most. Every dollar you donate helps us recover and redistribute 66 pounds of food, creating approximately 55 meals. That's real impact and real lives changed.

In 2025, we recovered over 75 million pounds of food through partnership with hundreds of nonprofit partners. Behind these numbers are parents who can fill their pantries, seniors who don't have to choose between groceries and medicine, and children who don't go to bed hungry.

Whether you give monthly, make a one-time donation, or double your impact through employer matching programs, you're part of a solution that fights hunger and food waste simultaneously. You're not just moving food. You're delivering hope.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are the reason we can continue doing this impactful work. Without you, good food doesn't reach good people.

Join us for food pick ups, help connect food donors with local pantries, or spread the word in your community. Every hour you give multiplies our reach. You'll see the difference firsthand in the relief on a parent's face, in the gratitude of a neighbor, in the strength of a community coming together.

We're proving that hunger isn't about scarcity. It's about connection. And volunteers like you are that vital connection between abundance and need.

Ready to help bring hope to the table? Visit FoodRecovery.org to donate or volunteer today.



Donate here!

hello@foodrecovery.org



www.foodrecovery.org