



2015 Annual Report

mission

Working together to build and sustain hunger-free communities throughout the Southern Tier.

vision

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is committed to creating a future without hunger where access to healthy food by all is recognized as fundamental to the well-being and success of individuals and the foundation of a strong, vibrant society.

dear friends,



I'm pleased to share the highlights from another year of incredible work here at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, thanks to the support of our generous community of donors, advocates and volunteers!

Together, we were able to accomplish the following:

- Distribute 10,089,342 lbs. of food (= 8.1 million meals) across the Southern Tier
- Finalize our new three year strategic plan
- Increase advocacy efforts and develop an Advocacy & Education Department
- Expand the Senior Mobile Food Pantry program

The creation of our new strategic plan was an amazing experience which took eight months to complete and incorporated feedback from both internal and external stakeholders including Food Bank staff, board members, partner agencies, donors and our neighbors in need. We approached this ambitious project with the belief that the process was just as important as the final product. The process was indeed transformative for us as an organization and the resulting framework is something my team and I are excited to implement over the next three years.

One of the accomplishments that I'm most proud of is the creation of our new Advocacy & Education Department. Supported by a two-year advocacy capacity building grant from Feeding America, we were able to combine our Advocacy, Hunger Education, and Summer Food activities into a single department, allowing us to further sharpen our focus in these areas.

In response to the high level of need among seniors and their general reluctance to visit traditional food pantries, we made a concerted effort to improve and expand our Senior Mobile Food Pantry program. We added nearly 100 additional distributions in 2015 resulting in over 7,000 seniors served and 380,000 lbs. of food distributed. This represents a 77% increase in food distributed directly to our senior neighbors in need.

And finally, 2015 marks the fifth anniversary of the move into our facility at Upper Oakwood Avenue in Elmira. This alone is hard to believe given everything we have accomplished during that short amount of time. Over the course of the past five years, we have doubled our food distribution, reached every school district in our service area with our Backpack Program™, and more than doubled the number of volunteers we work with annually.

It has truly been a remarkable year and I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in 2016!

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natasha R. Thompson'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Natasha R. Thompson
President and CEO

\$1 donation = 3 meals



1,359,883
requests for food

167 partner agencies
across 6 counties



10,089,342 lbs.
of food distributed

Established in 1981

and headquartered in Elmira, NY, the **Food Bank of the Southern Tier** distributes food and other grocery products to people in need through a network of more than 167 partner agencies. Our service area covers nearly 4,000 miles and six counties: Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins, with over 500,000 total residents.

We are a member of **Feeding America** – a nationwide network of 200 food banks leading the fight against hunger in the US – as well as a regional agency of **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester**. We hope to create a just and compassionate society rooted in the dignity of all people by working together to build and sustain hunger-free communities throughout the Southern Tier.

The **Food Bank of the Southern Tier** is a **Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity**. This means we have been evaluated for financial accountability, governance and oversight, effectiveness measures, and fundraising and informational materials and have met the 20 Standards of Charity Accountability. We are also a member of the **Food Bank Association of New York State** – a non-profit organization representing the nine regional food banks located across New York.



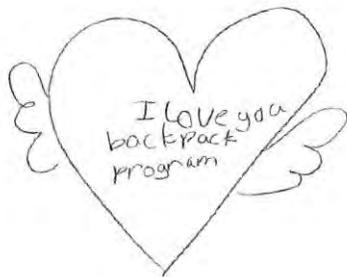
ny.give.org



mobile food pantry program

The Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) program delivers fresh produce, dairy products, and grocery products directly to people in need. In 2015, the MFP distributed more than 3.2 million pounds of food – over a third of our total – including 723,129 lbs. of produce, at 685 distributions throughout the Food Bank's six-county service area.

An in-depth study of the program revealed that **98% of the senior citizens served through MFP distributions at senior housing sites live at or below the federal poverty level**, and 88% do not go to brick and mortar pantries. To serve more low-income seniors, the Food Bank will more than doubled the number of senior-specific MFP distributions in 2016. We will also be adding evening distributions to reach more of our neighbors in need who work during the day.



backpack program™

By providing children who are at risk of hunger with a bag of nutritious food over weekends and breaks throughout the school year, the Backpack Program™ attempts to reduce hunger and help children return to school ready to learn. During the 2015-2016 school year, over 2,800 children in 41 school districts received packs each week. A total of 121,045 packs were distributed.

focus on healthy foods

While the Food Bank has always been concerned with nutrition, we are able to distribute more fresh food and encourage clients to choose healthy options through the following initiatives.

- **Kids' Farmer's Market**

We distributed fresh fruits and vegetables, farmers' market style, to children at Summer Food sites. The kids ran eagerly to the van and helped the driver unload each week. They were able to choose the fruits and veggies to take home, along with easy-to-follow recipes. Staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension also visited and prepared recipes on site.

- **Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables** Our staff nutritionists prepare and demonstrate healthy recipes at local agencies and provide practical nutrition information and cooking tips featuring fruits and vegetables.

- **The Healthy Harvest Program** distributes locally-grown fresh produce at Mobile Food Pantry distributions and to our partner agencies. The Food Bank has negotiated contracts with local farmers to acquire locally-grown produce at set prices. This helps the farmers and boosts our local economy – bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to Food Bank clients, many of whom find fresh produce too expensive to purchase.



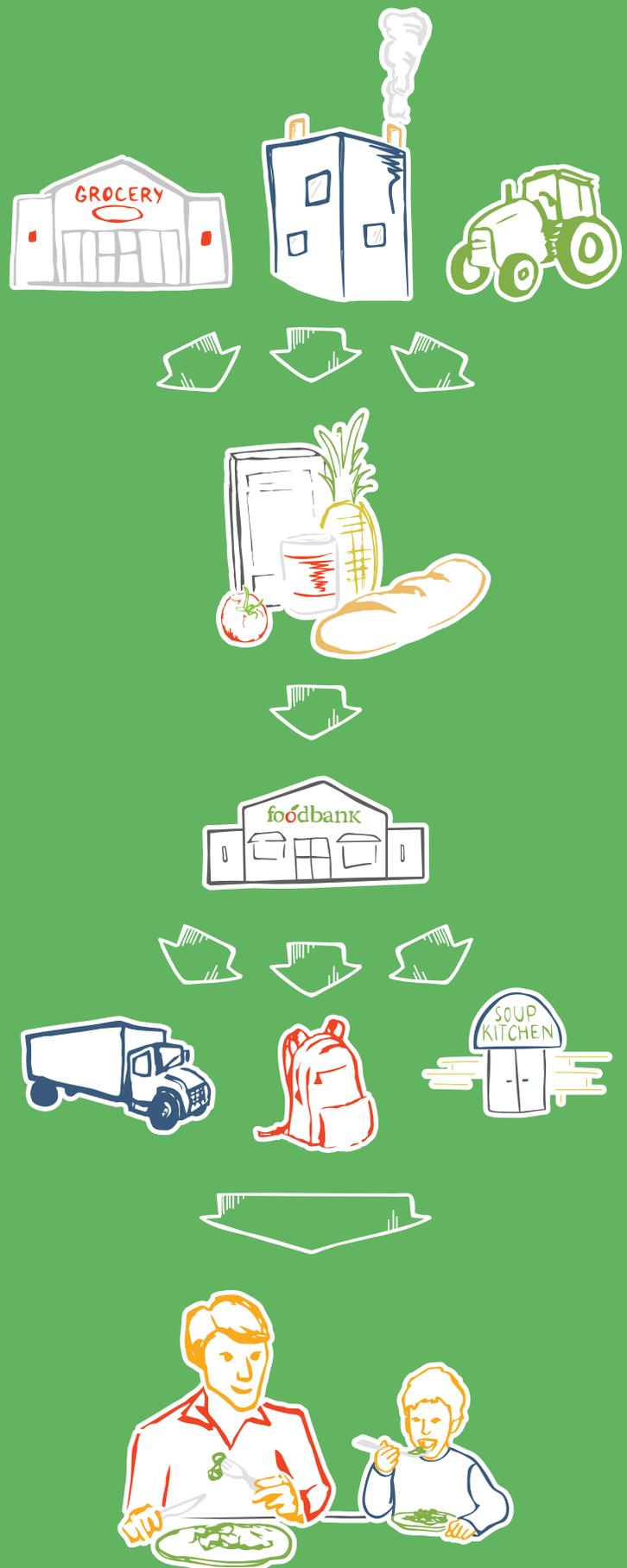
getting food to those who need it

The Food Bank of the Southern Tier is a storehouse for millions of pounds of food and other grocery products that go out to the community. Every day we collect, store, and distribute massive amounts of food to feed as many people as possible.

First, we acquire food from distributors, growers, manufacturers, processors, retailers, federal commodities, and wholesalers.

This food is then distributed through a network of 167 partner agencies — including food pantries, meal kitchens, senior programs, and direct service programs like the **Mobile Food Pantry Program** and the **BackPack Program™**.

Here, the food reaches the people who need it most — children, families, seniors, the homeless, the unemployed, and the working poor.



donated food

NATIONAL DONATIONS As a member of **Feeding America**—the Nation’s Food Bank Network—the Food Bank has access to donated food and grocery items from manufacturers, processors, and growers from across the US. Product is donated to **Feeding America** for a variety of reasons including seasonality, mislabeling, test marketing, and more. Donors receive a tax incentive for their donation as long as the product is deemed safe for human consumption. While the product is made available to us free of charge, we pay for the cost of transportation to receive it.

National donors include **General Mills, Kraft, Nabisco, ConAgra** and **Tyson Foods**.

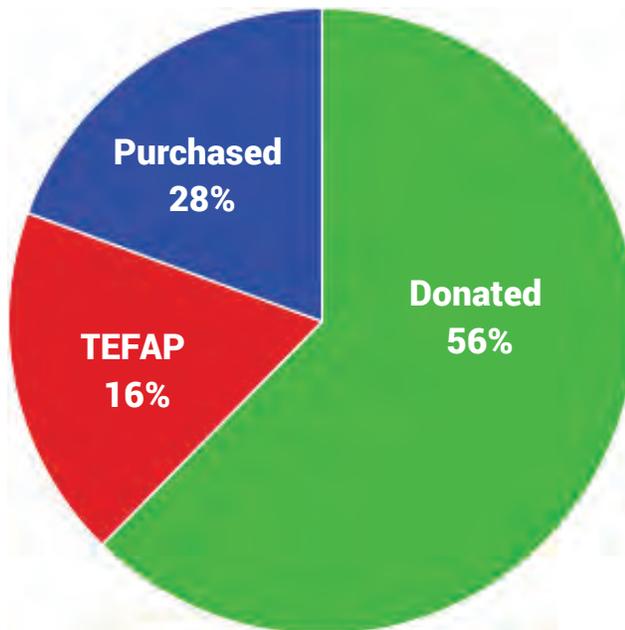
LOCAL DONATIONS In addition to the national donations received through **Feeding America**, the Food Bank receives support from local partners including grocers, retailers, corporations, and individuals. Local initiatives such as food drives, **Plant-A-Row for the Hungry**, and the **Venison Donation Program** also help engage the community in hunger-relief.

purchased food

WHOLESALE FOOD PROGRAM The **Wholesale Food Program** supplements other food programs by providing products and staples that are typically not donated through our network of local and national donors. Non-food items such as soap, diapers, and paper products are also sometimes available through this program.

THE HUNGER PREVENTION AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HPNAP) The **Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)** is a New York State Department of Health program dedicated to improving the quality and quantity of food consumed by low-income individuals. The Food Bank uses **HPNAP** funding to purchase nutrient-dense food, which is then made available to emergency food providers.

food sources



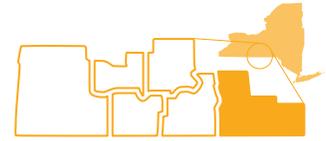
TEFAP food

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. Through **TEFAP**, commodity foods are made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to New York State, which then provides this food to the Food Bank. Then we distribute the food to community hunger-relief programs that directly serve the public. Recipients of **TEFAP** food must meet income eligibility of 185% of the poverty level.



Team Visions building their structure for Construction of the Southern Tier, at the Oakdale Mall, in Johnson City, NY

Broome



Population: 198,797

Partner Agencies: 49

BackPack Program™: 12 districts;
852 children served; 30,995 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 18 sites, 123 distributions

Food Distributed: 3,191,616 lbs.*

Value of Food Distributed: \$5,425,747

Total Requests for Food: 498,752

*The Broome County Council of Churches CHOW Program distributed 1,334,424 lbs. of food. CHOW received 468,056 lbs. from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

Chemung



Population: 88,681

Partner Agencies: 43

BackPack Program™: 3 districts;
440 children served; 15,921 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 7 sites, 53 distributions

Food Distributed: 2,614,570 lbs.

Value of Food Distributed: \$4,444,768

Total Requests for Food: 329,155



Hunger Education at HENDY Elementary, in Elmira, NY

Schuyler



Population: 18,458

Partner Agencies: 9

BackPack Program™: 2 districts;
73 children served; 2,226 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 5 sites, 26 distributions

Food Distributed: 381,830 lbs.

Value of Food Distributed: \$649,111

Total Requests for Food: 26,973



Schuyler Outreach Food Pantry in Schuyler County

Steuben

Population: 98,917

Partner Agencies: 29

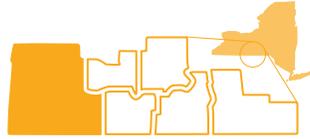
BackPack Program™: 12 districts;
854 children served; 22,570 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 15 sites, 139 distributions

Food Distributed: 1,831,976 lbs.

Value of Food Distributed: \$3,114,358

Total Requests for Food: 247,569



Mobile Food Pantry distribution in Canisteo, NY



Tioga County Rural Ministry Food Pantry in Owego, NY

Tioga

Population: 50,464

Partner Agencies: 16

BackPack Program™: 6 districts;
263 children served; 9,210 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 8 sites, 57 distributions

Food Distributed: 784,638 lbs.

Value of Food Distributed: \$1,333,884

Total Requests for Food: 84,395



Tompkins

Population: 103,179

Partner Agencies: 21

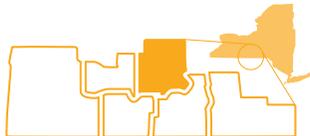
BackPack Program™: 6 districts;
299 children served; 10,037 packs distributed

Mobile Food Pantry: 10 sites, 81 distributions

Food Distributed: 1,227,868 lbs.

Value of Food Distributed: \$2,087,375

Total Requests for Food: 173,039



Immaculate Conception Food Pantry in Ithaca, NY

statement of financial position

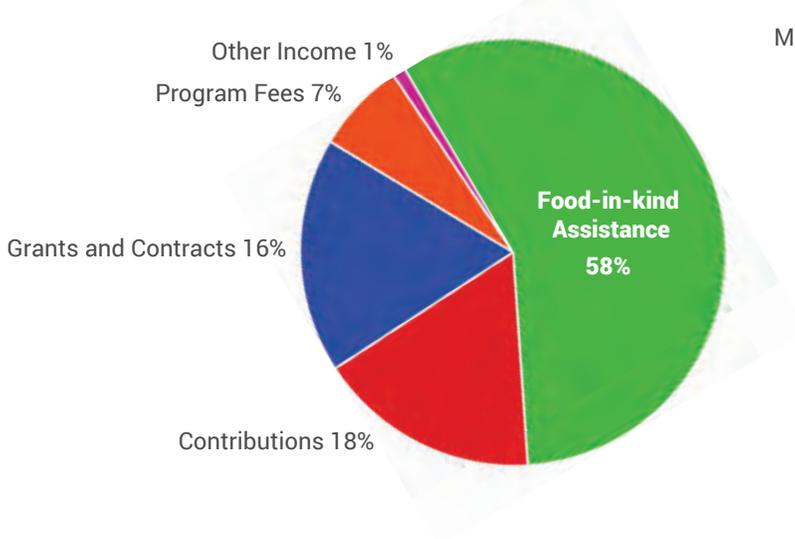
Year Ended December 31, 2015

support and revenue	2015	2014
Food-in-kind assistance	\$ 8,322,778	\$ 8,688,695
Program Fees	994,442	1,239,581
Grants and Contracts	2,338,221	2,118,126
Contributions	2,495,676	2,080,546
Other Income	2,757	85,139
Total Support and Revenue	14,153,874	14,212,087

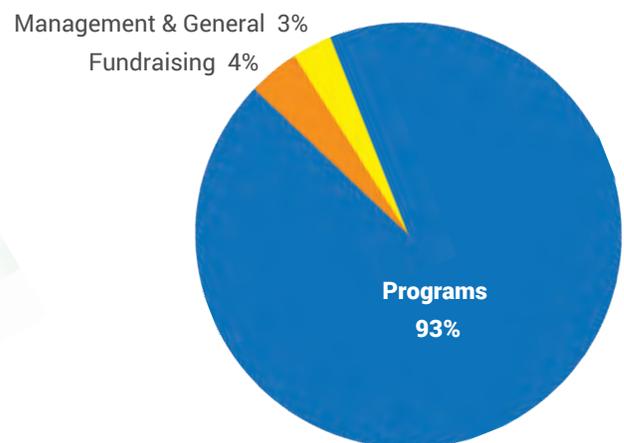
expenses

Program	13,244,510	13,416,854
Management and General	460,683	415,969
Fundraising	628,362	658,037
Total Expenses	14,333,555	14,490,860
Change in Net Assets	(179,681)	(222,523)
Total Net Assets	6,741,934	6,921,617

revenue by source



operating expenses



*For a copy of the audited financial statements, visit our website www.foodbankst.org, or contact the Food Bank by phone at **607.796.6061**.



a message from our board of directors

Recently my daughter's Girl Scout troop volunteered at the Food Bank facility in Elmira, assembling packs for the BackPack Program™. As I drove her and a friend home, they were talking about how hard it must be not to have food available whenever you want it. Yet sadly, in our service area and around the country, many people, children included, don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Whether it is through our tremendous volunteer network, or our network of gracious financial donors, the people of the Southern Tier have continued to demonstrate a commitment to selflessness and improving the lives of the less fortunate around us. The Food Bank could not have distributed over ten million pounds of food last year without your continued generosity.

As many of you know, the Food Bank recently introduced a new strategic framework. In addition to our continued commitment to distribute food to those in need, we want to increase our advocacy efforts in an attempt to address the root causes of food insecurity. As we roll out this new strategy, I hope that you will take the opportunity to help us advocate with our local, state and national representatives to effect real, long term change.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, I thank you for your generosity and hope that you continue to see the value in donating your time and financial resources to assist us in continuing with our mission.

Thank you for your continued support,

Stephen Fowler
Chairperson of the Board of Directors





stay in touch!



@FoodBankSTier



/FoodBankSouthernTier



YouTube.com/user/FoodBankST



Flickr.com/photos/43131827@n03

388 Upper Oakwood Avenue
Elmira, New York 14903

P: 607.796.6061

F: 607.796.6028

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www.FoodBankST.org