

# SERVING

The

# HUNGRY

Fall 2024



Top (L) Clockwise: Increased nutrition outreach activities; Bread & Produce Markets moved on-site; 14th Annual Soup Bowl Benefit; New garage expands Foodbank footprint

## Foodbank Address

430 N 14th 1/2 Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

## Mailing Address

PO Box 3318  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

## Phone

812-232-1447 Option 2

## Website

THCCFoodbank.org



Social

@CatholicCharitiesTerreHaute

## Text Updates **NEW!**

Text **FOODBANK** to 812-419-1973 for occasional updates on volunteer opportunities, events and exciting news from the Foodbank

## Undeniable Impact in FY24

Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank experienced exciting growth and change in the 2024 fiscal year. For many of our neighbors however, their wallets were forced to tighten even more as inflation continued to force hard decisions to be made. In hopes of meeting the increased need, the Foodbank was able to offer new programs, expand our educational outreach and ultimately, distribute more food than the previous year (17% increase).

Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study, released in May 2024, shed light on some of the increased numbers the Foodbank was experiencing. Overall, food insecurity increased from 12.9% to 16% in our service area. The jump for food insecurity in children was even greater: 15.3% in 2021 and 20.8% in 2022 (the most recent data).

Numbers served by Foodbank programs increased across the board, including those programs operated through Fishes and Loaves Soup Kitchen located in Ryves Youth Center. Reflecting on the stark increase in child food insecurity, we know that these youth serving programs are even more crucial.

Continued on p.3

# A WORD FROM OUR AGENCY DIRECTOR

Friends,

As you read this letter, the year is quickly coming to an end. It seems like I was just writing my letter welcoming everyone into 2024! Time passes quickly, especially when you're busy. And this year, friends, we have been busy.

You will see in our wrap-up from fiscal year 2024 that the number of neighbors needing assistance, along with our total pounds of food distributed, increased. This mirrors the increased number of food insecure individuals that we're seeing in our area (*Map the Meal Gap, 2024*). Total pounds of food distributed went up by 17% over last year resulting in 4.45 million pounds of nutrition going into our communities.

The Foodbank distributed  
the equivalent of

## 3.71 Million Meals

Supported by events like the annual Soup Bowl Benefit, community partnerships and gracious donors, Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank continues to expand our mission to nourish the minds, bodies and spirits of our neighbors. You will read about some of those partnerships throughout the newsletter: much anticipated fresh Indiana sweet corn, brown bag lunches for our senior neighbors and some of the youngest in our community being introduced to new, nutritious foods. These new and expanded programs are exciting and offer new ways for the Foodbank to grow and serve.

With growth comes the need for support and as we enter into the holidays, I ask you to look at your own blessings from this year and how you may be able to give back. Volunteering, donating and being a voice for Catholic Charities are just some of the ways that YOU make a difference. As I reflect on the work of the Foodbank in FY24 and the relief and blessings that it brought to our brothers and sisters, I thank God for YOU and your choice to support Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank.

In Your Service,



John C. Etling  
Agency Director

## Fun Partnership Grows Smiles!

GrowTH, a new club geared at introducing youth to healthy, nutritious foods, kicked off this summer in partnership with the Terre Haute Farmers Market. A 6-week program was held at the Market and each week children received a \$3 voucher to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables from vendors thanks to Purdue Extension - Vigo County, and the Vigo County Health Department.



Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank is involved in nutrition education outreach to youth through our Fun Food Friday activities at Ryves Youth Center, cooking classes at Bethany House Emergency Shelter and community garden partnerships within the Ryves Neighborhood. Through a grant from CVS Pharmacy intended to increase healthcare partnerships, the Foodbank provided incentives for youth to participate in the program including fresh produce vouchers, frisbees and jump ropes to encourage continued physical activity and bikes for one boy and one girl-selected at random-who participated 4 out of the 6 weeks of the GrowTH Kid's Club.

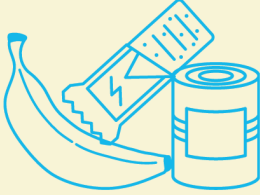
# Undeniable Impact cont.

Our senior-focused food distribution, Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), serves nearly 75 of our neighbors each month. Each participant receives a box of food including items like cereal, cheese, shelf-stable milk, a selection of fruits and vegetables and protein.

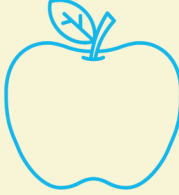


**74 CSFP  
Participants**

As mentioned previously, Fishes and Loaves Soup Kitchen saw an increase in the number of people they serve as well. The Backpack Program ensures that children from Ryves Youth Center leave on Friday with easy-to-prepare snacks and meals for the weekend. The number of bags distributed increased 31% from FY23. Youth also receive afterschool snacks from the Kids Cafe and evening meals through the soup kitchen during the school week.



**1173 Backpacks  
Distributed**

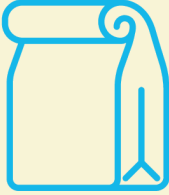


**4306 Afterschool  
Snacks Enjoyed**



**7663 Evening  
Meals Served**

During weekdays, Fishes and Loaves Soup Kitchen serves lunches to neighbors from the Ryves Neighborhood and beyond. Chef Naomi Smith prepares hot meals that rival any local restaurant! For holidays and on the weekends when the soup kitchen is closed, sack lunches are distributed from Bethany House Emergency Shelter.



**12,325 Sack  
Lunches Provided**



**29,739 Hot  
Lunches Enjoyed**

"We go to the soup kitchen a lot and I am deathly allergic to mushrooms – Miss Naomi is so sweet and remembers my allergies and has something (all ready) for me! It is always so amazing!"  
– Annabelle W.

## Year-End Giving Opportunities

### Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

A DAF is like a charitable investment account intended to support organizations you care about. Charitable giving with a DAF can be a tax-efficient way to make a big impact!

- Contributions to your DAF can be invested and grow tax free
- No IRS-required distributions are required on DAF accounts
- DAFs can involve multiple generations in charitable giving and instill philanthropic values

### Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a qualified charity and the donated amount is excluded from taxable income. For those 72 and older, QCDs can count toward satisfying a required minimum distribution (RMD).

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD
- The max QCD amount for one year is \$105,000 for gifts across all charities
- To qualify for your RMD, funds must be distributed by December 31

### Important Dates

**Online Credit Card or EFT**  
11:59 PM on 12/31/24

**Mailed Cash or Checks**  
Postmarked by 12/31/24

*Remember to consider weekends, holidays and office hours*

**For questions regarding charitable giving, email**  
[jtameseccthin.org](mailto:jtameseccthin.org)

**Did you know?** Your gift to Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank may qualify as a tax deduction as we are an IRS classified 501(c)(3).

# A Welcomed Treat

In 2012, Westminster Village donated a plot of land to Ivy Tech Community College - Terre Haute's Agriculture and Precision Agriculture programs. The land provides unique hands-on learning opportunities for students. Sweet corn is grown and harvested - enjoyed by Westminster residents and donated to local organizations like Wabash Valley Master Gardeners and Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank. The project enables agriculture students to learn about crop production, while those studying precision agriculture use technology to increase efficiency of production.

Most importantly, students, faculty and volunteers learn about the importance of giving back to the community. Fresh, locally grown produce is always a special treat and this sweet corn harvest is a favorite among our neighbors and partner agencies.

It was a long and busy day for our volunteers, drivers and warehouse staff, as the 2024 harvest produced 14 gaylords - roughly 5,400 pounds - of sweet corn!



Groups like CODA and First Steps Terre Haute took advantage of the fresh produce as did many partner pantries including ones in Parke, Vigo and Clay counties. Volunteers were led by Karson Harris, Agriculture Program Chair at Ivy Tech along with roughly 15 students from the department.

Bane-Welker supplied equipment and support and Papa Johns (1234 Wabash Ave) supplied lunch.



## The Lasting Legacy of The Food Group

When Jenny Piker agreed to chair the Outreach and Service Commission for the Terre Haute Deanery in 2015, she couldn't have imagined the lasting legacy that was about to be created. After recruiting friends, Jack Meany, Karen Goehl and others, one of the immediate needs identified was the lack of food assistance, particularly in north Terre Haute. Enter in, *the Food Group*.

Formed to address this problem head-on, *the Food Group* started with Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. At the time, the parish was helping to support a neighborhood food pantry. While several existed in the area, a soup kitchen was the dream. After many conversations, it was determined that a soup kitchen wasn't possible but then, an idea - create a sack lunch program to serve our northside neighbors! The (then called) 12 Points Brown Bag Project was born.

Initially serving residents of Garfield Towers, the program expanded to Warren Village in 2017. For 8 years, each lunch has been prepared, packed and delivered by volunteers twice a week. Since her passing in 2021, members from Jenny's family carry on the legacy of her servant's heart and meet at Fishes & Loaves Soup Kitchen every Monday to prepare 160 sandwiches.

Now known as the Brown Bag Project, 8,480 lunches were distributed in FY24! The project is funded by monthly donations from local churches, organizations and individual supporters. Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank has provided food for the Brown Bag Project since its inception and took over as program coordinator in January 2024.

### Volunteer

[ccthin.org/volunteers](https://ccthin.org/volunteers)

### Donate

[ccthin.org/donate](https://ccthin.org/donate)

### Let's Chat!

812-232-1447 Option 3

### Learn More

[ccthin.org](https://ccthin.org)



### Follow & Share

@CatholicCharitiesTerreHaute

## Need Help Finding Food?

If you need help finding food or know someone who does, visit our website at [THCCFoodbank.org](https://THCCFoodbank.org)