

412 FOOD RESCUE + FOOD RESCUE HERO

PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING CHANGE



2023

IMPACT REPORT

Published: July, 2024

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A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Reflecting on 2023, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable strides 412 Food Rescue has made. This year, we embarked on a journey of internal reorganization, strengthening our operations to lay a solid foundation for future growth. Our dedicated team and volunteers rescued an astounding **4.4 million pounds of food** in Southwestern PA, bringing our cumulative local impact to **32 million pounds since our inception**.

We welcomed talented individuals who have enhanced our logistics and distribution relationships, **ensuring that our mission to combat food insecurity is executed with greater efficiency and reach**. Our volunteers remain the heart of our organization, and their tireless efforts have made an indelible impact on our community.

Despite the challenges, including the temporary displacement of our Good Food Project due to an electrical fire, we continued to serve our neighbors with unwavering commitment. The reopening of this program

and the expansion of our initiatives, such as the Grocery Bagging Program, and upcoming projects like FarmShare and Hidden Harvest, signify our resilience and dedication to innovation.

As we look forward to the next chapter, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, including welcoming new CEO, Alyssa Cholodofsky, and further developing our Food Rescue Hero™ technology platform and network. **Together, we will continue to make a difference, turning surplus into sustenance and expanding healthy food access for all.**

Thank you for your unwavering support.

With gratitude,

Beth Slagle

Attorney, *Meyer Unkovic & Scott*



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Food Rescue Heroes,

It is with great enthusiasm and a profound sense of purpose that I step into the role of CEO at 412 Food Rescue, overseeing both the organization and its innovative Food Rescue Hero™ technology platform. As a longtime admirer of this incredible organization, I am inspired by the tireless efforts of the volunteers and staff who have made a significant impact in combating food waste and hunger in their communities.

2023 has been a transformative year, marked by significant milestones and the unwavering dedication of staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Our innovative Food Rescue Hero™ platform, developed in Pittsburgh, PA to scale food recovery operations, has now facilitated the work of **17 food recovery organizations** across North America, bringing the total network impact to an incredible **170 million pounds of food rescued since 2015**. That's equivalent to 140 million meals, mitigating over 330 million pounds of CO2 emissions in the process!

The passion and dedication of these teams has been instrumental in driving this critical

mission forward, and I am excited to build on this momentum. **Looking ahead, we aim to deepen our impact, foster new collaborations, and continue to leverage technology to ensure that no good food goes to waste.**

I am honored to lead 412 Food Rescue into this next chapter and am grateful for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Alyssa Cholodofsky

Chief Executive Officer

412 Food Rescue + Food Rescue Hero





ABOUT 412 FOOD RESCUE

Driven by the belief that good food belongs to people, not landfills, 412 Food Rescue launched in 2015 as a direct response to the disconnect between the nearly 40% of all food that is wasted in the U.S. and the 1 in 7 people experiencing food insecurity. Food waste is also the single largest component in landfills and is one of the leading causes of greenhouse gas emissions.



Powered by the Food Rescue Hero™ technology platform, civic engagement, and community partnerships, 412 Food Rescue is creating a more sustainable future with equitable food access by matching surplus food from retailers to households and nonprofits that serve individuals experiencing food insecurity. Fresh food is transported by a network of on-call volunteers, equipped with the desire to do good and the 412 Food Rescue app, making food rescue easy and convenient.

This innovative approach eliminates barriers to food access and ensures that fresh, healthy and culturally appropriate food is accessible to everyone.

WWW.412FOODRESCUE.ORG

SINCE 2015

32 million

pounds of food rescued

27 million

meals provided

63 million

pounds of CO2 mitigated

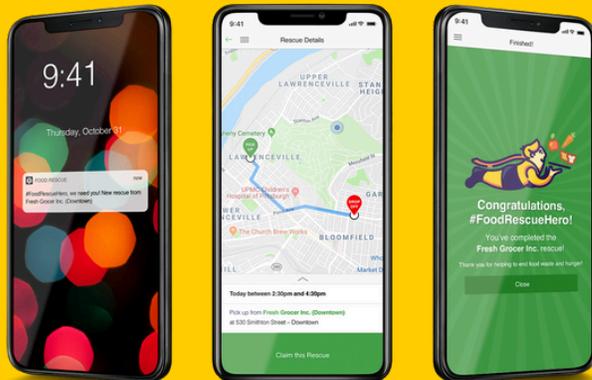
All because **22,846 registered volunteers** completed **197,333 trips** from **2,511 retail food donors** to **4,089 nonprofit distribution partners** with perfectly good surplus food.

Figures through June, 2024



ABOUT FOOD RESCUE HERO™

Created by 412 Food Rescue to **scale impact on food waste, food insecurity, and climate change**, the Food Rescue Hero™ technology platform is an end-to-end solution that supports food recovery logistics and equips volunteer drivers with an app that makes claiming food rescues easy and convenient, with step-by-step, real-time guidance.



Since its launch in 2016, the Food Rescue Hero Network, now made up of 17 partner organizations in the US and Canada, and a growing community of 53,000+ volunteer drivers, has diverted over 170 million pounds (the equivalent of more than 140 million meals) of perfectly good food from the landfill and mitigated over 330 million pounds of CO2 emissions in the process.

Food Rescue Hero facilitates partner growth and expansion, aiming to scale food recovery and measurably support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2, 12 and 13 to transform our world by 2030.

WWW.FOODRESCUEHERO.ORG

MAKING A GREATER IMPACT, TOGETHER

17

network partners in
the U.S. and Canada

170M

pounds of
food redirected

140M

meal equivalent

330M

pounds of
CO2 mitigated

53K

registered
volunteer drivers

609K

food rescues
coordinated

**2015 through June 2024*

2023 SOUTHWESTERN, PA HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a year of resilience, strategic adjustments, strengthened community partnerships, and the invaluable contributions of 412 Food Rescue's staff, volunteers, partners and supporters. These elements collectively ensured the organization's continued success in combating food waste and while increasing food access across Southwestern PA.

2023 AWARDS

City Paper's Best of Pittsburgh
Best Nonprofit

Gismondi Excellence Award
Excellence in Innovation

Classy Awards
Social Innovation

The Pittsburgh Smart 50
Jennifer England

Pittsburgh Magazine 40 Under 40
Greg Austin



Continuing the momentum

→ Interim Leadership

Interim CEO, Karin Sabey, continued Leah Lizarondo's legacy of growth, fostering community support, and enhancing organizational resilience.

→ Overcoming Adversity

After a fire disrupted the Millvale Food + Energy Hub, the Good Food Project quickly resumed temporarily, demonstrating the team's commitment to serving.



*includes USDA Farmers to Families Program, a special COVID Relief Effort

Building a Foundation for Further Growth

→ Structural Alignment

In 2023, 412 Food Rescue made significant strides in building a robust and agile organization by welcoming new hires and promoting dedicated team members. This strategic alignment of talent ensures that we are not only meeting current needs but are also poised for future growth and greater impact. Each new position and promotion has been thoughtfully designed to enhance our capacity, streamline our operations, and amplify our mission. The ripple effect of these changes will be felt across all areas of our work, as we continue to forge strong partnerships and innovate our approaches to food rescue, ultimately driving us closer to a world where no food is wasted and everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food. Some key positions include:



Kristie Abercrombie, Director of Logistics, brought fleet management experience from Amazon and UPS, leading to the collection of 1,702,355 pounds of food in 2023 and improved operations.



Mohamad Shouman, as Director of Distribution Relationships, unifies our food donor and nonprofit partner teams, enhancing collaboration and impact.



Greg Austin, a 2023 40 Under 40 recipient, became Director of Distribution Initiatives, leading the organization's unique programs like Home Delivery, Good Food Project, Grocery Bagging Program, and more.



Josh Weiland was promoted to Vice President of Operations. In 2023, he accepted a Humanitarian of the Year award from the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and plays a key role in leading re-organization.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS | 412 FOOD RESCUE

→ Dispatch Operators

At the heart of 412 Food Rescue's operations lies a dedicated dispatch team: a group of passionate individuals who weave intricate threads connecting food donors, volunteers, and nonprofits to increase food access in the Greater Pittsburgh region.

"We strive to ensure that our neighbors who are struggling are being heard, helped, fed, and treated with respect. If there is a hand reaching out, we want them to know that we are here and ready to help."

Logan Laizure
Lead Dispatch Coordinator



**TO FACILITATE RESCUES,
THE DISPATCH TEAM MAKES**
295 CALLS
1,186 TEXTS
EVERY WEEK ON AVERAGE

Daily, the dispatch team navigates an ever-changing landscape, swiftly placing donations, responding to calls, texts, and emails, and addressing volunteer concerns. They are the hub of our communication infrastructure, optimizing efficiency and community impact.

Beyond managing logistics, the dispatch team builds community connections and meets tangible needs by understanding the nuances of each community served. They translate our commitment to empathy, equity, and dignity into action, fighting against food insecurity and injustice.

→ Fleet Operators

Local food rescues rely on volunteers to get completed every day! However, some food rescues are too big for a regular car, and that is where our fleet department comes in. Each day, our six-person team navigates the city's streets with precision and care, picking up and delivering large food donations in a timely manner. Their expertise and reliability are crucial in maintaining the integrity of our food rescue operations, ensuring that nutritious food reaches those who need it most.

Under the guidance of our Fleet Operations Manager, Keith DeVries, the team operates with a commitment to safety, efficiency, and environmental sustainability. They not only transport food but also uphold our values of dignity and respect for all community members.

3,721 FLEET TRIPS DELIVERED

39%

OF FOOD RESCUED IN 2023

EQUAL TO 1.4M MEALS

Strengthening Community through Partnerships

412 Food Rescue was founded on the idea of collaboration and participation, a principle that continues to resonate today as our impact is made possible through invaluable partnerships with volunteers, food donors, and nonprofit partners dedicated to improving healthy food access for those in need and keeping good food out of landfills.



→ Fostering Collaboration: Nonprofit Forum

The Nonprofit Partner Forum was a key event that fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing among community partners. This forum emphasized the importance of collective action in combating food insecurity and strengthened the network of organizations working towards this cause.

“Thank you so much for the amazing opportunity to meet and collaborate with so many players in the Pittsburgh nonprofit arena. As someone new and helping to rebuild a food bank from the ground up, I can’t express how important, priceless, this information is regarded.”

Anne Burroughs

MWDC Board Member, Chair EVPS Committee

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation, Emerald View Park and Sustainability



412 FOOD RESCUE PARTNERSHIPS

We approach our relationships with donors and nonprofit partners as collaborative endeavors, asking not what is best for us, but how we can be good partners to those we serve and work alongside.

By focusing on mutual benefit, we aim to build a more equitable and effective food system. This innovative approach underscores our dedication to transforming food access and ensuring that everyone involved is valued and respected.

These partnerships create a food distribution network that addresses barriers comorbid to food insecurity, such as time and transportation, by bringing food to places where people already are, making it more accessible and convenient for those in need.

Beyond Traditional Hunger Intervention

From 2018 to 2023, the 412 Food Rescue network has enabled more than **228,000** people living in high-poverty areas to be within a 15-minute walk of food support. That's **50,000+ more people** as compared to traditional hunger intervention locations.



FROM OUR PARTNERS

"412 Food Rescue provides healthy, ready-to-eat food and groceries that we can make available several days per week in our community fridge. **It really brightens a parent's day** when they come to the store and can leave with lunch or dinner for their family"

Daniel Plance, Manager
Friends Thrift Store



"The food provided by 412 Food Rescue really means a lot to our residents. They look forward to the deliveries and have come to rely on the support. Deliveries include milk, bread, lunch meat, prepared foods, and frozen items. All of these really help our residents who are on limited and strict incomes. Some residents do not have family nearby and depend upon others for their groceries. **Having healthy fresh food arrive right to our doorstep provides these individuals some independence to select their own items and is invaluable.**"

Darlene, Resident Assistant
Canon Apartments, a low-income senior citizen apartment complex in Canonsburg, PA



"Jubilee Kitchen has received over 23,000 pounds of food from 412 Food Rescue since 2017, with 61% being fresh produce. The food is used for meals and take-home packages, benefiting around 1,500 guests yearly. The donations help serve those in need, **especially fresh produce and refrigerated items not commonly donated.**"

Mark Latterner, Executive Director
Jubilee Soup Kitchen and John Heinz Child Development Center



412 FOOD RESCUE INITIATIVES

Beyond food recovery and redistribution efforts, 412 Food Rescue operates special initiatives that exemplify innovative approaches to food recovery and redistribution.



"We remove even more boundaries for residents in need of food access."

Alexis Cromer
Grocery Bagging Program Coordinator

→ [Read a story from Alexis:](#)

Pittsburgh's Resiliency Through Community Empowerment

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION	2023 IMPACT*
Good Food Project → Zero Waste Kitchen	Transforms surplus food into 2,400 healthy, heat-and-eat meals every month.	13,849 meals produced
Good Food Project → Grocery Bagging Program	Packs and distributes over 500 grocery bags full of healthy, surplus food every week.	7,547 bags distributed
→ Home Delivery	Delivers food directly to the homes of isolated neighbors in need.	3,299 doorstep deliveries

*A fire on January 30, 2023 temporarily displaced Good Food Project initiatives, stalling the production and distribution of meals and grocery bags.

EVENTS & COLLABS

In 2023, 412 Food Rescue emphasized community and connection through special events and collaborations. From unique fundraisers to impactful community events, each initiative highlighted the importance of working together to combat food insecurity and waste. Our partners and supporters raised essential funds and fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose, demonstrating the profound impact we can achieve when we come together.



→ **Footbahlin' With Ben Roethlisberger**

Former Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and podcast co-host, Spencer Te'o raffled off a chance for 412 Food Rescue supporters to see their LIVE podcast recording at Cinderlands in the Strip. Nearly 500 Footbahlin' with Ben Roethlisberger fans raised \$13,600!



→ **Pittsburgh Marathon Run For A Reason**

412 Food Rescue has been a participating charity since 2016, and #MarathonHeroes have raised over \$100,000 in support of feeding people, not landfills. In 2023, our team of 131 runners, sponsored by Duolingo, raised an amazing \$19,423!



→ **Giant Eagle & Pirates**

Throughout the 2023 MLB season, Giant Eagle and the Pittsburgh Pirates teamed up to offer savings to patrons, with proceeds benefiting 412 Food Rescue. The total amount donated to 412 Food Rescue reached an astonishing \$26,559!



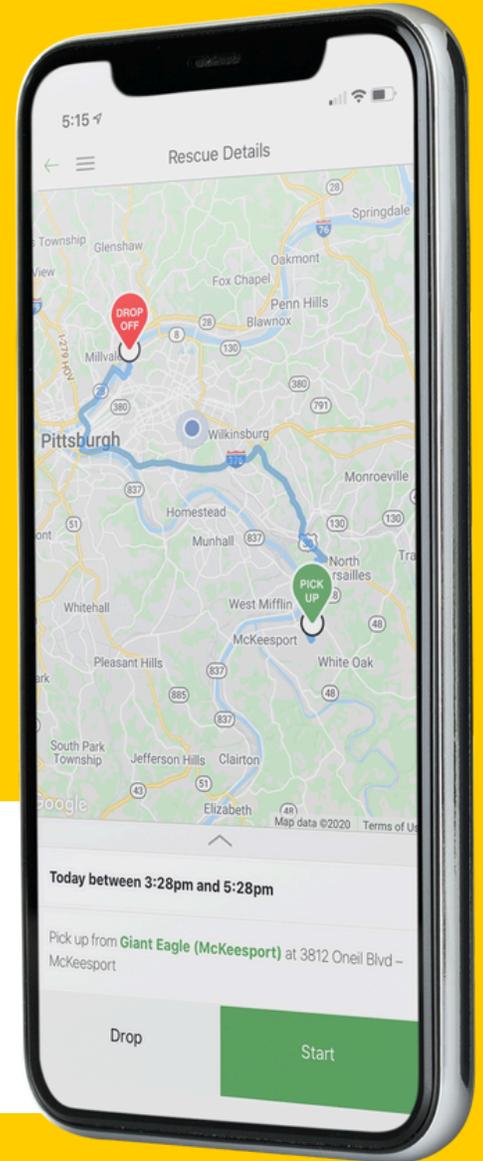
→ **Feast of the 7 Fishes**

An inaugural Pittsburgh Holiday Event, presented by Paesano Productions, brought together 150 attendees (plus staff & volunteers) to enjoy dishes created by eight chefs from seven local restaurants to celebrate the classic Italian-American feast. The event raised over \$15,000!

2023 NORTH AMERICAN HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the Food Rescue Hero™ Network, powered by dedicated partners and volunteers, achieved remarkable milestones. This section highlights our significant impact numbers, the addition of new partners, technological advancements, and strides in education and collaboration.

The collective efforts of our network have been instrumental in advancing our mission to reduce food waste and alleviate food insecurity. Through these accomplishments, we continue to innovate and expand our reach, demonstrating the power of community and technology in addressing critical food issues.



AWARD-WINNING PLATFORM



Grist 50

and many more!

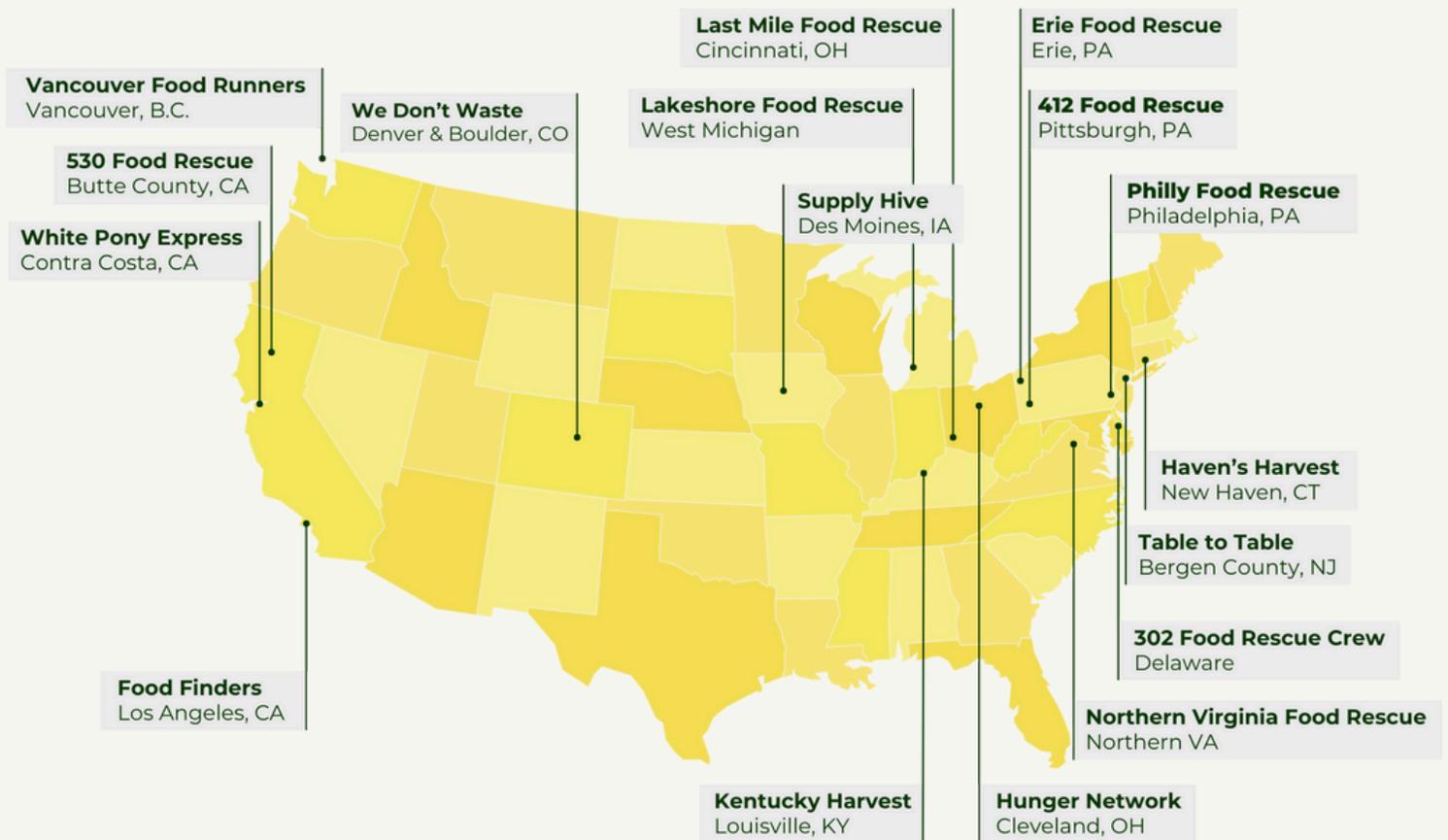
→ EPA Highlights Food Rescue as Key Solution for Waste Reduction and Climate Action



In 2023, the EPA's new "Wasted Food Scale" recognized food rescue and upcycling as top solutions for reducing food waste and its environmental impact. This shift aligns with Food Rescue Hero's mission to prioritize feeding people and mitigating climate change, highlighting the critical role of food recovery in addressing food insecurity and waste.

FOOD RESCUE HERO PARTNER NETWORK

In 2023, we welcomed three new partners to our network, enhancing our ability to address food insecurity in various regions. Kentucky Harvest in Louisville, KY, Lakeshore Food Rescue in West Michigan, and Supply Hive in Des Moines, IA joined us, expanding our reach and impact. These partnerships are vital to our mission, enabling us to rescue and distribute more food to those in need.



"We tried other apps but found the Food Rescue Hero (FRH) app technology to be far and away superior. It was built by a food recovery organization for food rescue specifically. The support that comes with the FRH tech team + the FRH National Network is invaluable!"

Sheila McQuaid
Project Director, 530 Food Rescue

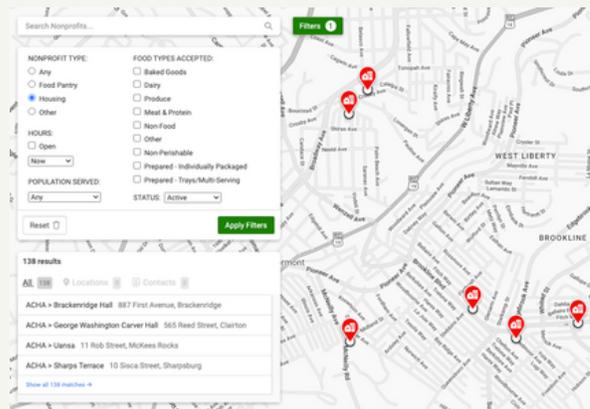


2023 HIGHLIGHTS | FOOD RESCUE HERO

Tech Improvements

To maximize efficiency and impact, Food Rescue Hero continually enhances its technology based on feedback from network partners. In 2023, we introduced custom rescue publishing schedules, push notifications, and innovative features like Nonprofit Partner Maps.

→ **Nonprofit Partner Maps** is a pivotal addition to our platform, improving equitability and efficiency of food recovery.



→ **Improved CO2 Calculations** have enhanced the accuracy of measuring the environmental benefits of each food rescue. Using ReFED's impact calculator, different factor levels for each food type were integrated directly into our platform's reporting.

We're excited to see how these, and future improvements, will affect the equitability of our impact and the distribution of rescued food across the communities that our partners serve.

Education + Collaboration

→ **The 2023 Food Rescue Conference** held in Pittsburgh. This global event, attended by over 250 participants both in-person and virtually, emphasized diversity, equity, inclusion, and the power of partnerships in food assistance.



→ **Free monthly webinars** are hosted on crucial topics like the Food Donation Improvement Act, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, food safety, and promoting food dignity. These sessions empower individuals and organizations to enhance their food rescue efforts, providing them with the knowledge and tools needed to address food insecurity more effectively.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we near our 10th anniversary, we are excited about the future of 412 Food Rescue and Food Rescue Hero. Our upcoming strategic plan promises significant growth and innovation. We remain committed to combating food insecurity and food waste, and we look forward to unveiling new initiatives that will expand our reach and deepen impact in the communities served.



Food Rescue Hero Network partners gather at the 2023 Food Rescue Conference, focused on actionable and innovative food recovery solutions.

→ We work in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2, 12, and 13 to help transform our world by 2030.



"Food Rescue Hero is a true tech-for-good innovation, providing an intuitive and adaptable solution for food rescue organizations to operate in the most efficient way possible and have a huge positive impact on community food waste, food insecurity, and the environment."

Brad Fetchin
Vice President of Product, Food Rescue Hero

→ **Read more about Brad:**

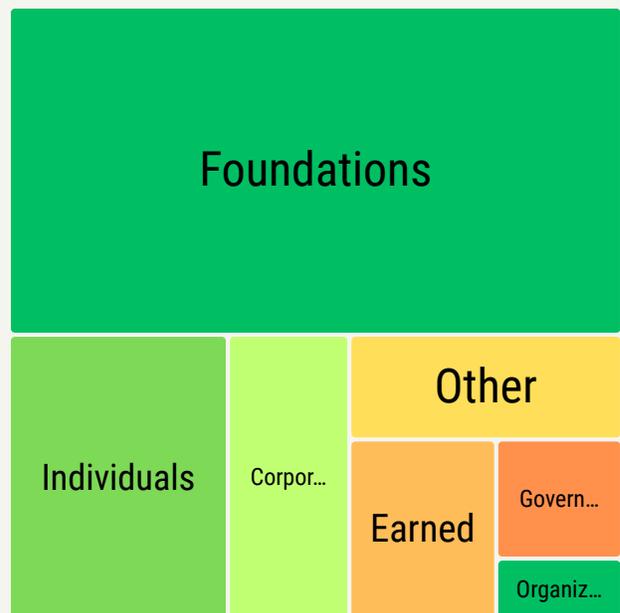
Food Rescue Hero's newest member of the leadership team.

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,953,450



TOTAL REVENUE
\$3,052,736



Thanks to the generosity of past supporters, unrestricted funds from previous years ensured we continued to meet our mission.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

2023 GRATITUDE

Our mission to combat food insecurity and reduce food waste is powered by the unwavering support of our community. We are fortunate to have an incredible network of volunteers, nonprofit partners, food donors, and financial supporters.

Volunteers

Dedicated volunteer Food Rescue Heroes are the backbone of our operations, contributing countless hours and miles to rescuing food and delivering it to those who need it most.

→ [See the full list of volunteers](#)

"Your efforts are changing our communities for the better, and I am forever humbled and grateful for your commitment. Thank you for being the heart of our mission."

Haley Bastin
Volunteer Engagement Manager



Nonprofit Partners

We are grateful for the collaboration with numerous nonprofit partners who help distribute rescued food to those in need, creating a stronger, more resilient community.

→ [See the full list of nonprofit partners](#)

Food Donor Partners

Our food donors have been instrumental in providing surplus food, allowing us to rescue and redistribute fresh, nutritious food to those who need it most.

→ [See the full list of food donors](#)

Financial Supporters

The financial contributions from our supporters have enabled us to expand our reach and impact, funding essential programs and operations.

→ [See the full list of financial supporters](#)



OUR TEAM

2023 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Beth Slagle, Chair | Counsel, Meyer Unkovic & Scott

Andrew McKinley, Treasurer | Director, Global Tax Management, Inc.

Tony Macklin, Secretary | Principal, Tony Macklin Consulting

James Langton, Vice Chair | Director, Global Transaction Services, Bank of America

Members

Brandon Dudd-Mulzet, Vice President, Global Program Manager of Community Impact, BNY Mellon

Mary Beth Green, Chief Innovation Officer, Sheetz

Ralph Gross, Chief Scientist, Disruptive Robotics

Leah Lizarondo, Co-Founder + Former CEO, 412 Food Rescue and Founder, Food Rescue Hero

Jon Meck, Sr. Vice President of Marketing, Bounteous

Mercy Senchur, President & Chief Operating Officer, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group

Anna Siefken, Executive Director of Innovation & Strategic Partnerships, CMU Scott Institute for Energy Innovation



Staff

Kristie Abercrombie, Director of Logistics (2023)

Greg Austin, Director of Distribution Initiatives (2020)

Haley Bastin, Volunteer Engagement Manager (2022)

Meg Bernard, Vice President of Development (2022)

Jennifer Bouslog, Initiatives Program Coordinator (2024)

Josh Cherry, Fleet Operator (2023)

Alyssa Cholodofsky, Chief Executive Officer (2024)

Cory Clemente, Marketing Coordinator (2024)

Alexis Cromer, Program Coordinator (2019)

Sashah Crysler, Support Specialist (2024)

Victoria Della Roca, National Partnership Lead (2019)

Keith DeVries, Fleet Operations Manager (2021)

Danielle DeWitt, Senior Development Manager (2021)

Danielle Engelhaupt, Software QA Engineer (2020)

Jen England, Vice President of External Affairs (2015)

Juan Fernandez, Software Engineer (2021)

Brad Fetchin, Vice President of Product (2024)

Tim Greer, Fleet Operator (2022)

Daniel Hash, Fleet Operator & Dispatch Coordinator (2022)

Sean Hudson, Director of Data & Analytics (2021)

Jack Jordan, Chief Financial Officer (2022)

Ameesh Kapoor, Head of Engineering (2019)

Logan Laizure, Lead Dispatch Coordinator (2022)

Usha Iatha Pappala, QA Automation Engineer (2023)

Tara McHenry, Grants Manager (2023)

Chris Olpp, Fleet Operator (2023)

Amanda Pagnello, Dispatch Coordinator (2022)

Jessica Parker, Junior Software Engineer (2022)

Karen Plate, Marketing Manager (2021)

Hannah Ridge, Director of Partner Success (2021)

Sandra Rose, Administrative & Office Manager (2023)

Leland Scales, Nonprofit Partner Manager (2017)

Moe Shouman, Director of Distribution Relationships (2020)

Becca Simon, Food Donor Relations Manager (2023)

Alex Stypula, Fleet Operator & Dispatch Coordinator (2023)

Jake Tepperman, Senior Manager of Partner Success (2018)

Diane Walter, Director of Marketing (2024)

Alexa Waugh, Assistant Kitchen Manager (2022)

Josh Weiland, Vice President of Operations (2021)

Chris Winters, Senior Software Engineer (2022)

Zachary Woodard, Fleet Operator (2022)

Current staff at time of publication.

**“NEVER DOUBT THAT
A SMALL GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED,
ORGANIZED CITIZENS CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD;
INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT EVER HAS.”**

- MARGARET MEAD



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