

2024 Annual Report

*A year of adaptive growth,
deeper roots, and wider reach*



**Food
Connect**



Table of contents



1 Message From Our Founder

2 The State of Food Access

3 How We Work

4 Where We Work

- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- San Francisco, Bay Area, California
- Kansas City, Missouri & Kansas
- Twin Cities, Minnesota

5 2025 & Beyond: Goals & Vision

6 Team & Board



Message from our founder



Megha Kulshreshtha

Founder & CEO

Dear Friends,

2024 has been a year of bold growth and deeper impact at Food Connect. Guided by our values of equity, collaboration, and community voice, we've expanded our reach while staying rooted in the belief that food is a human right, not a privilege. In the U.S., over 41 million people (about 1 in 8) experience food insecurity.

This year, we proudly launched operations in the Twin Cities, bringing our real-time logistics and food rescue model to a new region. Across all our markets, we're building long-term food access infrastructure by working with partners far beyond traditional hunger relief, healthcare systems, schools, small farms, and local organizations.



Together, in 2024 we:

- Rescued 3.9 million pounds of surplus food
- Conserved over 1.1 billion gallons of water
- Delivered 1.17 million meals
- Operated in 11 states
- Helped sites save an average of \$450/week

These numbers reflect a powerful ecosystem of drivers, partners, neighbors, and funders, all working in sync to make lasting change. We're especially grateful to the GreenLight Fund, Green Family Foundation, JHC Foundation, Barra Foundation, Claneil Foundation, and many others for fueling this work. Your trust and support power our ability to grow, innovate, and respond in real time. Looking ahead, we're deepening our impact by enhancing our Partner and Logistics Portals to make food coordination even more seamless, and expanding our focus on the connection between reliable food access and better health outcomes.

At Food Connect, we're not just filling gaps, we're building bridges. Thank you for walking alongside us, believing in this work, and helping us dream bigger every year.

With gratitude and hope for what's ahead,



Megha Kulshreshtha

Founder & CEO



The Story Behind Food Connect

Food Connect was founded on a simple belief: no nourishing food should go to waste while people in our communities are going hungry. In 2014, our Founder and CEO, Megha Kulshreshtha, began rescuing surplus meals from local restaurants and delivering them directly to shelters in Philadelphia. What she saw was clear: the issue wasn't a lack of food. It was a lack of coordination. Communities needed a reliable way to move good food to where it was needed most, in real time.

To address this, Food Connect developed a logistics platform and a trusted network of community drivers and partners. What started as a grassroots effort has grown into an infrastructure solution strengthening local food systems across Philadelphia, the Bay Area, Kansas City, and the Twin Cities.

Today, we support communities through logistics expertise in the hunger relief space. We support 3 program areas in last-mile food delivery: food rescue, food distribution and Food as Medicine. Our work is grounded in dignity, collaboration, and responsiveness to community voice. By blending technology with deep local partnership rooted in dignity, collaboration, and practical innovation, Food Connect is helping communities ensure that good food reaches every household reliably, respectfully, and without waste.

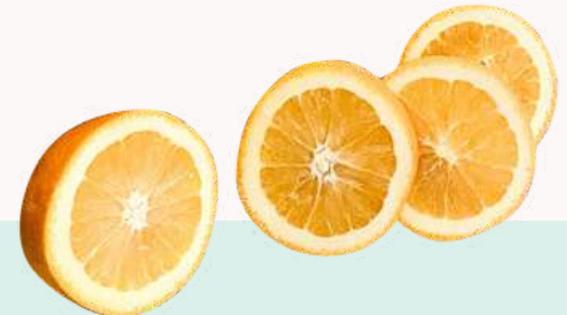


Mission

Food Connect bridges the gap between food excess and food access to foster healthy, resilient communities. Through last mile logistics expertise and strategic partnerships, we empower diverse communities to manage their own real-time food needs.

Vision

Our vision is bold and human-centered: a world where no one goes hungry, and where every meal contributes to the well-being of individuals and the planet.



The State of Food Access and Food Sovereignty



Bridging Food Gaps

In 2024, food access in the United States remains deeply uneven. Rising costs of living, supply chain instability, and widening racial and geographic inequities mean that millions of families still struggle to reliably put nutritious food on the table. At the same time, communities across the country are organizing for something more sustainable and just: food sovereignty, where people have the power to shape their own food systems, from production to distribution to cultural expression.

Food Connect is part of this movement. We help strengthen the infrastructure needed for local control and community resiliency. By transforming how surplus food moves through cities and neighborhoods, we ensure nutritious food reaches those who need it quickly, consistently, and with dignity. And beyond the logistics, we collaborate with partners to build systems that reduce poverty, restore agency, and support a future where every community can feed itself well.



Core Programs



Food Rescue

In a country where nearly 40% of food goes to waste, Food Connect is proving that innovation, equity, and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand. In 2024, our food rescue efforts recovered and redistributed 2.67 million pounds of surplus food, enough for over 2.3 million meals, redirecting abundance to where it's needed most.

But we don't just rescue food, we reimagine the food system. By focusing on fresh, nutrient-dense perishables and leveraging our agile logistics platform, we ensure that high-quality food moves in real time from source to table. Our technology enables instant response to available produce, minimizing waste while maximizing impact.

Unlike traditional food rescue models centered on shelf-stable goods, Food Connect specializes in rescuing the most perishable and valuable items like fruits, vegetables, and proteins and delivering them directly into the hands of community-based food programs. The result is not only fuller plates, but stronger communities, greater food sovereignty, and a healthier planet.

This is what it looks like when food rescue becomes a force for justice, wellness, and sustainability.



Food as Medicine

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed a truth our communities have long known: access to nutritious food is not just a social issue, it's a medical imperative. As hospitals and clinics struggled to meet patients' needs while maintaining social distance, a powerful opportunity emerged: healthcare can, and must, play a transformative role in addressing food insecurity.

Food as Medicine is more than a philosophy, it's an evidence-based movement recognizing that nutrition is a critical lever for prevention, treatment, and long-term health. And while most health systems want to support healthy eating, they don't have the logistics capacity and hunger relief knowledge to reach their patients.

Food Connect began its Food is Medicine work in 2020 with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, forging a new path to deliver medically tailored meals directly to vulnerable patients. Just four years later, that spark has grown into impact at scale, delivering over 510,000 medically tailored meals in 2024 alone, in collaboration with our growing network of healthcare partners. This is what systems change looks like; meeting clinical needs with community-rooted solutions.



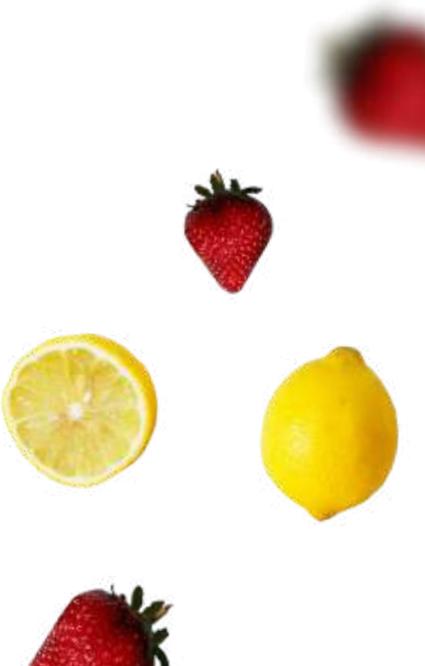
Food Distribution and Home Delivery

One of the greatest barriers to food equity isn't just supply, it's access. For those seeking food assistance, 42.6% reported they do not have access to transportation to reach grocery stores or free food resources, and many specifically expressed a desire for food delivery or at-home food support as a solution. For families living in areas of food apartheid, the challenge isn't finding food, but reaching it. Transportation remains an often overlooked but critical piece of the food justice puzzle.

At Food Connect, we believe access should never depend on a zip code. In 2024 alone, we delivered over 655,000 last mile pounds of nourishing food directly to the doorsteps of individuals and families, removing transportation as a barrier and replacing it with dignity, consistency, and care. By leveraging data-driven logistics and environmentally efficient routes, we don't just meet people where they are, we build a food system that moves with and for them.



Regional Highlights



Food Connect's Impact in Philadelphia

31,000

Community Members Reached

2,430,000

Total Pounds of Food Transported

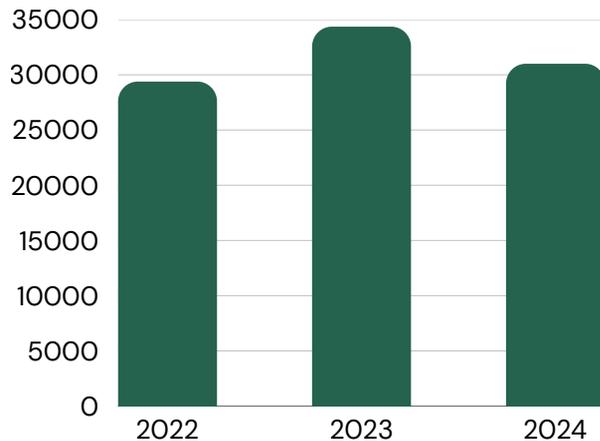
532,070

Meals Delivered Direct-to-Doorstep

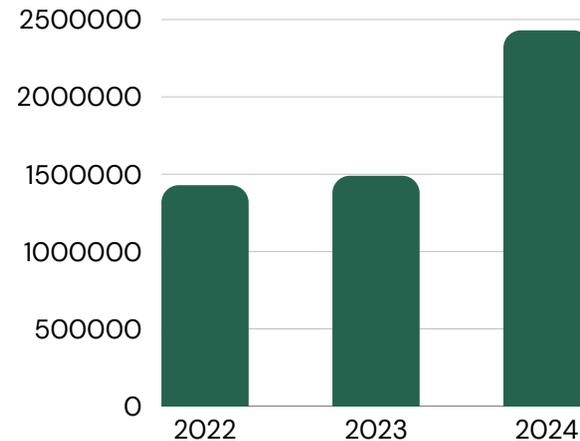
449,250

Pounds of Medically Tailored Food as Medicine Delivered

Number of People Served



Number of Lbs Transported



Fueling Student Health with Philadelphia Community Schools

In the spring of 2024, Food Connect launched a powerful pilot across 14 Philadelphia Community Schools, turning surplus into sustenance and partnership into possibility.

In collaboration with the City's Office of Education and Office of Children and Families as well as Sharing Excess, we delivered over 24,000 pounds of rescued fresh produce to students, families, and neighbors every week throughout May and June.

This initiative is a shining example of how local government and community-based organizations can come together to create smart, scalable solutions. By transforming food waste into nourishment, we didn't just move boxes, we built trust, strengthened school communities, and helped create healthier, more resilient futures for thousands of Philadelphians.



Food Connect's Impact in the San Francisco Bay Area



26,150

Community Members Reached

1,390,000

Total Pounds of Food Transported

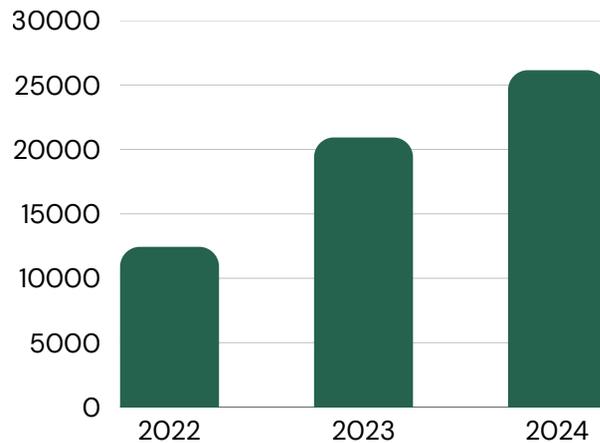
619,520

Meals Delivered Direct-to-Doorstep

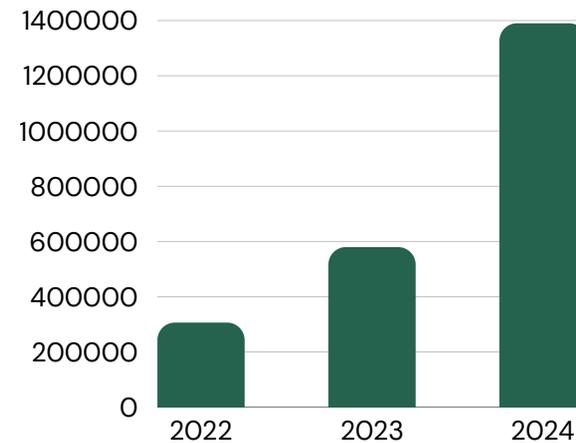
39,300

Pounds of Medically Tailored Food as Medicine Delivered

Number of People Served



Number of Lbs Transported



Sustained Support for BIPOC Communities in the Bay Area

The Booker T. Washington Community Service Center (BTWCSC) has been one of our longest and most impactful partnerships in the Bay Area. Food Connect supports BTWCSC with their food justice initiative called Service to Soul, a program that brings nourishing, prepared meals and organic produce boxes to Black communities every week in conjunction with their Black Farmer Program and Spring Pantry through food rescue.

“The fresh produce that Food Connect delivers to us weekly from The FruitGuys is an invaluable addition to our community,” says Juanita Bruton, Senior Manager of Food Sovereignty at BTWCSC. “We are able to provide these items to all aspects of Booker T. Washington Community Service programming. Our after-school youth get a healthy fresh snack daily, in addition to supplementing our weekly market. This helps offset the cost so we are able to provide high-value items that we wouldn’t have been able to without the support of The FruitGuys. We truly appreciate the positive impact that this partnership has had on our ability to serve our community more effectively.”

In 2024 Food Connect delivered a grand total of 71,000 pounds of food with BTWCSC.



Food Connect's Impact in Kansas City



635

Community Members Reached

98,440

Total Pounds of Food Transported

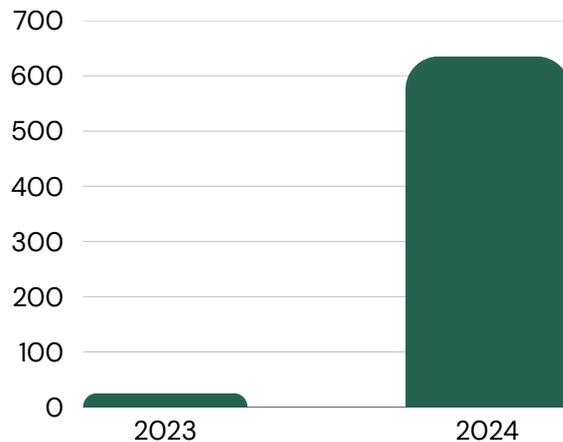
6,430

Meals Delivered Direct-to-Doorstep

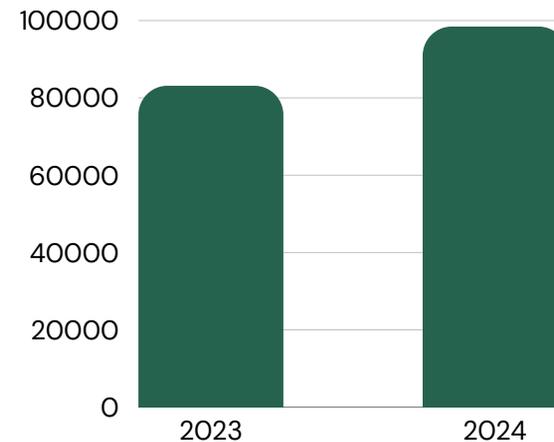
7,720

Pounds of Medically Tailored Food as Medicine Delivered

Number of People Served



Number of Lbs Transported



Remarkable Health Outcomes for Diabetes Patients in Kansas City

Food Connect has successfully launched the first phase of our Food as Medicine pilot program in partnership with Vibrant Health in Kansas City. This comprehensive 9-month program provides medically tailored food and other clinical support to improve participants' A1c levels, diabetes knowledge, and enhance food and nutrition security.

Participants receive a weekly produce box sourced from local farmers delivered directly to their doorstep, monthly diabetes education classes, and ongoing support from a community health worker with Vibrant Health. In the program's first three months we delivered 1,443 meals to program participants, with 83% reporting a decrease in their A1c levels since the start of the program and 100% reporting that it is helpful for them and their households to receive this nutritionally-dense food each week. We can't wait to see the final results of this pilot in 2025!



Food Connect Launching in the Twin Cities

Food Connect is partnering for impact in the Twin Cities of Minnesota!

After a rigorous application and vetting process with the GreenLight Fund, Food Connect was generously awarded funding to begin our work to enhance food access in the Twin Cities, bridging the gap between food excess and food access to foster resilient, healthy communities.

"We're excited to partner with GreenLight Fund Twin Cities to combat hunger," said Megha Kulshreshtha, Founder and CEO of Food Connect. "I believe the strength of our organization is our ability to combine technology, innovation, and the collective power of collaboration to strengthen food programs."

As we prepare to launch our services in the Twin Cities at the start of 2025, we are kicking off partnership planning with both Ramsey and Hennepin counties, Youthprise, Feeding Frogtown, and Keystone Community Services.



2025 & Beyond

Food Connect's Vision for 2025

2025 marks a pivotal year of growth for Food Connect. While each of our regions has its own local dynamics, the core challenges of hunger, access, and unmet equity remain strikingly similar. That's why we're doubling down on collaboration, especially with partners who are working at the intersection of service, policy, and advocacy. Together, we're focused on long-term solutions that shift systems, not just short-term fixes.

We're also stepping more fully into our role as an advocate, looking at how we can support both our partners and the communities we serve beyond the food itself. From California's SB1383 to Medicaid-backed Food as Medicine initiatives in Kansas City, we're building intentional, values-aligned partnerships that can move the needle on sustainable, systemic change.



2025 Strategic Priority #1: Community Voices

The needs around us are changing fast. With growing hunger and deep uncertainty across communities, we know that assumptions aren't enough. We're committed to showing up with humility, listening closely, and checking in often. Centering community voices means we can respond more quickly, adjust when needed, and design solutions that truly reflect people's lived experiences. That's how we build trust and that's how real change happens.



2025 Strategic Priority #2: Scalability



The demand for food rescue and distribution continues to rise, and our operations have proven they can meet that need. But as we grow, we're staying focused on doing it well, prioritizing sustainability, cost efficiency, and quality. We're also paying close attention to where growth is happening unevenly so we can invest wisely and support our teams where it matters most.

2025 Strategic Priority #3: Sustainable Mission-Aligned Funding

We're seeing more funders look to support food system change that's both meaningful and rooted in community. That's where we thrive. In 2025, we're focused on cultivating partnerships with those who share our long-term vision and are ready to invest in impact that goes beyond the plate.



We know the path forward isn't easy but we also know it's necessary. In a time of growing complexity and need, Food Connect is committed to showing up with clarity, compassion, and boldness. We're not just growing, we're growing with purpose. Together with our partners and the communities we serve, we're building a more connected, equitable, and resilient food system, one that works for everyone.





At Food Connect, we strive to create a world where every meal does good for people and planet



Join us in making this vision a reality!

Volunteer, donate, or partner with Food Connect to build equitable, sustainable, community-owned food systems.

Visit www.foodconnectgroup.org to learn more.

