



HEARTBEETS

FEBRUARY 2024

A message from our President

Dear Nourishing Neighbors Family,

I hope this message finds you well.

Reflecting on our shared history, it is important to take a moment to look back at our journey. It is filled with ups, downs, and everything in between, but none of the work we achieved would have been possible without you. Our success and growth are thanks to each one of you.

Let's rewind to 10 years ago when we started our program "Hunger Is". There are numerous challenges surrounding childhood hunger, but we decided initially to focus on making an impact in ensuring all kids had access to breakfast, and it worked! Fast forward- we have collaborated with 700 organizations, providing over 200 million breakfast meals for children in need.

The pandemic brought unexpected challenges, yet also presented new opportunities including a name change to Nourishing Neighbors. The crisis allowed us to catapult our efforts beyond breakfast programs to innovation initiatives and extend our support to marginalized communities. Recognizing the severity of food security, we listened to our organizations, brainstormed ideas with advisory experts, learned

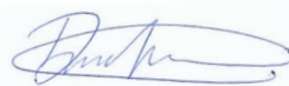
about the challenges on the ground, and identified gaps that needed to be addressed. This learning shapes all our strategy: while we continue to address immediate food needs, our main focus is on sustainability and innovative solutions to break the cycle of hunger.

In 2023, our foundation supported over 750 organizations, enabling 140 million meals and championing innovative projects aimed at breaking the cycle of hunger. We invested \$3million in three incredible organizations with unique solutions, expertise and far-reaching impact. Additionally, we supported programs connecting individuals to SNAP/WIC program.

Beyond financial support, we introduced two impactful programs- Catchafire, a skilled based volunteering program, and Impact Genome Measurement- a tool to measure program effectiveness.

Looking ahead, our focus remains unwavering. We aim to collaborate with like-minded organizations like yours, pooling our resources to create lasting solutions that propel individuals beyond the cycle of hunger.

Together, our collective efforts can work wonders. Together, we can make a lasting difference. Thank you for being an integral part of this inspiring journey.



Christy Duncan Anderson

President and Executive Director.





Skills-Based Volunteering

Skills-based volunteering is a powerful resource for driving operational growth, which ultimately helps you achieve your mission. This fully-funded opportunity connects you with talented professionals including our colleagues who are looking to give back and allows you to access expertise in areas such as marketing, web development, operations, strategy and more. Click [here](#) to learn more about how we can match your mission-driven organization with virtual, skills-based volunteers on projects most critical for your organization's success.

Listening Tours

Our first Listening Tour webinar of the year was nothing short of a success. Filled with engaging discussions, shared experiences, and a genuine connecting spirit amongst organizations. If you missed it, fear not! The recording is available [here](#) for you to catch up on the insights and inspirations shared. Let's continue this open dialogue to strengthen our collective impact.

Stay tuned for our next tour in April.



Hackathon

In collaboration with our skills-based volunteering partner, Catchafire, our Arizona campus recently hosted its first ever hackathon. Associates teamed up with 6 hunger-fighting nonprofits where our nonprofit partners brought specific issues and questions and our teams used their technical skills to brainstorm solutions. The result? 25 engaged employees and 6 very happy nonprofits brimming with new energy and ideas on how to proceed.





2024 Calendar

This year brings four grant opportunities:

- **May Campaign:** Innovation Spark Grant. RFP will be published in March
- **Summer Meals/Breakfast Campaign-** TBD
- **September Campaign:** Connecting to and Enhancing Federal Meals Programs – RFP will be released in August.
- **Holiday Gift Card Campaign*:** – RFP released in August and due September (donations of gift cards through a 3rd party received November – February).

*Note: not all geographic areas participate.

**Please note these campaigns may change based on the outcome of the merger

Inspiration Corner

Serena, a domestic violence survivor, sought assistance at St. Vincent de Paul, with her 4-month-old daughter. With the support of Case Manager, Ciara, she secured immediate help: approved for food stamps, medical insurance and a WIC appointment for formula. Now, Serena is rebuilding her life, and her baby is hitting developmental milestones!



Get Free Results Measurement

Soon, we will be looking for second cohort of nonprofits like yours to measure the impact created by your program, benchmark results with your peers, learn how you can improve your program's effectiveness, and use it to attract new funding.

If interested in being a part of the group:
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