



64 Parishes, 5 Food Banks
ONE MISSION



**2023 COMMUNITY
IMPACT REPORT**



RESILIENCE + DEDICATION

As we celebrate the new year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've traveled together over my first year as the Executive Director of Feeding Louisiana. In our mission to combat hunger across our great state, I am immensely proud and grateful for all that we have achieved together in the past year.

Our collective efforts have been nothing short of inspiring. Despite the challenges that have come our way, we've stayed resilient and dedicated to our cause. Through our combined hard work and unwavering commitment, we've made significant strides in addressing food insecurity and serving those in need throughout Louisiana. Together, we've reached numerous milestones.

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT + ASSISTANCE

We expanded our neighbor engagement programs, reaching more people.

ADVOCACY + EDUCATION

We've been vocal advocates for policy changes and initiatives aimed at eradicating hunger in our state. Through education and awareness campaigns, we're empowering communities to address the root causes of food insecurity.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and volunteers have strengthened our impact, enabling us to extend our reach and serve a larger number of individuals.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication, generosity, and support of each one of you. Your contributions—whether through time, resources, or advocacy—have been the driving force behind our success.

As we express our gratitude for the achievements of the year, we also recognize that there is still much more work to be done. The fight against hunger continues, and our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. We must persist in our efforts to create a future where no one in Louisiana goes to, school, work, or bed hungry.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families across our communities.

Sincerely,

Pat R. Van Burkleo, Executive Director

“Through our combined hard work and unwavering commitment, we’ve made significant strides in addressing food insecurity and serving those in need throughout Louisiana.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Feeding Louisiana's Board of Directors provides leadership to our organization with each food bank having a representative on the board.

JEAN TOTH, PRESIDENT

Executive Director, Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana

MICHAEL G. MANNING, VICE PRESIDENT & TREASURER

President and CEO Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank

MARTHA MARAK, BOARD SECRETARY

Executive Director, Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana

NATALIE JAYROE, BOARD MEMBER

President and CEO, Second Harvest Food Bank

JAYNE WRIGHT-VELEZ, BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director, Food Bank of Central Louisiana

ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

We're dedicated to working with partnering agencies and the community to fight hunger in Louisiana.

PAT R. VAN BURKLEO

Executive Director

JESSICA BOSTIC

Director of Nourish Louisiana

ANGELA HARTMAN

Director of Communications & Campaigns

ALLISON LEBLANC

Director of Finance & Grant Administration

CAITLIN W. SHEEHAN

Director of Resource Development

MARLEAH WALKER

Director of Programs & Outreach

KELLY GRAPHIA

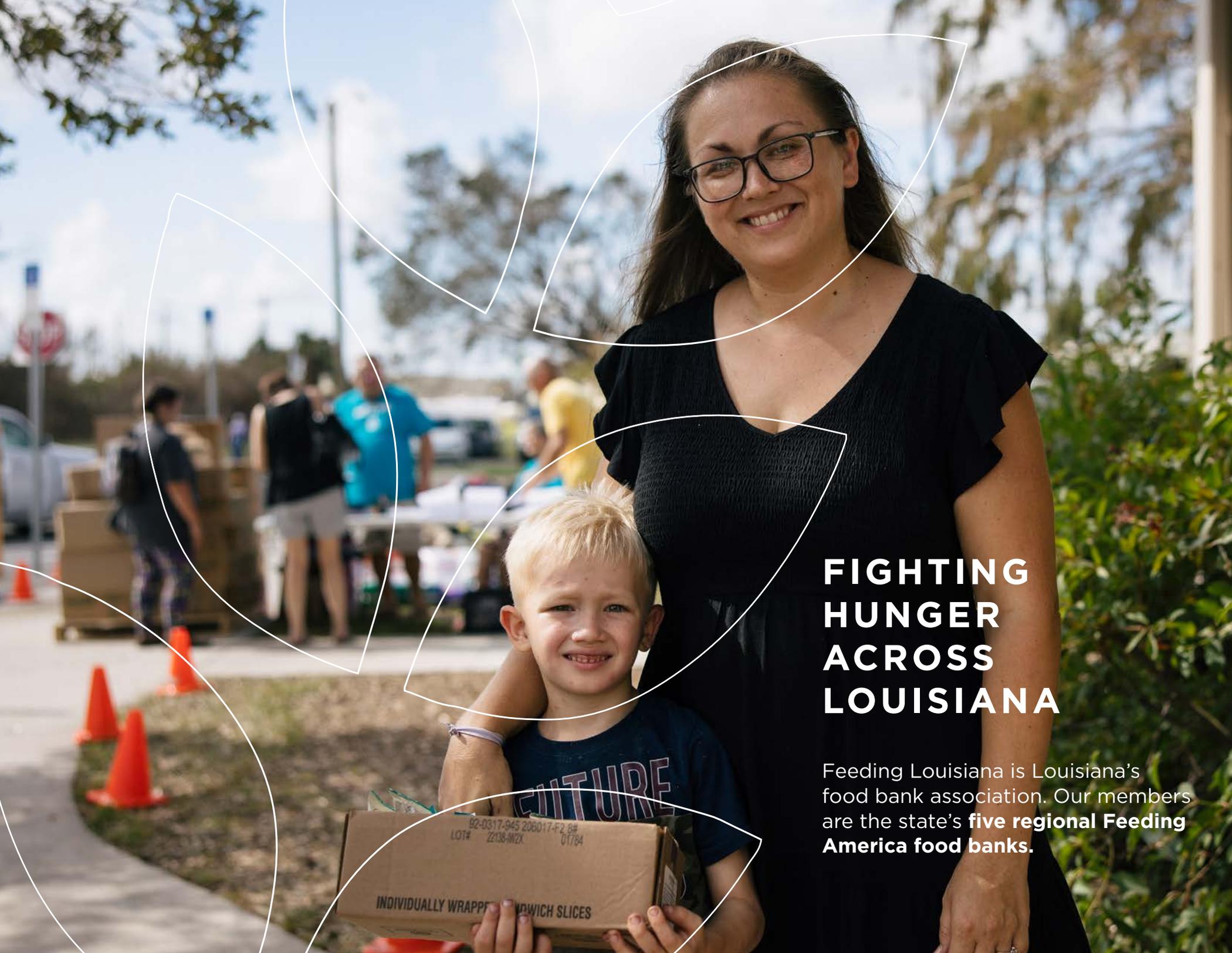
Assistant Director of Programs & Outreach

JENNIFER HARRIS

Accounting Manager

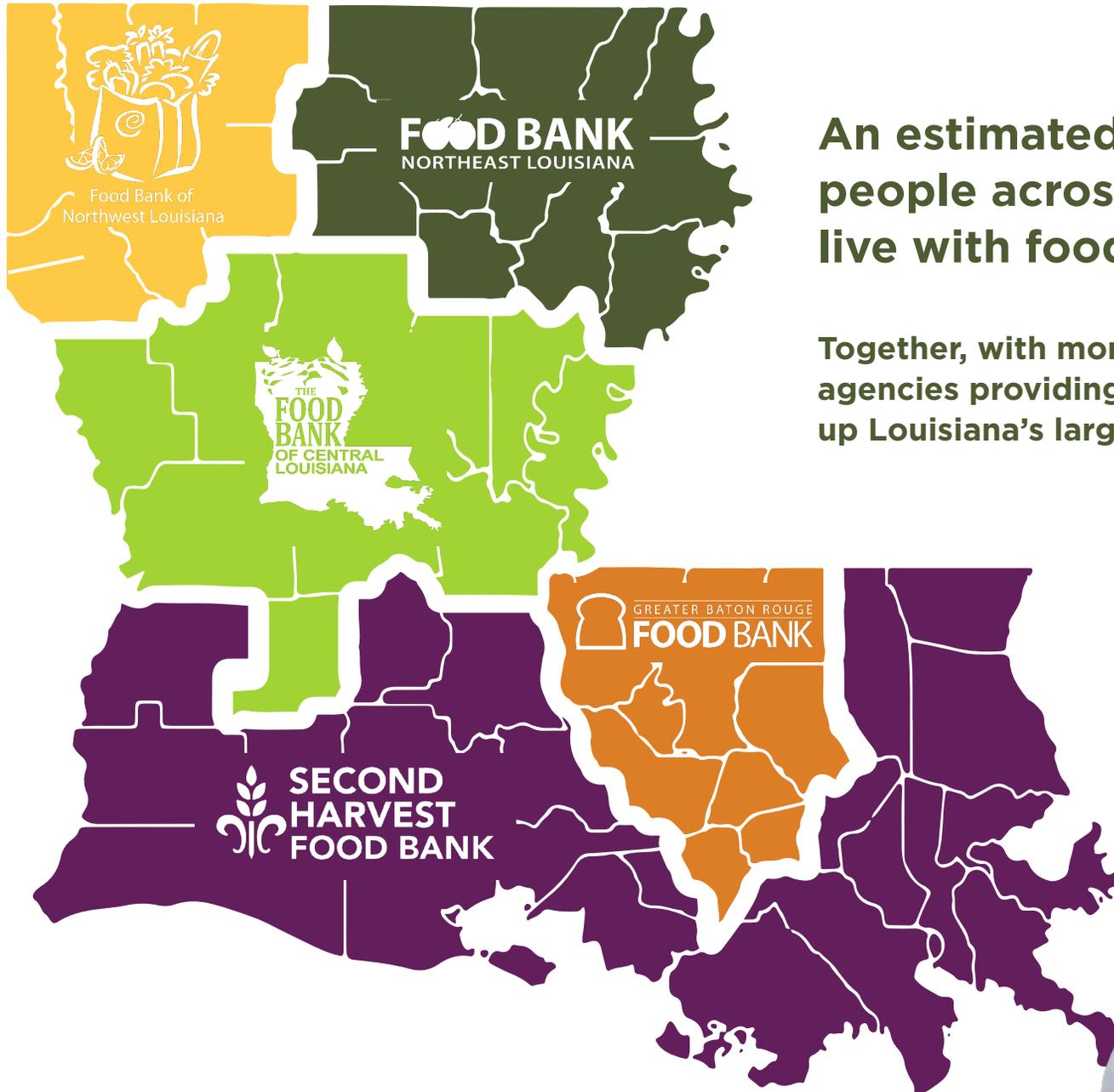
OUR MISSION:

To be a unified voice for Louisiana's hungry by providing short-term food relief while seeking long-term solutions to hunger through advocacy, education, and leadership.



FIGHTING HUNGER ACROSS LOUISIANA

Feeding Louisiana is Louisiana's food bank association. Our members are the state's **five regional Feeding America food banks.**



An estimated **683,110** people across Louisiana live with food insecurity.*

Together, with more than **510** partner agencies providing food distribution, we make up Louisiana's largest hunger relief network.



SERVING OUR FOOD BANKS

Because hunger knows no boundaries, we lead one voice – one association of five food banks working together to bring change and end hunger across our state.

WHAT THESE NUMBERS MEAN*

Pass Through to Food Banks

Thanks to exceptional donors, the dollar amount Feeding Louisiana passed to the association's food banks.

SNAP Outreach

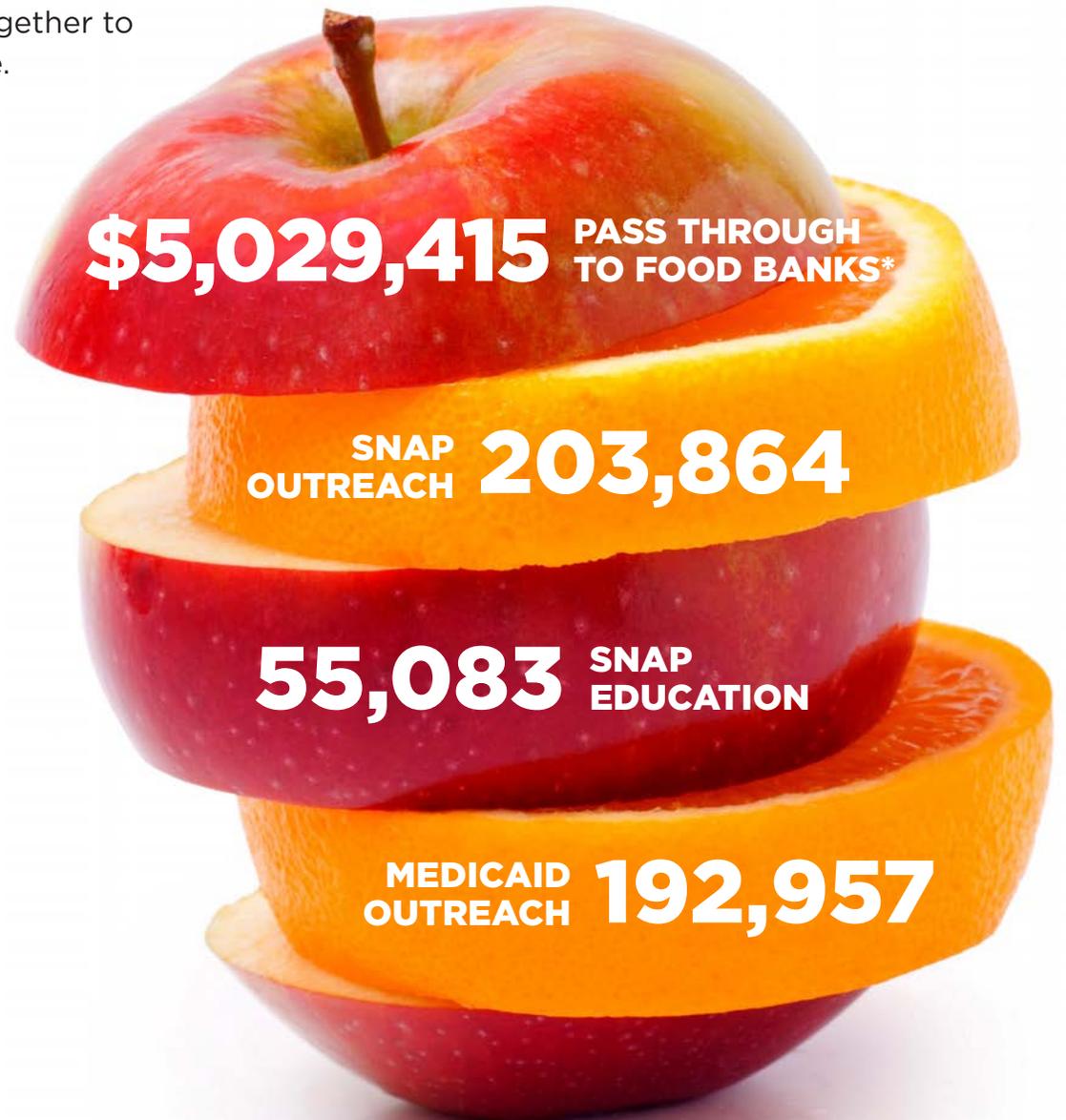
Louisiana community members who received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach and application assistance services. The purpose of SNAP is to provide financial support for nutritional needs for low income families and individuals to assist with affording the cost of other basic needs, like rent, utilities, transportation, and medical bills.

SNAP Education

Louisiana community members who received SNAP-Ed nutrition education services.

Medicaid Outreach

Louisiana community members who received outreach and application assistance services to enroll and renew Medicaid Benefits.



PROVIDING RESOURCES

Louisiana's Food Banks work every day to provide food assistance to our neighbors in need. Feeding Louisiana works with our food banks to ensure *they* have the resources they need.



**BUILDING
CAPACITY**



**GRANT
MANAGEMENT**



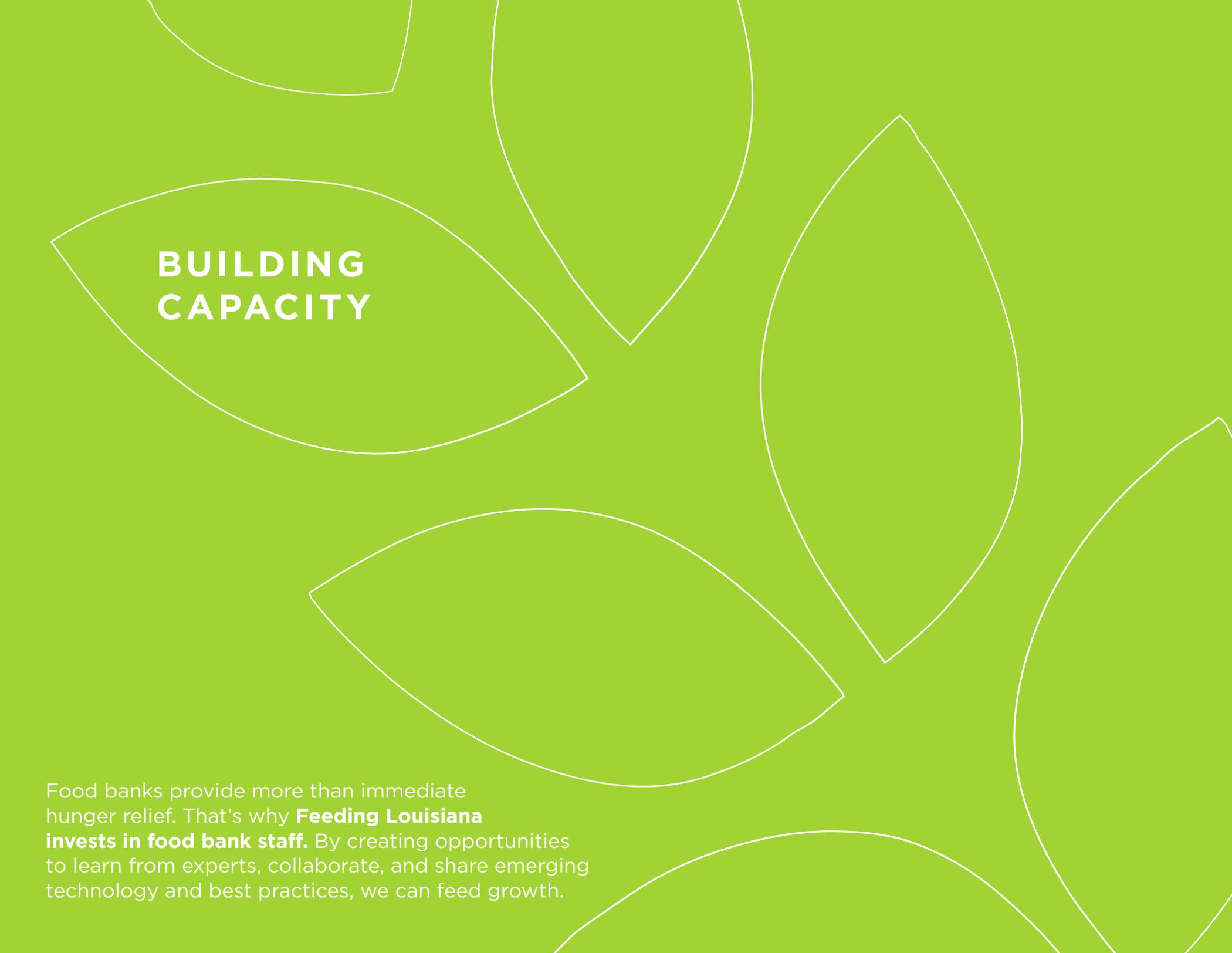
**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



ADVOCACY



**EXPANDED
PARTNERSHIPS**



BUILDING CAPACITY

Food banks provide more than immediate hunger relief. That's why **Feeding Louisiana invests in food bank staff.** By creating opportunities to learn from experts, collaborate, and share emerging technology and best practices, we can feed growth.

BUILDING SKILLS

1. Hosted the first **SNAP-Ed Conference** for SNAP-Ed Coordinators
2. Hosted annual **SNAP Outreach Conference** for Association Food Banks' SNAP Outreach Coordinators
3. Coordinated **monthly learning and collaborating calls** to bring together the Associations' SNAP-Ed Coordinators, SNAP Outreach Coordinators, Agency Relations, Programs Staff, Food Procurement Staff, Child Nutrition Coordinators, and the Food Bank CEOs and Executive Directors



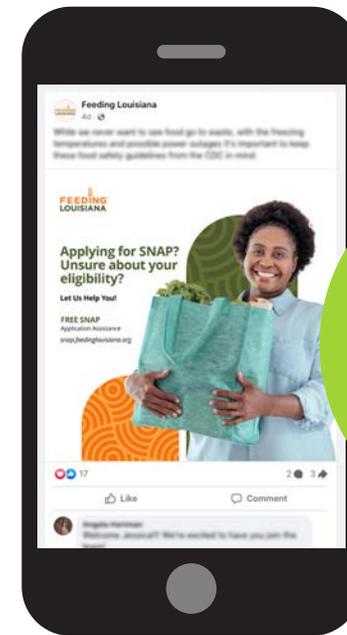
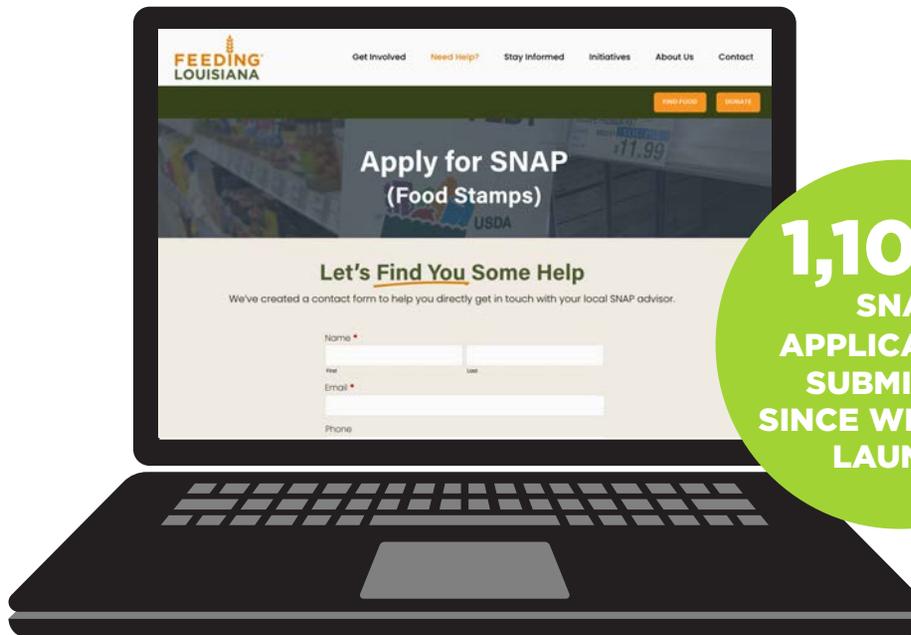
“I really enjoyed the Create Better Health demonstration [at the SNAP-Ed Conference]. Kristi Strongo did a great job! It was nice getting to watch a nutrition education class live and to enjoy it as a student.”

*- Kyra Anderson, Senior Nutrition Services Coordinator
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank*

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS THROUGH DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

269,000 households in Louisiana are eligible for SNAP but not enrolled (this is referred to as SNAP Gap). Feeding Louisiana launched a digital campaign in 2023 in an effort to reach more people who qualify for food assistance and get them the help they deserve. This campaign included:

1. The launch of a **new website form** in July 2023 to help Louisiana residents start the application or renewal process for SNAP benefits. This service directly connects our neighbors to their local food bank to access SNAP resources.
2. Promoting the online SNAP form through a **social media ad campaign** which targets rural parishes who experience higher rates of food insecurity.
3. Implementing **software for capturing telephonic signatures** during SNAP application assistance.



SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Feeding Louisiana is a SNAP Capacity Advisor. As an Advisor, we provide **guidance and best practices** to a cohort of food banks across the United States looking to develop or grow their SNAP Outreach programs.

Feeding Louisiana hosts a **monthly SNAP Assisters call** with the Department of Child and Family Services, SNAP state administrator. This meeting brings together SNAP application assisters from across Louisiana to troubleshoot questions and best assist Louisiana's low-income residents.

"We are so proud of the work that the SNAP Outreach Coordinators do for their community. They work hard to reach underserved communities, are constantly traveling, on the phone, attending events and assisting neighbors in person. Despite all of these moving parts, the SNAP Outreach Coordinators lend a listening ear to neighbors while helping them access the resources needed to provide food for their families.

Feeding Louisiana notices the dedication and drive that the SNAP Outreach Coordinators exhibit daily and the challenges they face. By providing monthly meetings where they can ask questions to The Department of Children and Family Services, Urban Footprint, and their fellow SNAP Outreach Coordinators, we are providing a forum to work through challenges and reach collective milestones.

Feeding Louisiana couldn't be more proud of the work that they do!"

- Marleah Walker, Director of Programs & Outreach, Feeding Louisiana





GRANT MANAGEMENT

As a hunger relief network, **we work our best when we work together.** Feeding Louisiana administers statewide grants to combat food insecurity.

GRANT IMPACTS: STRONGER TOGETHER

\$21,687,139.22

In 13 statewide grants

GRANTS WERE FOR:

Food Sourcing

- 42.5 million meals.*
- 63.6 million pounds of food†

Community Engagement

- 453,205 Louisianians assisted

Nutrition Sites

- 199 sites providing children and young adults with access to nutritious meals**

Accessibility

- Removing barriers to access resources for food security

Advocacy, Education, Partnership

- Promoting understanding of the root causes of hunger
- Creating partnerships to make a greater impact



MEDICAID OUTREACH

Feeding Louisiana's Medicaid Outreach Coordinators have a mission: help Louisiana residents retain their existing Medicaid coverage. Continuous Medicaid coverage ended in April 2023 with the passage of the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA). **A team of 12 Medicaid Outreach Coordinators was hired** to conduct outreach across the state to help existing Medicaid members and assist new applicants.



To date, the Medicaid Outreach Team has interacted with Louisiana residents who are in danger of losing coverage. They completed 600 applications for new and existing members.

78,836

"As a Medicaid Outreach Coordinator, I have sat across from a teary-eyed single mom, happily married retiree couples, a recently released inmate, and so many more. Providing face-to-face interaction has made a difference in their Medicaid experience. The most profound explanation of what my job description is came from that crying mom. She said, 'I can do this. I know how to get on the computer, but I cannot do it alone.' I was honored to hold her hand while she shared her story. I typed and she talked, we shared our human experience, bonded as moms, and applied for Medicaid for her children all at the same time."

- Christi Mitchell, Medicaid Outreach Coordinator, Second Harvest Food Bank



CHILD NUTRITION

1 in 5 Children face hunger.

In 2023, Feeding Louisiana received a grant from AmeriCorps to expand two Federal Child Nutrition Programs: **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** and **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**.

Three AmeriCorps Vista Child Nutrition Associates were hired to assist with the expansion of the SFSP and CACFP.

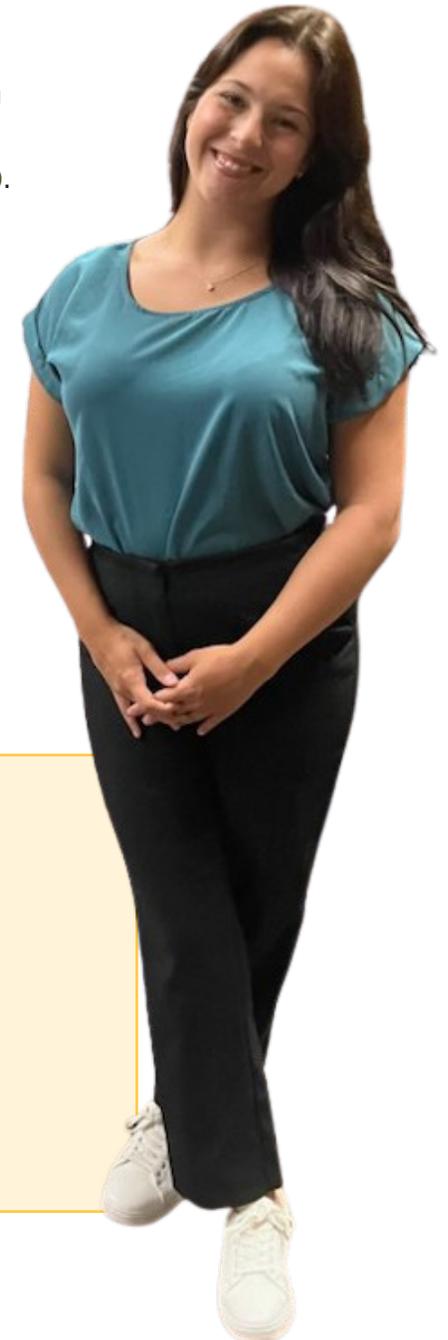
For the first time in the history of these programs, four of the five associations' food banks are now SFSP or CACFP sponsors.



164 Feeding sites were hosted across the state in 2023.

“My favorite aspect is being able to interact with the children directly. I’ve met so many little personalities, and knowing that the work I’m doing is making a difference in their lives is rewarding. This position has also given me an awareness to the silent struggles our communities face. Children are society’s most vulnerable, but important aspect. Building upon Louisiana’s already existing child nutrition programs is an investment into our state’s future.”

– Niah McGrew, AmeriCorps Vista Child Nutrition Associate, Second Harvest Food Bank



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP OUTREACH

1 in 7 People face hunger.

SNAP is one of the largest anti-hunger programs in Louisiana. It provides food assistance to an estimated **936,112 residents**.

Our association food banks have SNAP Outreach Coordinators who play an integral part in fighting food insecurity in our state. The coordinators are dedicated to assisting new and existing SNAP recipients and have **assisted more than 203,864 residents in 2023**.

SNAP EDUCATION

Feeding Louisiana assists with SNAP Education in 11 parishes across our state. SNAP Education includes a variety of programs and outreach initiatives designed to shift communities towards healthier eating habits. **In 2023 SNAP education served 55,083 residents**.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS A SNAP OUTREACH COORDINATOR

“I enjoy working as a SNAP Outreach Coordinator because it allows me to help new neighbors every day by guiding them toward SNAP benefits so they can provide for their families.”

– Kathleen Jones, Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana

“I love being a SNAP Outreach Coordinator because I get to see the positive impact our assistance has. Often, clients are frustrated and concerned about the SNAP application process. Helping alleviate the stress and fear of being without food makes my position extremely rewarding.”

– Jerllisa Elzy, Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana

“I enjoy being a SNAP Outreach Coordinator because I get a front row seat in the lives of amazing people and hear their testimonies of overcoming obstacles.”

– Lisa Robinson, Food Bank of Central Louisiana



ADVOCACY

The voices of our neighbors drive our work. As advocates for hunger relief, **we bring forward long-term solutions** that will improve food access in Louisiana.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

200+ Hunger Facts Sheets were sent to State elected officials.

These sheets provide officials the facts about food insecurity in the communities they have been elected to represent.

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

In 2023, Feeding Louisiana launched a digital advocacy platform for everyone in our state to get involved. Visit www.FeedingLouisiana.org/advocate to learn more.

Find out the state policy priorities we're advocating for in 2024: www.FeedingLouisiana.org/policy-priorities



SENIOR ADVOCACY

Elderly Simplified Application (ESNAP) was APPROVED.

SNAP is one of the most effective tools in the fight against hunger. Connecting Seniors to these benefits can help them save money to pay for other expenses, like medication or electricity.

The approval of ESNAP means Seniors only need to renew their SNAP application every two years. This win means **less burden on low-income Seniors** to access the resources they need.



ADVOCATING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Feeding Louisiana took immense pride in **endorsing and supporting HB 888**, which established the Hunger-Free Campus designation and grant. The urgency of this legislation became apparent in 2020 when statistics revealed that **23% of undergraduate students and 12% of graduate students were grappling with food insecurity**. We recognize the profound impact of HB 888 in fostering an environment where every student can thrive without the burden of hunger. We commend the efforts of all those involved in championing this cause and are honored to have been part of the journey towards creating a more equitable and supportive educational landscape.



Hunger-Free Campuses are more than college food pantries. They are nutrition education centers and resources for extended SNAP benefits. In 2023, Feeding Louisiana assisted with establishing

35

Hunger-Free Campuses across Louisiana.

“Louisiana has taken significant strides towards leading the nation in addressing the college student hunger crisis. The passage of the Hunger-Free Campus Act and the establishment of the robust Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition demonstrate the state’s commitment to eradicating college hunger. With the support of the Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition and the Louisiana Board of Regents, we know we can deliver the required resources to every campus in the state, ensuring that every student not only has the necessary tools for academic success but also the supportive network required to thrive in their educational journey.”

– Robb Friedlander, Director of Advocacy, Swipe Out Hunger. Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition Member



Photo courtesy www.swipehunger.org



**EXPANDED
PARTNERSHIPS**

Stronger Together. When we work together to address hunger, our communities grow in abundance.

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER



The **Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition** is a statewide union of individuals and organizations committed to ending hunger in Louisiana. In 2023, Feeding Louisiana chaired the Coalition.

In 2023 the Louisiana Anti-Hunger Coalition advocated for:



**SENIOR
HUNGER RELIEF**



**TEFAP
EXPANSION**



**HUNGER-FREE
CAMPUS**



**UNIVERSAL
SCHOOL MEALS**



Feeding Louisiana is a member of the **Feeding America** network. Feeding America is the largest charity working to end hunger in the United States. Feeding Louisiana is a proud partner of Feeding America.

FEEDING LOUISIANA

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP
ALLEVIATE HUNGER IN OUR STATE.



To support the work of Feeding Louisiana,
visit www.feedinglouisiana.org/donate

THANK YOU!

