



RIVER BEND FOODBANK

Feeding the Hungry Since 1982



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FACT SHEET

RIVER BEND FOODBANK

is the largest non profit dedicated to ending hunger in our 22-county service area serving Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Since 1982, we have been collecting and supplying donated food to hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens and other agencies with feeding program. The Foodbank was the 58th member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief program which has grown to include more than 200 food banks across the country. River Bend Food Bank serves more than 10,000 individuals every week.

THE FOOD COMES IN

Last year we distributed 7 million pounds of food to nearly 300 member agencies. Sources of food include:

- **Donations** from the national and local food industry including manufacturers, suppliers, food brokers and retail stores.
- **Food Drives**--Individuals, companies and other organizations donate high quality food items with a lot of variety. The Student Hunger Drive, a competition among local high schools, brings in almost 700,000 pounds each year. The NALC Letter Carriers Food Drive is our second largest food drive. The Foodbank helps coordinate these community-oriented events.
- **Food Purchases** made possible through the generosity of private donations and grants.
- **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)**--Food purchased by the government to keep the commodity markets balanced. Illinois and Iowa contract with the Foodbank distribute this food to the hungry.

THE FOOD GOES OUT

- **Member Agencies:** More than 300 charitable agencies rely on the Foodbank as a consistent, year-round supply of food. A large scientific hunger study in 2010 revealed that 93% of our agencies reported that losing the Foodbank as a resource would have a significant or devastating impact on their operations.
- **Backpack Program:** We provide more than 1300 of the neediest children in the Quad Cities with a bag of nutritious food to take home every weekend during the school year.
- **Mobile Food Pantry Program:** A pantry on wheels where we can go to the neediest areas and distributed about 8000 meals in just a few hours.
- **Kids Cafe:** Through this program we tackle childhood hunger by providing a daily hot meal at community partner sites each evening after school.

The majority of those we serve are the elderly, single parents families, the newly unemployed and the working poor. Children comprise the largest segment of the population in need of food.

FOR EACH DONATED DOLLAR

- 97% goes towards food distribution and 3% for administrative costs
- 5 meals can be provided
- 100% stays in our service area

The Face of Hunger in Our Community

Of the People the Foodbank serves...

- 39% are children under 18
- 10% percent are children under 5
- 13% are homeless
- 40% of households include at least one employed adult
- 50% are very low food security—definitely hungry
- 31% report having at least one member in poor health
- 15% recently lost their jobs
- 22% had been in managerial or professional jobs



Statistics are from the local portion of *Hunger in America 2010*, the largest hunger study ever done in River Bend Foodbank's service area. It is the first research study to capture the significant connection between the recent economic downturn and an increased need for emergency food assistance.