

Hunger's Hope

Winter 2024



Food Bank, Mobile Pantry and Bears, Oh My!



The recently formed partnership between Weld Food Bank and UNC Bear Pantry marks a significant stride in addressing food insecurity within the college community. Like many of our nonprofit agency partners, due to capacity limitations, most of the food the Bear Pantry can house at their facility is nonperishable items. However, college students equally need access to perishable food like produce, meat and dairy. In an effort to bridge the gap of accessibility, we expanded our partnership with UNC Bear Pantry through the addition of our Mobile Food Pantry program.

We were a few months into this new partnership when our October distribution at UNC caught the attention of CBS 4. They sent a crew out to shed light on the program and the growing need. John Hancock, UNC's Assistant Vice President for Wellness and Support, not only helped facilitate the news coverage, but was also a key advocate for growing the partnership between UNC and Weld Food Bank. According to Hancock, 47% of their students have experienced food insecurity this past year, which is a

dramatic increase made more evident when visits to the school's pantry more than doubled.

Through the Mobile Food Pantry, we bring approximately 10,000 pounds of perishable food to the UNC campus. This makes it much more accessible for all students and faculty. At the October distribution, several of the students were open to sharing their experience. Quinn Zipp is a master's student at UNC, and she equated the distribution that day to being like Christmas Day. Speaking to CBS 4, she explained, **"I work full-time on top of school, and even then, it can still be difficult to afford groceries. I can finally have eggs for breakfast this week. I've been out of eggs. And the ground meat too, it's just impossible to buy right now. It's wonderful."**

Partnerships like this are the backbone of our organization. Without our nonprofit agency partners, we would not be able to reach every person in Weld County who finds themselves in need of food.

To learn more about our agency partners and how you can help, visit weldfoodbank.org.



Dick Bond: A Community-Changing Legacy

The late Dick Bond was a founding member of the Greeley Food Clearing House, which would one day become Weld Food Bank. Though he was quick to downplay his role in the formation of our organization, he played a vital role in the survival of the food bank in those early years. As a new nonprofit venturing into a growing but unknown industry in our country, Bond helped pave the path forward. His biggest contribution, apart from his desire to never see people go hungry in our community, was ensuring we had all the necessary resources to succeed, from funding to a permanent building.

As we mourn the loss of Dick Bond, we also celebrate his enduring impact. His legacy has been felt by countless individuals in Weld County for the past 41 years, and it will be felt by many more in the years to come. **Thank you, Dick, for making Weld Food Bank and our community a better place to live and serve.**



Beacons of Hope: State Farm

Every month, dedicated volunteers from State Farm, along with their family, friends and community partners, eagerly lend a helping hand at our warehouse. Their regular monthly volunteering started through the efforts of Elaine Higgins. She began volunteering in 2017 and wanted to share the experience with her coworkers. In 2019, she set up a monthly volunteer time and hasn't looked back since. State Farm volunteers' commitment to making a positive difference is evident as they work tirelessly in every task they are given. Whether it's bagging thousands of pounds of onions or building hundreds of food boxes, every volunteer does it with enthusiasm and joy. This is why they are our Beacons of Hope. **Thank you, State Farm, for making hunger a priority and creating meaningful change through your volunteerism.**

Agency Partners: Frontier House

Frontier House began serving our community in 1990. According to their website, they follow the Clubhouse Model of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, and through their Clubhouse they help individuals with mental illness "get back to work, regain their self worth, find safe and affordable housing, improve their education level, and experience mutually respectful relationships." They are also an agency partner of Weld Food Bank, which allows us to assist in providing food for their members. An important aspect of Frontier House is their clubhouse members help to cook and serve the food, including for Thanksgiving. This past November, everything from the turkey to the stuffing was carefully and lovingly cooked and enjoyed by their staff and members. We are grateful to partner with Frontier House and help them to provide important mental health services in our community.



Hope for the Holidays 2023

Our Hope for the Holidays Food Drive made its triumphant return on November 18th. We were at 12 different locations collecting turkeys and the fixings for our nonprofit agency partners. In total, we collected over 22,000 pounds of food, which included 358 turkeys. The community's support did not stop there, and through financial donations that day, over 32,000 additional meals were provided.

A special thank you to Sam's Club, King Soopers, Safeway and Walmart locations for allowing us in front of your stores that day.



Chevron Delivers Turkeys and Smiles

Our partners at Chevron spread holiday cheer to the Centennial Elementary community by donating a full Thanksgiving Meal to every family at the school! Together with school staff, employees handed out turkeys, potatoes, green beans, and all the other fixings. The gratitude and excitement were shared by both those receiving food as well as those giving it out. As Dr. Angie McDowell, Principle at Centennial, explained so well, the food shared that day was a symbol of love. **Thank you, Chevron, for lovingly filling hearts and plates this past Thanksgiving!**



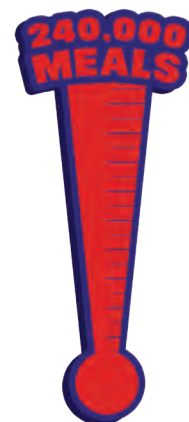
Beaujolais Nouveau 2023



On November 16th, Zoe's Cafe & Events hosted Saint Patrick's yearly Beaujolais Nouveau holiday fundraiser. Attendees savored this year's Beaujolais Nouveau wine, delectable appetizers from Weld Food Bank's kitchen, and delightful live music. The evening's proceeds supported more than 72,000 meals through our direct service programs. **Thank you, Saint Patrick, for your commitment to our community and putting on yet another remarkable event.**

Varra Companies Doubles the Impact

During Thanksgiving week, Varra Companies once again challenged the community to give thanks by giving to Weld Food Bank through a generous offer to match all financial donations. The goal was to match up to \$40,000. Thanks to the overwhelming community response, we surpassed our goal, turning 120,000 meals into over 240,000. Your support comes at a crucial time, and we are thankful to all donors who participated. **Special thanks to Garrett Varra and Varra Companies for this incredible matching initiative.**



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1108 H Street
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone: (970) 356-2199
www.weldfoodbank.org

Upcoming Events

Stone Soup - April 6

Join us and other community-minded supporters at our signature fundraiser, Stone Soup 2024! We will be journeying back to the 1980s, complete with bright colors and nostalgia we all fondly remember. Together, we can reach our goal of raising enough funds through Stone Soup to provide 1.8 million meals! **For more information on how you can be a part of this special evening, please contact Mikaela Sandridge at mikaela@weldfoodbank.org, or call 970-356-2199 x312.**



Stamp Out Hunger May 11

Participate in the nation's largest food drive! You can leave a bag of shelf-stable grocery items by your mailbox for your postal worker to pick up and deliver to the food bank.



Compete to Beat Hunger - June 3-21

Have your company join in the fight against hunger through a friendly competition to see who can donate the most food, money, and volunteer hours. Last year, over 432,000 meals were provided through Compete to Beat Hunger. An informational kickoff lunch will be Wednesday, May 22nd at noon at our warehouse. **Contact Brittany Smith at brittany@weldfoodbank.org or call 970-356-2199 x325 to sign up.**