

# Hunger's Hope

Spring 2024



## Calling All Heroes

Between July and December 2023, **we served over 380,000 duplicated individuals** through our direct service programs and nonprofit agency partners. Within that staggering number is 33,000 Backpack bags for kids, 1.5 million pounds distributed at our mobile programs, and 45,900 Emergency Food Packages given to families. **Compared to the same timeframe in 2022, we served 107,000 more people, 4,000 more Backpack bags, 400,000 more pounds at our mobile programs, and 20,000 more Emergency Food Packages.** Needless to say, the need has never been higher. And, standing in the middle of it all are real life heroes, our volunteers.

No volunteer ever looks the same because, everyone can give their time to lend a hand. We have community members from all walks of life helping us. There are teachers, nurses, bankers, oil and gas technicians, students, and the list goes on. Each volunteer plays a key role at the food bank, regardless of what they are doing. Whether they are sorting 2,400 pounds of potatoes, filling carts on the distribution line, unloading a Mobile Food Pantry truck, prepping food in our commercial kitchen, or delivering food to a homebound senior. Every minute makes miles of difference in the life of someone seeking our help.

However, as the need continues to grow, our volunteers could use more community-minded individuals to come alongside them to shoulder the burden of fighting hunger. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve." ***You can serve!***

**LINDA GIARDINI**

Human Resources (Retired)

**STATS**

**HOBBIES:** Crossfit

**FAVORITE FOODS TO GIVE OUT:** Fresh Produce

**WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK:** It helps me stay active. I get to interact with other volunteers, and I just want to help.

There are many benefits to volunteering. You get to meet other amazing volunteers like Linda. We've had many friendships blossom between volunteers working side by side. There is also a variety of tasks you can help with to keep you engaged and active. Best of all, after your time volunteering, you will have a real sense of accomplishment knowing you've helped put meals on your hungry neighbors' tables.

You can be a hero in the fight against hunger right now. There's no need to wait until you feel like you fit the bill of a volunteer. We will take you as you are because you are enough. Head to [weldfoodbank.org/volunteer](https://weldfoodbank.org/volunteer) to sign up today!



## CEO's Corner

### Dear Friends,

The other night on the news I saw a report about a young man, no older than 10, who had set up a lemonade stand in front of his house. This is a familiar sight in many of our neighborhoods, especially during the spring and summer months. Usually, the kids are trying to make money to spend on something for themselves. What was unique about this boy's lemonade stand on the news was that he was raising money for someone else. His sign was simple but powerful, "Lemonade for Food." His plan was to donate all the money he raised to fund his church's food pantry so they could feed more people.

This was an incredibly encouraging story to hear because it reminded me of a key value we hold dear at Weld Food Bank: anyone can help. Whether it's a large corporation sponsoring an event or funding a specific program, or it's a determined child donating his lemonade stand money, we can all play a part in helping our community.

I feel like a broken record these past few years saying we have never seen it this bad, which unfortunately continues to be the truth. There are countless families in Weld County who turn to us on a daily basis for support with one of life's most basic needs: food. Thankfully, our community remains steadfast in their commitment to partner with us through their giving of funds, food, and time.

Whether you have given us 10 hours or 100; 30 pounds of food or 3,000; or \$50 or \$50,000; each of you is crucial to our work. Thank you for making your neighbors' needs a priority!

Sincerely,

Bob O'Connor  
Chief Executive Officer

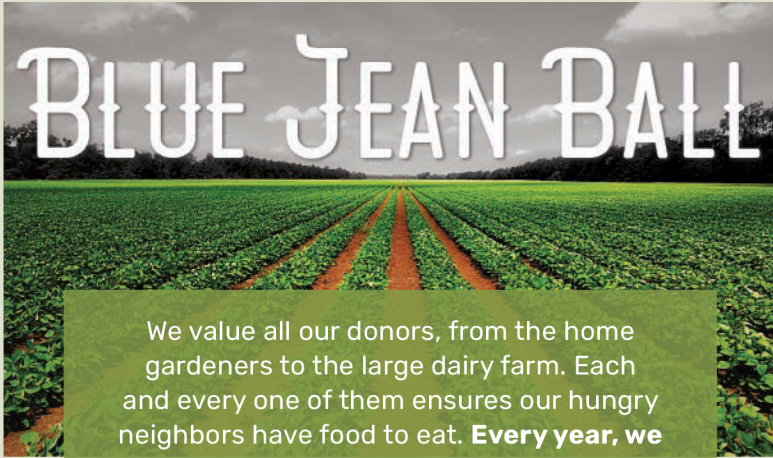


## Agency Highlight: Community Outreach Center

Through our nonprofit agency partners we are able to better serve our community, especially anyone who may struggle to utilize our direct service programs. The Community Outreach Center is one of those agencies serving our neighbors with more than just food. They also provide clothing, hygiene products, blankets, and much more. Recently, they moved locations to a larger space to better serve the growing number of individuals coming through their doors. On average, they serve over 630 households, representing 3,400 individuals each month. With a large clientele base, including immigrants and refugees, the COC is an essential service for families working hard to make ends meet.

Last year, they received over 20,000 pounds of food from our warehouse, which included both shelf stable foods and healthy perishables like produce, meat, and dairy. While they do provide a variety of services, 88% of the people seeking their help leave with food. Their care for the community goes beyond providing essential items; they also have a robust referral process to connect the people they're serving with SNAP, WIC, and Weld Food Bank information.

**Thank you Community Outreach Center for being a partner in the fight against hunger!**



We value all our donors, from the home gardeners to the large dairy farm. Each and every one of them ensures our hungry neighbors have food to eat. **Every year, we recognize several of our food donors and community partners for their above-and-beyond commitment to our work.**

## 2023 Award Recipients

**Agricultural Donor of the Year 2023**  
*Fagerberg Produce Company*

**Community Food Donor of the Year 2023**  
*Gothem Greens*

**Community Partner of the Year 2023**  
*King Soopers in Windsor*  
*LaSalle Oil Company*

**Donor Partner of the Year 2023**  
*Greg & Theresa Domenico*

**Donor of the Year 2023**  
*McLane Western*

**Innovative Donor of the Year 2023**  
*Oscar Torres & Theresa Martinez*

# Upcoming Events



## Summer Food Drive - June 2024

Keep your eyes out for food bank staff and volunteers at various locations throughout Weld County. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to support our nonprofit agency partners. **Those interested in volunteering at this food drive can call 970-356-2199 ext. 307.**



## Hops for Hunger - September 13th

The eighth annual Hops for Hunger will once again take place at Boardwalk Park in Windsor, CO. Attendees will enjoy a wide selection of local craft beers along with delicious BBQ and meat provided by JBS USA, LLC. All proceeds will support our direct service programs in the Windsor community. **For more information about sponsoring this event, contact Brittany Smith at 970-356-2199 x325. To purchase tickets, visit [weldfoodbank.org/hops](http://weldfoodbank.org/hops).**



## Dine Out for Hunger - September 18

Dine Out for Hunger is a one-day event where local restaurants show their support for the fight against hunger by donating a percentage of that day's sales to Weld Food Bank. This a great opportunity for community members to not only support the food bank's cause, but also to support local businesses. **As we get closer to the event, visit [weldfoodbank.org/dofh](http://weldfoodbank.org/dofh) for a list of this year's participating restaurants.**

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Zach Varner, *Volunteer/Backpack Assistant*



## Stone Soup

This year, Stone Soup was a shining success! In all, enough was raised to provide nearly 1.9 million meals to children, seniors, and their families in Weld County. **Thank you to our incredible community for helping make Stone Soup a continued success!**

### Presenting Sponsor



### Diamond Sponsor



### Gold Sponsors

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Lezama Ins and Fin Svcs, Nicolas  
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Pathfinder Pressure Testing, LLC  
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PNC Bank  
Roche Constructors, INC.  
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TBK Bank  
The Colorado Trust  
Waste Management  
Weld Community Credit Union

### Table Sponsors

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Sears Real Estate  
Slaughter Roofing Company  
Sora Realty Group  
Varra Companies, Inc.  
Weld County Sheriff Posse  
Wing Shack/Sexy Sammies/  
Luna's/Centennial Public House



## June 3 - 21

This is a great opportunity to build your company's commitment to the fight against hunger through unique team-building activities. Employees of participating companies work

within their organization to donate the most funds, food, and time. The fan-favorite CanSculpture contest at the Greeley Stampede will be returning for the seventh year.

Whether you have one employee or 1,000, you can compete. Each category (food, funds, and time) carries with it a point value. The competitor with the most points per employee in their 'division' will win the title of Compete to Beat Hunger Champion. However, the true winners of this competition are the people we serve. All donated food will go to our direct service programs and partner agencies, and for every dollar donated, we will be able to provide three meals.

We will be holding an informational kick-off on Wednesday, May 22, at 12:00 pm at Weld Food Bank, 1108 H Street, Greeley. Lunch will be provided. This kick-off will be your best opportunity to learn more about Compete to Beat Hunger and to sign up your business. **For more information, contact Brittany Smith at 970-356-2199 x325 or email [brittany@weldfoodbank.org](mailto:brittany@weldfoodbank.org).**