



Company Backgrounder

Mission: To end hunger here in Eastern Massachusetts.

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, and among the largest food banks in the country. GBFB serves nearly 600 food distribution partners in 190 cities and towns across Eastern Massachusetts. GBFB is a member of Feeding America, a national network of 200 regional food banks.

Founded in 1981 by Kip Tiernan, who provided food to hungry people from the back of her station wagon. Today GBFB is a \$180 million-a-year charitable business that distributed the equivalent of 82 million healthy meals in 2020 out of its state-of-the-art, 117,000-square-foot food distribution facility.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused GBFB to ramp up operations quickly in order to respond to the increase in need in our community with distribution increasing by 56% since March 2020. Feeding America projected that food insecurity in Eastern Massachusetts will increase by 66% so that 1 in 8 people are expected to experience food insecurity.

GBFB's more than 500 member agencies include food pantries, meal programs, and shelters. In addition, GBFB operates four direct service programs at 80 sites throughout the area, among them two programs serving seniors, school-based pantries, and free Mobile Markets. GBFB acquires food through food industry donations, state, and federal programs, and by purchasing food directly thanks to financial contributions.

By purchasing the majority of the food distributed, GBFB is able to acquire food that will positively affect the health of those we serve. In 2020, eighty-three percent of the food GBFB distributed meets the highest nutritional standards; 30 percent was fresh produce; and 53 percent was perishable product such as protein, produce and dairy.