

# FISCAL YEAR 2022 IMPACT REPORT

## Q1 STATS

 **600,000**  
People served monthly\*

 **190**  
Towns & cities

 **600**  
Network partners

 **22.2M**  
Meals

 **94%** of food  
meets nutrition  
standards\*\*

 **245** SNAP  
applications submitted

## ELEVATED NEED CONTINUES IN FY22

The new fiscal year began in October with flashes of hope and normalcy, but quickly reminded us that the pandemic continues to negatively affect our Eastern Massachusetts community, threatening daily life with new variants, renewed restrictions and continued unknowns. The level of need persists as it did in 2020 and 2021. New challenges have presented themselves with supply chain disruptions, inflation driving increases to food costs, omicron impacting workforces and fluctuations in federal benefits impacting our most vulnerable neighbors.

With your generous support and our tenacity, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) has continued to meet a basic human need of health and wellbeing through nutritious food.

## HUNGER FREE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season was one of the most expensive as supply chain disruptions and inflation drove food prices to record heights.

[NBC News covered](#) GBFB's ability to overcome these issues in securing food for the holiday season.

Presented by Stop & Shop, and with support from Biogen Foundation, our 11th annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign raised enough funds to provide 22.2 million healthy meals to support families celebrating the fall and winter holidays. Based on agency reporting, our food pantry partners received on average 87% of their food from GBFB for calendar year 2021.



"With your help, every household we served for Thanksgiving received a turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, butternut squash, potatoes, carrots and fresh produce. Each recipient was overwhelmed by the abundance of food given to them this Thanksgiving."

—**Beth Collins, Manager, Food Assistance Program at My Brother's Keeper**

## Story of Hope

**HAVE HOPE BE STRONG LAUGH LOUD LIVE & PLAY HARD**  
LIVE IN THE MOMENT  
SMILE OFTEN DREAM BIG  
REMEMBER YOU ARE  
**LOVED AND NEVER GIV**



## SAVING LIVES WITH THE POWER OF FOOD

Danielle began getting the help she needed because of access to fresh, nutritious food made available to people in need by you and your commitment to GBFB. "Offering me a hot cup of coffee and a banana to start my day, and an apple or an orange to toss in my bag for later gave me hope." Read [Danielle's powerful recovery story](#) featured on the GBFB website.

\*Average based on partner agency reporting

\*\*Based on GBFB inventory that can be ranked



### CHAIN OF GIVING

Governor Baker and Mayor Wu help kick-off our Hunger Free Holidays campaign at our annual Chain of Giving event.

### A NEW INITIATIVE TO INCREASE CLIENT CHOICE AND BUILD CAPACITY

In an effort to expand GBFB's capacity to increase food distribution without putting more strain on our facility, GBFB introduced an expanded grocery card distribution program in fiscal year 2021 which simultaneously helps to restore client choice including cultural and dietary preferences. Client choice, encouraging clients to choose the food they need for their household, on their own terms, is deeply valued at GBFB and our increased Grocery Card Initiative is an excellent supplemental resource for our core distribution model.



Fully funded by GBFB and free to our partners, GBFB's Grocery Card Initiative provides supplemental resources in the form of \$40 grocery store gift cards for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

### OPTIMIZING IMPACT: DIGITAL INNOVATION

Under CEO Catherine D'Amato's visionary leadership, GBFB launched Project Everest—our 3-year Digital Transformation Strategy.

Last year at the height of the COVID response effort, GBFB hired Vice President of Digital Transformation, Unmesh Gandhi, to spearhead this project with the goal of optimizing the organization's impact on the community. GBFB also launched a Project Management Office to effectively implement recommendations from Project Everest.

McKinsey & Company featured this work in their October 2021 article, [Digital transformation comes to food banks](#).

### A WIN FOR HUNGER ADVOCACY

In December, the state passed a pandemic relief bill that made significant food security investments across the Commonwealth. Read more about this historic funding in our [press release](#).

After months of advocacy, we secured a unanimous vote from the Legislature awarding GBFB a \$17 million commitment in regional infrastructure investments. Special appreciation to Senator Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester) for advancing this request with their colleagues.

These strategic investments will be critical as we recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and better position the hunger-relief network in Massachusetts to respond to the future needs of our community.

*"Today, I picked up the gift cards at GBFB. I can't believe the quantity and value of the cards we received... The impact these cards will have on our clients and community will be a huge lift in support of the health and well-being of each family. These gift cards have proven to have a major positive impact on buying food when cash has been depleted, or when specialty or ethnic foods may be needed."*

**—Rich, Matthew's Food Pantry**

### DECades of Commitment to GBFB

GBFB Team members Kelly Sajous and Juan Encarnacion celebrated milestone years of service to GBFB. Sajous, Production Lead, celebrated 25 years, and Encarnacion, Senior Lead Driver, celebrated 3 whole decades.

