

# FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 4 IMPACT REPORT

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2023

## Weathering the Storm of Hunger

As our neighbors grapple with the high cost of living, far too many are choosing between buying food or paying for housing, healthcare, or transportation. The increased cost of groceries is the number one reason so many turned to food pantries for the first time. 1 in 3 adults experienced food insecurity in Massachusetts at some point last year, with nearly 70% residing in Eastern Massachusetts. The burden on families has intensified as they spend **\$700 more** per month than 2 years ago to buy the same goods and services.

Compared to 2022, the average food pantry partner reported serving nearly 12% more individuals per month than they served in 2023. No one is immune to the impact of inflation and rising food costs, including GBFB. Last year, we purchased 75% of the food we provided for free to our 600 food distribution partners, and they need our help as a growing number of our neighbors turn to them for assistance. Despite generous support this last fiscal year, we are weathering the perfect storm: the need for food continues to rise, as does the cost, and fundraising has been slowing. That's why now, more than ever, your support is a critical lifeline for our neighbors.

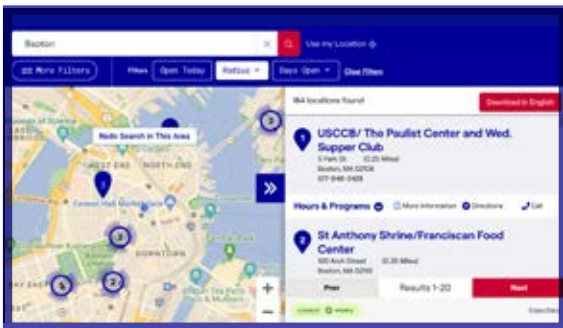
## GBFB Serves our Partners for the Day!

GBFB team members celebrated the return of our annual Community Day by volunteering at 12 partner agencies across Eastern Massachusetts. Joining our partners for a day of service was a timely reminder of why our mission to end hunger is so vital. Our partner agencies serve as critical lifelines for our neighbors who rely on them to access meals—and we're grateful to these partners for hosting us. [Read more.](#)



## GBFB Improves Need Food Map for Those Seeking Food Assistance

GBFB partnered with [Vivory](#) on our new Need Food Map—a free, powerful online tool to help our neighbors find the right food, programs, and services in their area. This user-friendly application makes searching easier, and users can export and print information, use Google Translate, and much more. Check it out [here](#).



## Tackling Food Insecurity Through Our Fundraising Campaigns



June 1–August 31  
2.4 million healthy meals

Thanks to generous community support, we were able to provide 2.4 million healthy meals to our neighbors in need through our Growing Healthy Futures campaign.

## Stories of Hope



“It’s for everyone who needs it. The help is critical. People are benefiting from it.”

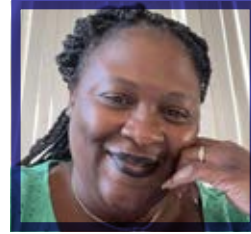
—Maritza Flores

When Maritza Flores and her family sought refuge in East Boston from El Salvador, it was a challenge—navigating a new country and culture and living in a friend’s basement until her husband found work. His new job enabled them to move to a small apartment, but the \$2,500 rent often left the family with only \$200 a month for other essentials. “What can \$200 buy?” Maritza asks. However, as she became familiar with the city, Maritza discovered the La Colaborativa food pantry in Chelsea. “Imagine coming home to an empty fridge. But now I can put food on the table.” Read her story [here](#).

Read all the Stories of Hope from last year [here](#).

## Elevating Voices on Hunger in D.C.

Donnette McManus, GBFB's 2023 President's Choice Partner Appreciation Award recipient, is a client and volunteer at Catholic Charities in Brockton. GBFB nominated her to attend Feeding America's 2023 [Elevating Voices: Power Summit in Washington D.C.](#)— a gathering of nearly 100 people from around the country with lived experience of food insecurity. The goal of the event? To influence key federal decision-makers and discuss what people facing hunger need. While at the Summit, Donnette recorded this message about her experiences and her ideas for ensuring that we all have the food and resources we need to thrive. [Watch now.](#)



## GBFB Recaps Hunger Action Month

September marked the end of summer, a return to school, and the first few leaves changing color. It was also Hunger Action Month, when advocates, supporters, and community leaders across Eastern Massachusetts came together to raise awareness and take action to end hunger across our communities. This year, GBFB mobilized support from our community, including testifying at the State House to advance hunger-free campus legislation. [Read this recap of our successful Hunger Action Month.](#)



“Massachusetts is already one of the most expensive places to live in the country, which means food is often the first thing college students have to go without,” said lead House sponsor on the bill.

—**Andy Varga (D-Haverhill), State Representative**



## Boston Volunteers Pack 330,000 Meals

More than 1,000 volunteers from around Boston spent the anniversary of 9/11 in a meaningful way at Boston University's Agganis Arena, packing more than 330,000 healthy, non-perishable meals for GBFB to help us feed our neighbors facing food insecurity. Read more [here.](#)

## WCVB Day of Giving Will Provide 600,000 Meals

A special thank you to our official local TV broadcast partner, WCVB-Channel 5, for joining forces with us once again for our 5th Annual Day of Giving fundraiser. We're immensely grateful for this partnership, the entire WCVB team, our GBFB team members, the volunteers who staffed the phones, and our generous individual and corporate donors. Thanks to them and the thousands of donors who called in, we'll be able to provide nearly 600,000 nutritious meals to our neighbors in need. [Check out these inspiring stories from that day.](#)



“At a time when the cost of living, food and utilities are at an all-time high, food insecurity and demand at our nearly 600 partners across Eastern Massachusetts are rising and every measure to soften the blow to our communities will help. We are grateful for the Governor's commitment to ending hunger in our Commonwealth.”

— **Catherine D'Amato, president and CEO, The Greater Boston Food Bank**

## State Invests in Feeding Our Neighbors

GBFB was awarded a \$500,000 Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) as part of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's investment grants to improve food security and resiliency across Massachusetts. This funding will support significant capital improvements in our facility to ensure the consistent, high-volume distribution of healthy foods across Eastern Massachusetts to approximately 70% of the Commonwealth's food insecure population. Read more [here.](#)

## State Budget Prioritizes Food Security

The Massachusetts legislature and Governor Maura Healey passed the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which includes [historic hunger-relief investments](#). GBFB joined statewide hunger-relief allies in applauding the legislature and Governor for delivering a budget that features key initiatives for fighting food insecurity, including permanent funding for school meals for all and increased funding for GBFB to purchase food for our neighbors.

### WORKING ACROSS EASTERN MASS TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY



**600,000**  
People served monthly<sup>1</sup>



**600**  
Network partners



**96%**  
of food meets nutrition standards<sup>2</sup>



**105%**  
of FY23 goal of submitting 1100 SNAP applications<sup>3</sup>



**190**  
Towns & cities



**33**  
Mobile Markets

<sup>1</sup> Average based on partner agency reporting | <sup>2</sup> Based on GBFB inventory that can be ranked | <sup>3</sup> Our annual SNAP application goal is assigned by the state based on our SNAP outreach budget for the year