

## DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 72,000 of our neighbors in Douglas County are food insecure, meaning they lack access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.
- 42 percent of our neighbors who live below the poverty line worry that their food may run out before they can afford to purchase more.
- Food insecurity during a child's early years threatens brain development, and it has been linked to nutrient deficiencies that lead to learning and development problems.
- In the United States, it's estimated that between 30-40 percent of the food supply is wasted.

Sources – Feeding America, The Landscape Omaha, Urban Child Institute, United States Department of Agriculture



Devon and his son London finish lunch at the Stephen Center, where Chef Robert takes pride in serving healthy meals. Fresh, nutritious food from Saving Grace is delivered to the Stephen Center up to four times a week.



# Saving grace

perishable food rescue

ANNUAL REPORT

# Impact 2019

a look at what we've accomplished together

## BY THE NUMBERS



**\$1,864,393.<sup>08</sup>**  
VALUE OF FOOD  
RESCUED



**4**  
NUMBER OF NEW  
NONPROFIT PARTNER  
AGENCIES

**NUMBER  
OF NEW  
FOOD  
DONOR  
PARTNERS**

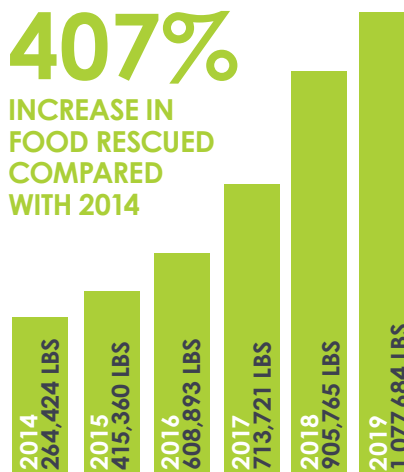


**539**  
TONS OF FOOD  
KEPT OUT OF OUR  
LANDFILLS



**407%**

INCREASE IN  
FOOD RESCUED  
COMPARED  
WITH 2014



**4,019,728**

LIFETIME TOTAL  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
RESCUED



(AS OF DEC. 31, 2019)

## TYPES of FOOD RESCUED in 2019

**PRODUCE** **46%**  
497,112 lbs

**GRAINS** **18%**  
193,658 lbs

**DAIRY** **18%**  
191,960 lbs

**MEATS** **13%**  
138,868 lbs

**OTHER** **5%**  
56,087 lbs



# reflections



Together, we did it! In 2019, we hit a milestone of over 1 million pounds of healthy excess food rescued and shared with our nonprofit partner agencies to feed their clients. This brought the total amount of food rescued since operations began in October 2013 to just over 4 million pounds. This translates to more than 2,000 tons of perfectly good food that has been kept out of our landfills.

It's exciting to think back on how far we have come in six short years and the impact it's made on our community, thanks to the support of our financial donors, food donors, nonprofit partner agencies and other followers. Nutritious foods that otherwise would have been wasted have graced the tables of some of our most challenged neighbors, providing several million healthy meals. This quality food provides nutrition for kids to learn and grow and for the elderly and our veterans to lead healthier lives.

Saving Grace started with one refrigerated truck and driver who picked up donated food from three locations. In 2019, we operated a fleet of four refrigerated trucks, and our five drivers/food ambassadors picked up from 58 food vendors and delivered the donated food to 43 nonprofit partner agencies.

We believe it just makes sense to feed hungry bellies, rather than landfills, with excess healthy foods, and that's what we continue to do. Thank you for believing in this mission and helping us expand to meet the growing demand for our distribution and logistics services.

Let's continue in 2020 to change the way our community thinks about surplus, wasted food. Together, we can ensure more nutritious perishable foods end up on dinner tables than in our landfills. Together, we can help keep bodies and our environment healthy and happy.

My heartfelt thanks for your support!

Beth Ostdiek Smith, Saving Grace Founder and CEO

## 2019 BOARD

**Lenli Corbett**, CHAIR

*Home Instead Senior Care Foundation*

**Peggy Dunn**, VICE CHAIR

*Farm Credit Services of America*

**Laurie Hellbusch**, TREASURER

*Spirit World*

**Michael Hemenway**, SECRETARY

*WoodmenLife*

**Beth Ostdiek Smith**, PRESIDENT / CEO & FOUNDER

*Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue*

**Denise Hill** *Preferred Professional Insurance Co.*

**Erik Bird** *Life Time Fitness*

**Summer Miller** *Simply Recipes, Inc.*

**Anna Cramer** *Nebraska Medicine*

**Andrew Wong** *First National Bank of Omaha*

## 2019 ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Ellie Archer**, CHAIR

*Women's Fund of Omaha (retired)*

**Carol Russell** *Community Volunteer*

**Larry Johnson** *Firestone*

**My Boes** *Boes Art*

**Anne M. Hubbard, M.D.** *Claire M. Hubbard Foundation*

**Vic Gulman** *VGA Group*

**Pete Festersen** *Omaha City Council and CHI Health*

**Nancy Noddle (Emeritus)** *Community Volunteer*

## 2019 Staff

**Beth Ostdiek Smith**, President / CEO & Founder

**Judy Rydberg**, Field and Logistics Director

**Tracy Wells**, Development Director

**Audrey Riddle**, Executive Assistant

**Randy Hansen**, Lead Route Driver / Food Ambassador

**Thomas Ashworth**, Route Driver / Food Ambassador

**Michael Magnuson**, Route Driver / Food Ambassador

**Corey McDaniel**, Route Driver / Food Ambassador

**Jay Olson**, Route Driver / Food Ambassador

**James Hester\***, Route Driver / Food Ambassador

*\*James replaced Corey*

## SAVING GRACE IS MAKING AN IMPACT, ONE POUND OF FOOD AT A TIME

# 1,077,684



## IN 2019

Connecting healthy, excess perishable food that would otherwise add to landfill waste with organizations that feed the hungry just makes sense, and that's what Saving Grace does. Here's how:

- Each weekday morning, our drivers use refrigerated trucks to pick up surplus produce, meats, dairy products, packaged and prepared meals, and other nutritious foods from a network of food donors.
- This food is delivered the same day – free of charge – to nonprofit partner agencies that feed the hungry, including food pantries, transitional living facilities, shelters, children's afterschool programs, senior citizen centers and health clinics.
- Outreach efforts and events build awareness in the community about wasted food and hunger, which leads to a decrease in the amount of food thrown out. As they become more educated about the issues, more businesses donate their surplus foods, and community members learn ways they can reduce food waste in their own lives.



# We Appreciate Our *Food Donors*

Feeding our hungry neighbors with surplus food that is still good just makes sense, and that's what our food donor partners help us do. Their donations of healthy fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meats, prepared and packaged meals, bakery products and more make Saving Grace's work possible. This also makes good business sense, as donors receive a tax credit, save on dumpster fees and support their sustainability plans.

## 50,000 lbs. AND UP

Costco (LaVista)  
Costco (Omaha)  
Fresh Thyme (132nd and Center)  
Fresh Thyme (149th and Maple)  
Hy-Vee #10 (156th and Maple)  
Hy-Vee #1514 (Shadow Lake)  
Hy-Vee #9 (180th and Q)  
Hy-Vee Fulfillment Center \*  
Kum & Go (10 locations)

## 10,000 TO 49,999 lbs.

Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen  
Eat Fit Go  
Fresh Thyme (Lakeside)  
Greenberg Fruit  
Hy-Vee #11 (180th and Pacific)  
Hy-Vee #4 (108th and Fort) \*  
Hy-Vee #6 (96th and Q)  
Hy-Vee #8 (132nd and Dodge)  
Loffredo Produce  
QuikTrip Kitchen (15 locations)  
Trader Joe's  
Whole Foods

## 2,000 TO 9,999 lbs.

Attitude on Food  
Bonefish Grill  
Catering Creations  
Cheesecake Factory  
CHI Health Center/Levy Restaurants  
Contemporary Food/Gallup  
Family Fare (144th and Center) \*  
Lunch Box Foods  
PayPal/Sodexo  
Pizza Ranch (Omaha)  
Pizza Ranch (Papillion)  
Rigel Airport Service  
TD Ameritrade Park  
Wohlner's

## UP TO 1,999 lbs.

Brownell-Talbot School  
Chick-fil-a (Bellevue)\*  
Creighton University/Sodexo  
Embassy Suites (LaVista)  
Film Streams \*  
Kentucky Fried Chicken (Millard) \*  
Outback Steakhouse  
Presbyterian Church of the Master  
Save the Date Catering \*  
Savor Omaha/Baxter Arena  
St. Vincent de Paul School  
Taste Traditions of Omaha \*  
Tired Texan BBQ  
Werner Park/Spectra \*

\*New in 2019

"We feel very blessed to give back to the community and make an impact in people's lives."

**RENEE**

Pizza Ranch (Papillion)



Saving Grace trucks and drivers pick up donated food at the CHI Health Center following an event. Photos courtesy of Debra Kaplan.

"It's a relief knowing the food is going to individuals who need it."

**BRIAN**

Costco (LaVista)



Driver Randy Hansen loads up sandwiches that will be taken to local shelters and pantries. Through their annual sandwich drive, Creighton University/Sodexo made 1,375 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.





**CELEBRATING SIX YEARS:** Saving Grace partnered with Dante for a dinner fundraiser that celebrated our birthday and accomplishments. Chef Nick Strawhecker recognized Saving Grace's work, adding, "There is no excuse for food waste in my kitchens or in Omaha when there are so many hungry people."



**EARTH DAY:** Board member Erik Bird accepts the Friend of the Environment Nonprofit award on behalf of Saving Grace; youngsters have fun portraying Food Rescue Superheroes.

#### NATIONAL RECOGNITION:

Founder and CEO Beth Ostdiek Smith accepts the 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award from FBI Director Christopher Wray during a May 2019 ceremony in Washington, D.C. Saving Grace was one of 57 organizations nationally to receive the award.



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT IN 2019!

# LIVING OUR MISSION,

**OUR MISSION:** Connect perishable food from local food purveyors to local nonprofits that feed our hungry, while raising awareness and educating the community on food waste and hunger.

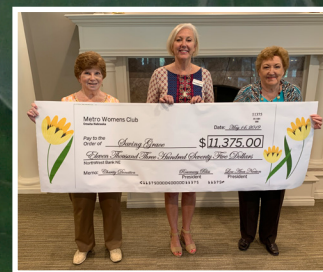
#### In the Community:

Saving Grace participated in a number of awareness events. Bread pudding made with rescued foods was served at the Greater Omaha Chamber's holiday gathering; Board member Summer Miller was part of a panel at the Omaha Public Library's Read it and Eat Conference; kids painted pumpkins at a booth at Whole Foods; Saving Grace staffed a booth at ICAN.



#### SUPPORTING OUR CAUSE:

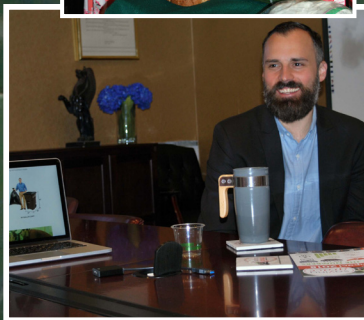
Saving Grace was the charity of choice for Metro Women's Club and Reruns R Fun. Metro Women's Club held several fundraisers to support Saving Grace. Saving Grace provided information on wasted food and hunger during the Reruns R Fun sale and received a portion of the sale proceeds.



**SUSTAINABILITY:** CEO and Founder Beth Ostdiek Smith explains the Food Rescue Hierarchy during the "Sustainable Solutions to Food Waste" presentation that was part of the Hubbard Sustainability Series.







**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Breakfast gatherings provided opportunities for attendees to learn about Saving Grace and also hear from guest speakers on topics like understanding food labels (Registered Dietician Anna Curry), using the summer's produce bounty (Food for Life Instructor Melissa Sherlock) and composting at home (Brent Crampton of Hillside Solutions).

## Feeding the Hungry:

Thousands of our hungry neighbors are able to enjoy nutritious meals each month because of food provided by Saving Grace. Shown below, Chef Robert Wilson of the Stephen Center with fresh fruit from Saving Grace; Stephen Center clients enjoying a meal; having a healthy snack at the Boys and Girls Club; food from Saving Grace at the Santa Monica House.



# VISION AND VALUES

**OUR VISION:** Feed the hungry by rescuing the heartland's bounty that would otherwise go to waste.

**OUR VALUES:** COLLABORATION • IMPACT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY



## Front Line Ambassadors:

Saving Grace's five drivers are on the road five days a week picking up nutritious donated food and delivering it to nonprofit agencies to feed the hungry. Shown in the group photo are Randy, Tom, Jay, Corey and Mike with CEO Beth Ostdiek Smith and Director of Field and Logistics Judy Rydberg.



**AND NOW THERE ARE FOUR:** Saving Grace's fleet increased to four refrigerated trucks and five drivers in April. Funding for the new truck was provided by the Harper Family Foundation.



# feeding the hungry recognizing our nonprofit partner agencies

Food rescued by Saving Grace was delivered - free of charge - to 43 nonprofit agencies where it provided healthy meals to some of our community's most challenged children, seniors, veterans and families. In many cases, this allowed the agencies to direct more of their resources to other client programs. Any 501c3 nonprofit agency in the Omaha area can apply to receive food from Saving Grace.

**"The biggest thing is the fresh fruit. That is the last thing our families buy when they go to the grocery store because they can't afford it. We really can't either."**

**Dave**, Unit Director, Boys and Girls Club North



## Feeding the Kids:

The Boys and Girls Club relies on food from Saving Grace for healthy afterschool snacks.

**Nutritious Foods:** Women at the Santa Monica House, below, appreciate the variety of fresh foods provided by Saving Grace.



**"It (Wednesday when Saving Grace delivers food) is definitely our favorite day in the house. There are always fun surprises. A couple of weeks ago we had a charcuterie tray."**

**Michelle**, Santa Monica House client

## AGENCY

**POUNDS of FOOD  
RECEIVED in 2019**

### Afterschool Programs

Boys and Girls Club North	5,700
Boys and Girls Club South	3,495
Hope Center for Kids	2,931
Youth Emergency Services	11,794

### Church

Enoch Ministries	1,557
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### Health Clinics

Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition*	4,653
One World Community Health	41,193

### On-site Meal Programs

Chariots 4 Hope	3,560
Compassion in Action	26,631
Grief's Journey	1,752
No More Empty Pots	5,057
NorthStar Foundation	5,041
Rejuvenating Women	2,494
Table Grace	11,032

### Pantries

Catholic Charities Juan Diego Center	93,407
Christian Outreach Program Elkhorn	36,173
ENCAP	32,242
Faith Westwood Methodist Church Pantry	4,274
Heart Ministries	105,109
Heartland Hope	70,101
Millard South Student Pantry	2,455
Project Hope	35,078
Rejoice! Lutheran Church	9,027
Salem Food Pantry	24,855
Salvation Army Burrows Center	14,378
Salvation Army North Corps	62,873
St. Vincent de Paul Pantry	66,240
Together	70,062

### Senior Centers

Adams Park Senior Center*	9,448
Intercultural Senior Center	21,079
Notre Dame Housing	51,160

### Shelters

Catholic Charities St. Martin de Porres Senior Center	62,761
Heartland Family Service Sanctuary House*	2,322
Open Door Mission	55,474
Siena Francis House	20,003
Stephen Center	38,001

### Transitional Living Centers

Carole's House of Hope	5,656
Kelly House	18,264
Ronald McDonald House	2,601
Santa Monica House (Harney St.)	4,000
Santa Monica House (Jones St.)	4,312
Women United Ministries*	27,360

\* New in 2019



# our evolution

**OCTOBER**

Saving Grace began operations with one truck

**2013**



**2014**

**DECEMBER**

264,424 pounds of food rescued in first year of operations

**2015**

**JUNE**

Second refrigerated truck added

**OCTOBER**

Saving Grace hosted Feeding the 5000 Omaha

**2016**

**MAY**

Greater Omaha Chamber's Business Excellence Award for Innovation

**DECEMBER**

Lifetime total of food saved from landfills was 661 tons

**2017**

**JULY**

Total amount of food rescued reached 1 million pounds

**DECEMBER**

Number of food donors reached 38



**2018**

**JANUARY**

Third refrigerated truck added

**DECEMBER**

Number of nonprofit partner agencies reached 40

**2019**

**APRIL**

Fourth refrigerated truck added; number of drivers now five

**MAY**

FBI recognized Saving Grace with the Director's Community Leadership Award

**NOVEMBER**

Saving Grace partnered with the Stephen Center to host the Omaha Hunger Experience



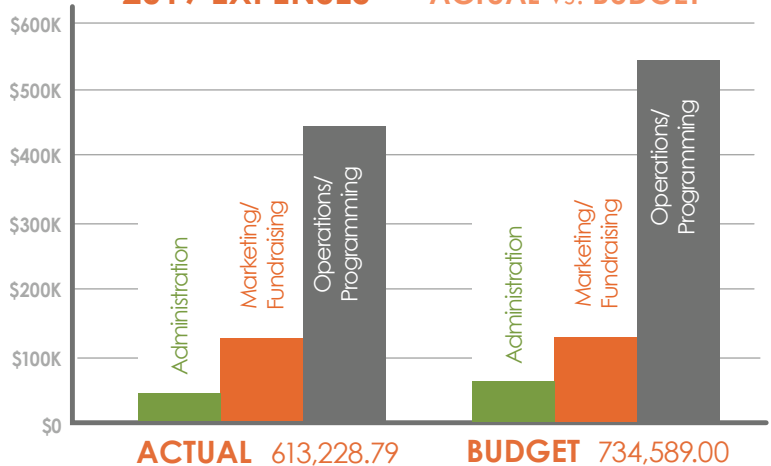
## TO OUR GENEROUS 2019 FUNDERS!

We appreciate our wonderful donors who make Saving Grace's work possible.

For a full list of donors, along with donations made in honor of or in memory of a special individual, please go to [savinggracefoodrescue.org/financial-donations](http://savinggracefoodrescue.org/financial-donations).

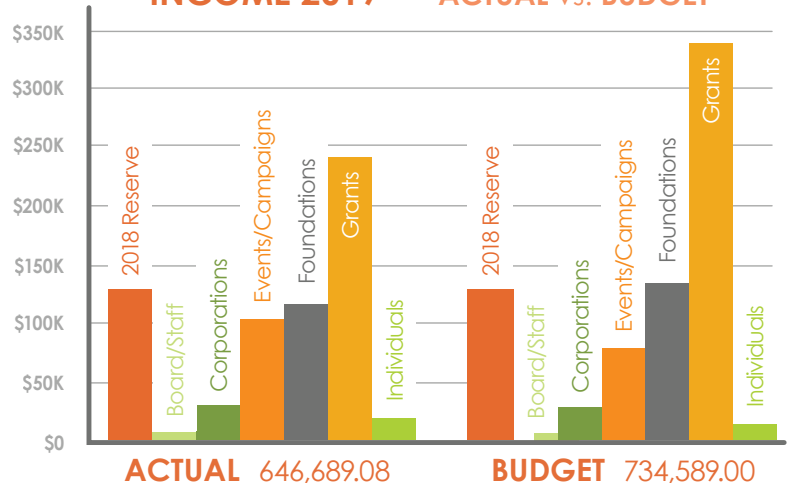
### 2019 EXPENSES

### ACTUAL vs. BUDGET



### INCOME 2019

### ACTUAL vs. BUDGET



Does not include \$34,664.09 in in-kind contributions.



# Saving grace

Perishable Food Rescue, Inc.

4611 South 96th Street, Suite 112

Omaha, NE 68127



Thanks so  
much for your  
support!

[www.savinggracefoodrescue.org](http://www.savinggracefoodrescue.org)

## 2020 GOALS

**POUNDS  
OF FOOD RESCUED**  
1,041,000

**REGULAR  
FOOD DONOR LOCATIONS**  
60

**FOOD RECIPIENT  
AGENCIES**  
50

**EXPAND TO COUNCIL BLUFFS  
LOCATIONS**  
4

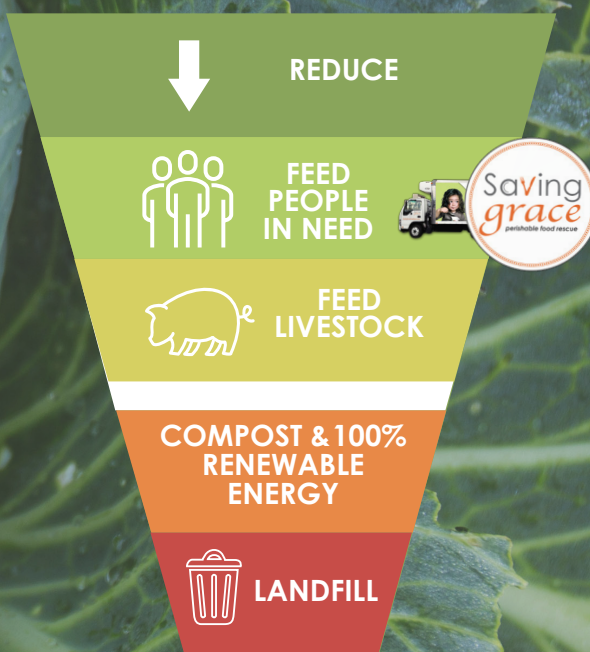
## COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO COVID-19 CRISIS

As this report was going to press, the COVID-19 crisis was changing our world. Saving Grace was on the frontlines, responding to the local need for food. It has been heartwarming to see the community come together to ensure food is available for our neighbors who are hungry. As restaurants, event venues, casinos and bars closed, food in their kitchens was donated. Saving Grace's team was working to connect this nutritious food with nonprofit partner agencies seeing an increase in need, while continuing to pick up regular food donations. At this time, it's unknown how this crisis will impact our 2020 goals.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ONGOING** Support Saving Grace's 20 in 20 campaign through a recurring gift of \$20 per month and/or donate now to support our COVID-19 efforts.
- MAY 20** Omaha Gives. Let your friends know about Saving Grace and support us with a donation that day at [omahagives.org](http://omahagives.org)
- JUNE 3** Food for Thought featuring the founders of Blossom and Wood, a nonprofit focused on using the resources you have in the best way possible.
- SEPT. 10** Food for Thought featuring Summer Miller, Senior Editor of Simply Recipes, who will help participants identify websites, blogs and cookbooks that help us eat with intention.
- FALL** Join us to celebrate Saving Grace's seventh birthday. Stay tuned for details.
- NOV.** The second annual Omaha Hunger Experience held in conjunction with the Stephen Center will shine a light on the issues of hunger and homelessness in our community.

## FOOD WASTE HIERARCHY



## CONNECT WITH SAVING GRACE

- Sign up to receive **emails** and keep up with the latest news at [www.savinggracefoodrescue.org](http://www.savinggracefoodrescue.org).
- Connect with Saving Grace on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram**, and **YouTube**.
- Watch for details of **upcoming events** and how you can participate.