



 **saving**  
**grace**  
perishable  
food rescue



annual report  
**Impact**  
2023

## 2023 Board

**Thomas Hall, Chair**  
Vymo

**Anna Cramer, Vice Chair**  
Nebraska Medicine

**Andrew Wong, Treasurer**  
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**Jack Holmes, Secretary**  
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**Nathan Browne**  
Werner Enterprises

**Erik Bird**  
Eat Fit Go

**Beth Ostdiek Smith**  
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue

### Advisory Board

Peggy Dunn, Carol Russell, Pete Festersen,  
My Boes, Margie Smith, Anne Hubbard, Vic Gutman,  
Mike Foley, Ellie Archer (Emeritus), Nancy Noddle (Emeritus)

## 2023 Staff

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

**Lenli Corbett**  
COO/VP

**Randy Hansen**  
Director of Field Operations and Partnerships

**Rita Heaston-Clark**  
Development Manager

**Adrienne Carpenter**  
Marketing and Data Manager

**Wanda Koory**  
Administrative Office Manager

**Autumn Taddicken**  
Organizational Project Manager

**Timothy Wyatt**  
Field Manager

**George Hughes**  
Lead Driver/Food Ambassador

**Matthew Rigdon**  
Driver/Food Ambassador

**Mark Heckerson**  
Driver/Food Ambassador

**Candace Fuller**  
Driver/Food Ambassador

## Photography

We extend our gratitude to Debra Kaplan, a dear friend of Saving Grace, and to our dedicated staff for the photography featured in this year's annual report.

# FOUNDER REFLECTS: 10 Years of Impact



Just over a decade ago, while working with a nonprofit that served children, I saw firsthand how having access to healthy food was essential to students' success in all areas of their lives. I also knew how much good, nutritious food was being wasted. It was important to me to pursue the idea of addressing wasted food and food insecurity, but I didn't know where it would go. I spent two years researching the idea and floating it around the community before founding Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue.

Saving Grace's first refrigerated truck rolled out onto the streets on Sept. 30, 2013, picking up surplus perishable food from three local businesses and delivering it to three food pantries. Fast forward, and Saving Grace now operates five refrigerated vehicles that are used to pick up food from 125 food donor locations and deliver it each weekday to 40 nonprofit partners. More than 8 million pounds of nutritious perishable food, valued at over \$14 million, have been rescued and redistributed to feed those in the Omaha area facing food insecurity.

In the world right now, a lot of people are feeling pretty helpless. Saving Grace offers a way for everyone to make an impact and feel empowered. Through outreach opportunities, Saving Grace educates community members on ways they can personally make a difference, such as eating more leftovers, frequenting businesses that donate their excess food and purchasing only needed food items. Saving Grace is unique in that it addresses many issues – food insecurity, food inequity, wasted food and the environment. There is something we do that resonates with almost everybody.

As we look to the future, Saving Grace will continue to be a leader in the movement to decrease wasted food and feed our neighbors in need. In this next chapter, I will serve as an advisor/consultant, having made the decision to step down as CEO/President.

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation of our past and present board members, staff, funders, food partners, vendors and volunteers that have helped make my vision come to life. We have made many positive impacts in our community. With your continued support, there is much more yet to be done!

Beth Ostdiek Smith  
Founder, CEO/President (through February 23, 2024)

## FROM THE CHAIR **Thomas Hall,** Vymo

The past year has been one of change, reflecting on the incredible accomplishments of the past, while looking forward to exciting new beginnings. On behalf of myself and the board, I sincerely thank Beth for her incredible leadership as the founder and CEO of Saving Grace for the past 10 years. The organization would not be what it is today without her vision and determination, and she will be missed immensely. Looking ahead, I am thrilled to work with Lenli Corbett as she takes the reins and leads Saving Grace as our new CEO. It has been a privilege working on this transition with Beth and Lenli, and I am excited to be a part of what's next for Saving Grace, our community and those we serve.



# Community Partners

## Food Donors

<b>Grocery Stores</b> 329,939 pounds	<b>Other</b> 16,616 pounds	<b>Caterers</b> 12,429 pounds
<b>Wholesalers</b> 117,125 pounds	<b>Event Centers</b> 15,720 pounds	<b>Schools</b> 10,199 pounds
<b>Convenience Stores</b> 92,716 pounds	<b>Hotels</b> 15,591 pounds	<b>Farms &amp; Gardens</b> 6,400 pounds
<b>Restaurants</b> 21,837 pounds	<b>Businesses</b> 13,168 pounds	<b>Churches</b> 3,040 pounds

## Nonprofit Recipients

<b>Pantries</b> 359,970 pounds	<b>Transitional Living</b> 34,013 pounds
<b>Shelters</b> 96,305 pounds	<b>Health Center/Clinic</b> 17,309 pounds
<b>On Site Meals</b> 68,843 pounds	<b>After School Programs</b> 9,501 pounds
<b>Senior Centers</b> 68,434 pounds	<b>Other</b> 405 pounds

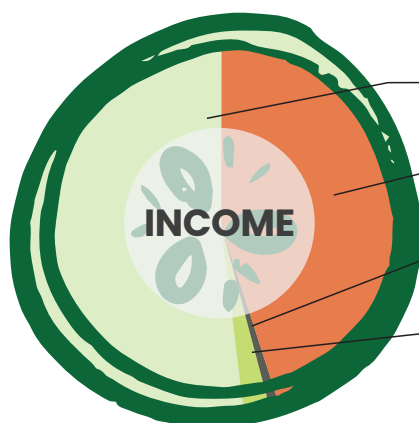


“I love Saving Grace and the work they do! Together we have provided nutrition to countless numbers of hungry individuals.”  
– Chef Robert Wilson,  
Food Service Director,  
Stephen Center

## Mission Metrics

### Financial Snapshot

In fiscal year 2023, Saving Grace had total public support and revenue of \$2.4 million and operating expenses of \$2.4 million.

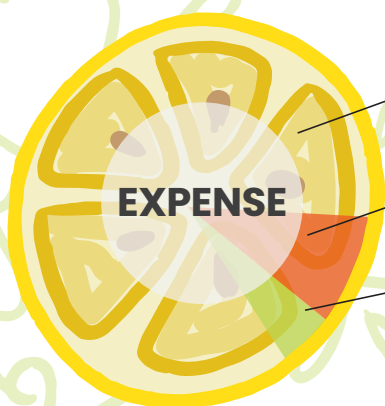


**52%** FOOD DONATIONS

**45%** CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

**1%** DONATED GOODS & SERVICES

**2%** INTEREST INCOME

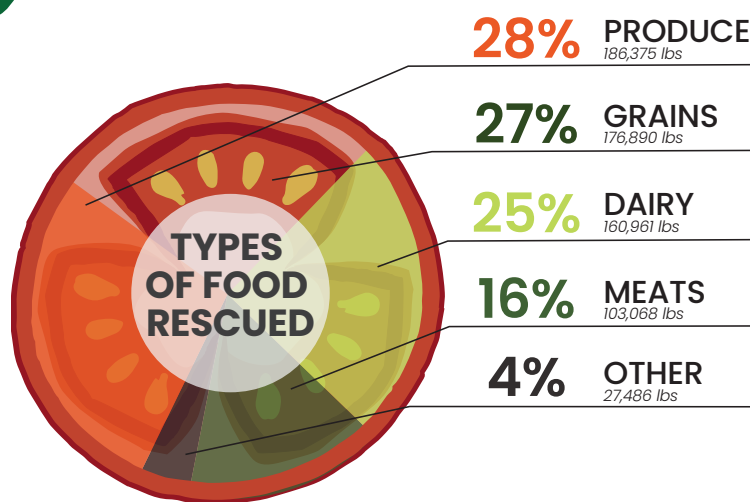


**85%** OPERATIONS & PROGRAMS\*

**10%** MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

**5%** ADMINISTRATIVE

\*Includes \$1.25 million of food provided to nonprofit partners



**28%** PRODUCE  
186,375 lbs

**27%** GRAINS  
176,890 lbs

**25%** DAIRY  
160,961 lbs

**16%** MEATS  
103,068 lbs

**4%** OTHER  
27,486 lbs

# why we **RESCUE**

## PEOPLE



Food insecurity impacts **78,640** residents across Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties, with **26,250** of them being children.



Wasting food costs **\$2,267** the average household per year.



**12.1%** of Nebraskans lack access to wholesome, nutritious food.

In Nebraska and Iowa, **2.75** billion meals' worth of food, valued at **\$9.7** billion, went uneaten or unsold in 2022.



## PLANET

The **#1** material landfilled or incinerated in the U.S. is food, with perishable items such as produce, meat and dairy comprising **78%** of the wasted food.



By saving more than **8 million** pounds of food since 2013, we prevented the waste of enough fresh water to fill **967** Olympic swimming pools.

# our **IMPACT**



**\$14,616,080** worth of perishable food has been donated to those in need since our operations began in 2013.



**654,780** pounds of perishable food was rescued from **125** business locations and redistributed to **40** nonprofit partner agencies.



**25** Saving Grace participated in events that reached over **17,000** people in the Metro.

**406** volunteer hours, valued at over **\$12,715**, were dedicated to spreading our message.



**11** new businesses partnered with us in 2023, committing to donate instead of throwing away their excess perishable food.

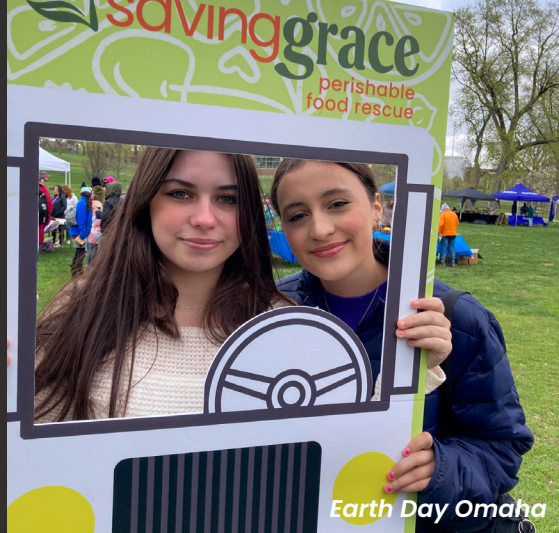
Ten years of food rescued and diverted from the landfill is the equivalent of removing the annual emissions of more than **2,751** vehicles.





Expanding our fleet

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Earth Day Omaha



Meals donated by Levy, CHI Center



Fourth annual Dining for Good



Field Team in action



CWS donation by JD Heiskell



Spirit World whiskey collaboration



Prepared meals, donated by HyVee



Panelists at 10th Anniversary Event



Food ambassador on a pickup



Presentation at Millwork Commons

# Nourishing Communities: 10 Years of Impact

**September 30, 2013**

With just one truck, we embarked on our mission, picking up food from 3 businesses and delivering it to 3 nonprofit partners.

**December 2014**

264,424 lbs of food were rescued in our first full year of operations.

**October 2015**

Presented the Feeding the 5000 event, making Omaha the 3rd U.S. city to host the global initiative.

**June 2015**

We added a second truck to our fleet.

**July 2016**

We celebrated reaching the milestone of rescuing 1 million pounds of food, nourishing communities in need.

**October 2016**

The Great Food Makeover - Turner Park transformed into "A No Food Waste Fest," celebrating and raising awareness about solutions to food waste.

**December 2017**

We achieved the impressive feat of rescuing 2 million pounds of food in our lifetime.

**October 2018**

As we celebrated half a decade of operations, the lifetime number of meals provided to community agencies totaled nearly 3 million.

**January 2018**

Responding to increasing demand, we added a third truck to our fleet.

**November 2020**

We expanded our fleet to five vehicles, including the addition of a refrigerated van.

**2020-2022**

In response to the pandemic, we distributed 41,400 Farmers to Families food boxes.

**November 2022**

We launched the Nourishing People, Nurturing the Planet campaign, addressing both hunger relief and environmental sustainability through food rescue efforts.

**September 2019**

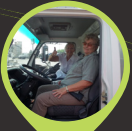
We hosted our inaugural Dining for Good at Dante, bringing the community together to support our mission.

**September 2023**

We commemorated our 10-year anniversary with a special film viewing and a panel discussion, drawing together and energizing our community.

**December 2023**

To date, a total of 8.3 million pounds of food, valued at over \$14 million, has been rescued.





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



# THANK YOU!

We appreciate all our food and financial donors, as well as our nonprofit partners and volunteers, who made Saving Grace's work possible in 2023! Visit our website to see our mission at work.



Look for our food donor emblem where you shop and eat!

## Get INVOLVED

Join us at our upcoming events!



**Riverfront Supper Club at Fig. Cafe**  
May 15, 2024

**Dining for Good at Dante**  
September 9, 2024

Check our website for upcoming volunteer opportunities, to sign up for our newsletter, and to link to our socials.