



# FOOD BANK OF IOWA

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

A FOOD BANK OF IOWA NEWSLETTER

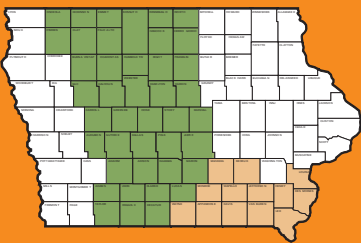
## Mission

*Alleviating hunger through food distribution, partnership and education.*

## Vision

*A hunger free Iowa.*

## Our service area



*The Food Bank of Iowa distributes to 390 partner agencies in 55 counties.*

## Our Volunteers

*The value of a volunteer hour in Iowa is \$20.93. Last year, volunteers provided the Food Bank of Iowa with \$83,720 worth of time.*

## Volunteering: Giving the Gift of Time

10,921,355 pounds of food. 390 partner agencies. 55 counties. 29,361 square miles. The Food Bank of Iowa has a lot of ground to cover in order to get food to people in need of assistance. The work of the Food Bank of Iowa simply could not be done without the support of thousands of volunteers. Volunteers for distribution and serving at the partner agencies, volunteers to assist with our programs, volunteers to deliver products and volunteers to sort and pack all of the food drive donations that come through the doors; giving us their **gift of time** is immeasurable.

One such longtime volunteer for the Food Bank of Iowa is Ron Eckoff. Originally from Michigan and a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, Dr. Ron Eckoff came to Iowa in 1965 with the United States Public Health Service. After a long and distinguished career as a medical professional and staff member at the United States and Iowa Departments of Public Health, Ron retired in 2002. Not one to wait for something to do, he set out to find volunteer opportunities to fill his days. One of the nutritionists from the Public Health Department introduced him to former Food Bank of Iowa executive director, Karen Ford, and in the summer of 2002, Ron began volunteering for the Food Bank of Iowa.

With his knowledge and experience with food banking, Ron could easily be mistaken for a long-time staff member. In fact, he has performed nearly every task in our warehouse that is typical of a staff member. From pulling partner agency orders to staging orders for pick-ups and deliveries to maintaining a clean and safe work environment, Ron has done everything short of driving the truck.

When asked why it is important to Ron that he volunteer for the Food Bank of Iowa, his answer is simple, "Because people are hungry!". Ron continues to enjoy his volunteer work with the Food Bank of Iowa in large part because of the feeling of accomplishment that comes with being able to see exactly what he has gotten done at the end of a shift, knowing that his work is helping to feed those in need.

Ron's volunteer work does not begin and end with the Food Bank of Iowa. We are proud to share his dedication with a number of other organizations, including: Dallas County Board of Health; State of Iowa Public Health advisory council; Sierra Club, Isle Royale, Polk County Conservation and Life



Ron Eckoff

*continued on page 4*

# Note From Our Director

*Dear Friends,*

Another fiscal year is in the books for the Food Bank of Iowa and we have been busy working to alleviate hunger throughout our service area. Not only did we spend a great deal of time working directly on the issue of hunger through increased food distribution and expanded program offerings, we participated in the Hunger in America 2014 study in order to learn more about the clients our partner agencies are serving as well as individuals who are participating in our programs.

In analyzing the data from Hunger in America 2014, we have found a wealth of information that better identifies and helps us to understand what hunger looks like. Of clients visiting our partner agencies and participating in our programs: 49% are children (0-17 years old) and seniors (age 60+); 29% of the seniors are caring for grandchildren. This percentage is significantly higher than the state average of 16%. When it comes to education and employment; 50% of clients have an education past high school and 60% work full time. Of those clients working full time, 20% work more than 40 hours per week.

Many clients are making trade-offs and difficult choices to make ends meet. When having to choose between food or paying for other expenses:

- 64% of clients have to choose between food and paying for medicine.
- 65% of clients have to choose between food and paying for utilities.
- 48% of clients have to choose between food and paying for housing.

The *Hunger in America 2014* study is conducted every four years and gleans information from our partner agencies in addition to clients. Information from partner agencies again shows the need:

- 54% of our partner agencies have seen an increase in the number of clients served.
- 93% of our partner agencies would see a significant effect if they no longer were able to access food from the Food Bank of Iowa.

Addressing the issue of hunger in our communities is a huge undertaking and one that we cannot do alone. Whether you have grown an extra row of produce in your home garden to donate or your company has donated much needed grocery products, participated in a food drive, volunteered your time with the Food Bank of Iowa or made a charitable financial contribution, you have made a significant difference for a neighbor experiencing hunger.

On behalf of the thousands of Iowans helped every year, I thank you and appreciate your commitment to helping us with our mission of alleviating hunger through food distribution, partnership and education.

Respectfully,

*Carey L. Miller*

Carey L. Miller  
Executive Director  
Food Bank of Iowa



# Year in Review



## FRESH PRODUCE

817,943 pounds distributed  
Includes potatoes, cabbage, carrots, squash, cucumbers, onions, melons, tomatoes, and more!



## BACKPACK

Over 4,000 low income children served per week at 119 sites in 23 counties. Total of 119,690 sacks of food distributed to children through the Backpack Program™.



## HUSH

165,000 pounds of ground venison was harvested and distributed.



## MOBILE PANTRIES

22 distributions  
113,447 pounds of food  
6,066 individuals.



## COUNTIES SERVED

42 counties served directly;  
13 through redistribution from Food Bank of Southern Iowa.



## DISTRIBUTION

10,921,355 pounds of donated grocery products and USDA foods was distributed.



## MILEAGE

40,265 total miles traveled to pick up, deliver and distribute food in our service area.



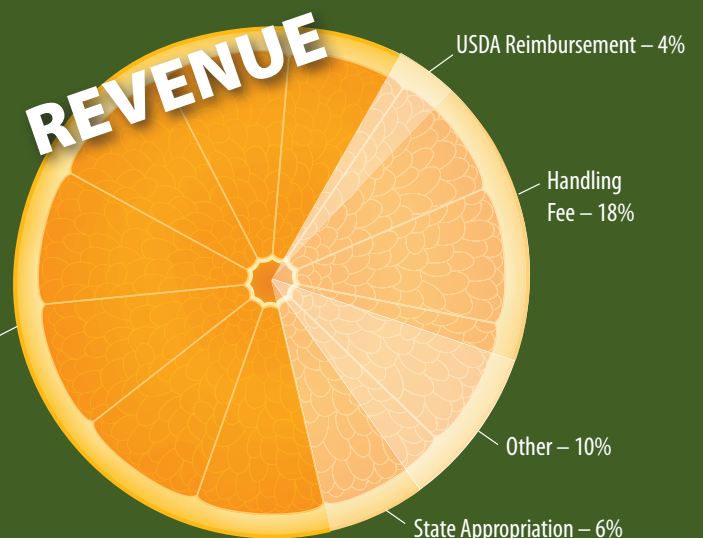
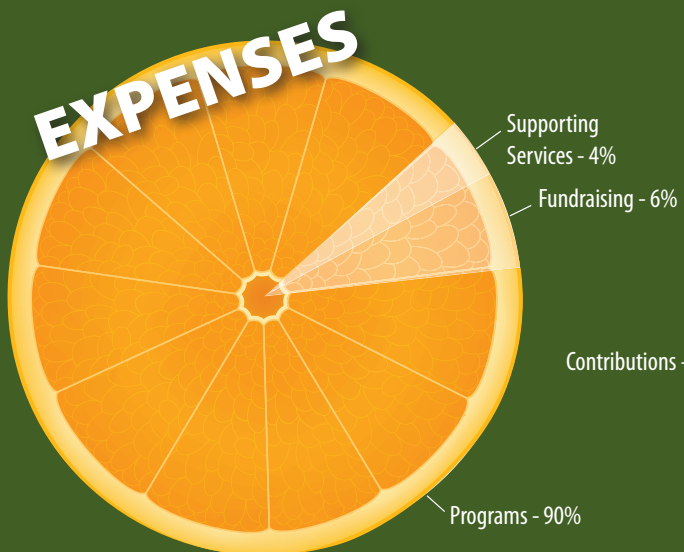
## VOLUNTEERS

Over 1,000 volunteers donated over 4,000 hours of their time.



## RETAIL PICK-UPS

2,112,001 pounds received.



# Volunteering

(continued from page 1)

Serve Blood Center, where Ron has just passed donating 52 gallons of blood. In October, Ron received a Public Health Heroes Award from the University of Iowa Collage of Public Health.

*"We all have the capacity to be a superhero. In order to become one, you just have to find your unique power or ability and exploit it for the greater good. The cape and mask are optional accessories, but a kind heart is essential." Robert Clancy*

Thank you Ron Eckoff and the thousands of superheroes we call **volunteers!**

# Holiday Gift Giving

With the gift giving season just around the corner, many people choose to make a contribution to the Food Bank of Iowa honoring someone special. A gift made to the Food Bank of Iowa in memory of a loved one, or as a tribute to a friend, is a lasting way to honor that person while helping to alleviate hunger.

When you make a memorial or honorary gift to the Food Bank of Iowa, we will send a special card acknowledging those you have named. The acknowledgment card will not include the amount of your gift.



**FOODBANK**

OF IOWA

2220 E. 17th Street,

Des Moines, IA 50316

Phone Number: 515-564-0330

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

A member of

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Iowa Department of Public Health

**Tricia Sedivec**  
Nationwide

**Honorarium Members**

**L. Rex Burns** – 1919-2001

**Simon Casady** – 1915-2006

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Great American  
**MILK DRIVE**

- Milk is one of the most requested staples in food banks, but is rarely donated.
- Families served through food banks receive 1 gallon per person, on average, each year.
- Through April 1, 2015 you can help to fill the gap by making a donation at [www.milklife.com/give](http://www.milklife.com/give)

## STAFF

**Carey Miller**, Executive Director  
**Sarah Bonefas**, Development Manager  
**Nathan Crozier**, Food Sourcing Specialist  
**Tyler Dillon**, AmeriCorps VISTA  
**Dave Dunagan**, Warehouse Manager  
**Tony Ford**, Warehouseman/Driver  
**Jessica Ireland**, Volunteer and Food Drive Coordinator  
**Bruce Jones**, Warehouseman  
**Carlos Medina**, Warehouseman/Driver  
**Trish O'Brien Edwards**, Program Coordinator  
**Kate Pauly**, Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
**Patti Phipps**, Business Manager  
**Alexis Prigge**, Agency Relations Coordinator  
**Jeremy Reha**, Warehouseman/Driver  
**Barney Russell**, Warehouseman  
**Laura Sheriff**, Administrative Assistant  
**Matt Unger**, Program Manager  
**Christina Zink**, Communications Manager

Find us on



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

2014-15 BOARD