



SLO
FOOD BANK



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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Chief Operating Officer

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LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

It is with immense gratitude that I share with you the SLO Food Bank's Annual Report for the 2023-24 fiscal year, highlighting our response to the overwhelming need in our community.

This past year, the SLO Food Bank and our Hunger Relief Network significantly scaled up our food procurement and distribution efforts to meet the soaring community need resulting from skyrocketing inflation and the end of pandemic benefits. Together, we served an average of **39,000 INDIVIDUALS EACH MONTH**, a **16% INCREASE** from the previous year.

While the data and information is organized into colors and charts, the need is anything but neat and organized.

Each neighbor served represents someone that doesn't have the resources to fund life's most basic need — food. They might experience physical discomfort from hunger or anxiety about how they will sustain themselves. They may feel embarrassment or shame.

They might experience confusion as they attempt to navigate government programs. And, if that wasn't enough, it's very likely that food is just one of many components in their life that are underfunded (housing, health care, etc.).

The human reality of these statistics is difficult to think about, but it makes your support and the impact it has at the SLO Food Bank all the more profound.

As you read about the incredible work we accomplished together this past year, please remember that **YOU** make it all possible. Thank you for believing in the right to food for all, and for taking action to make that belief a reality.

LET'S CONTINUE TO FEED SLO COUNTY. TOGETHER.

With gratitude,

Ryan Caldwell
2023-24 Board Chair



Sourcing Sustenance

The SLO Food Bank leverages bulk purchasing, food rescue programs, government programs, and the generosity of our community to effectively secure nutritious foods for our community.

We received and distributed **4,679,500 POUNDS OF FOOD**, nearly **ONE MILLION POUNDS MORE** than the year prior.

Thanks to your incredible support, we can efficiently purchase food that best meets the nutritional and cultural needs of our community.

Using the SLO Food Bank's purchasing power, we can buy significantly more compared to a standard grocery store.

WE CAN BUY...

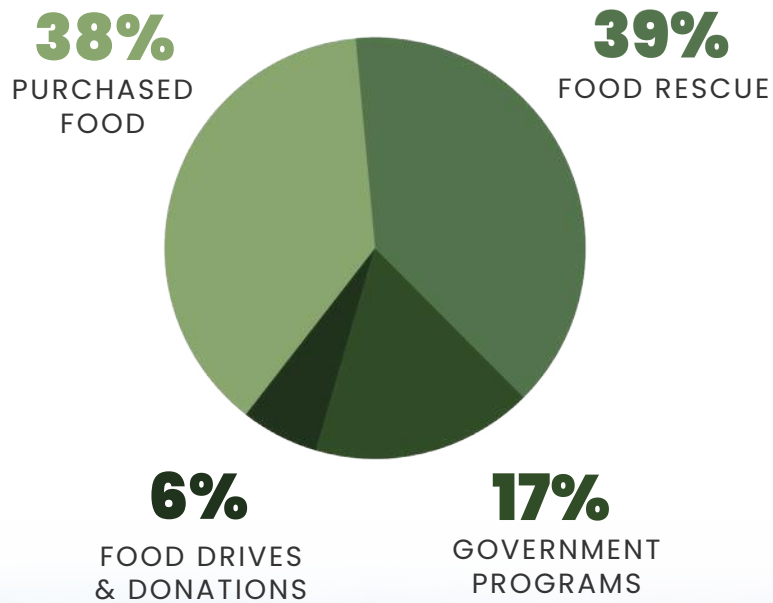
1,947% MORE PRODUCE

258% MORE PEANUT BUTTER

106% MORE DRIED BEANS

68% MORE RICE

WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM



Grocery Rescue, School Rescue, and GleanSLO work in tandem to redirect more than **1.8 MILLION POUNDS** of food that would otherwise go to waste to our neighbors.



Packing Hope

Our top priority is distributing food that is safe and nutritious. To make this happen, our team meticulously tracks all food that enters and leaves our warehouse. In between, volunteers and staff assemble orders for partners, produce bags for distributions, No-Cook Bags for people experiencing homelessness and the agencies that serve them, and Summer Breakfast Bags for children and families during the school break.

We packed and distributed close to **6,600** Summer Breakfast Bags and more than **30,400** No-Cook Bags.

“WITHOUT THIS FOOD, WE WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT FOR THE WEEK.”

- Marcella, Neighborhood Food Distribution Participant



Championing Change

We drive meaningful change through nutrition education, empowering eligible neighbors to access vital benefits through CalFresh outreach, and advocating for public policies that work towards alleviating food insecurity and malnutrition.

CALFRESH OUTREACH

CalFresh is one of the most effective tools we have for alleviating hunger in SLO County because it provides money for people to buy groceries at local stores and farmers' markets. Our CalFresh Outreach program aims to increase use of this critical benefit through targeted education, marketing, and outreach events.

We helped nearly **250** households sign up for CalFresh.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

The Nutrition Education program improves the wellness of our community through education programs for children and seniors, like our Children's and Seniors' Farmers' Markets, and by sharing informative materials and healthy recipes.

We served over **1,700** children and **700** seniors through Farmers' Market programs.



Distributing Nourishment

The SLO Food Bank provides food to people across the county through our distribution programs and Hunger Relief Network, which consists of agency and community partners working directly with neighbors in need.

Together, we distributed food to an average of **39,000** people each month.

MEALS SERVED BY PROGRAM

AGENCY PARTNERS	2,715,838
NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS	848,451
SENIOR HOME DELIVERY	98,510
ON-SITE FOOD DISTRIBUTION	83,824
SENIORS' & CHILDREN'S FARMERS' MARKETS	65,293



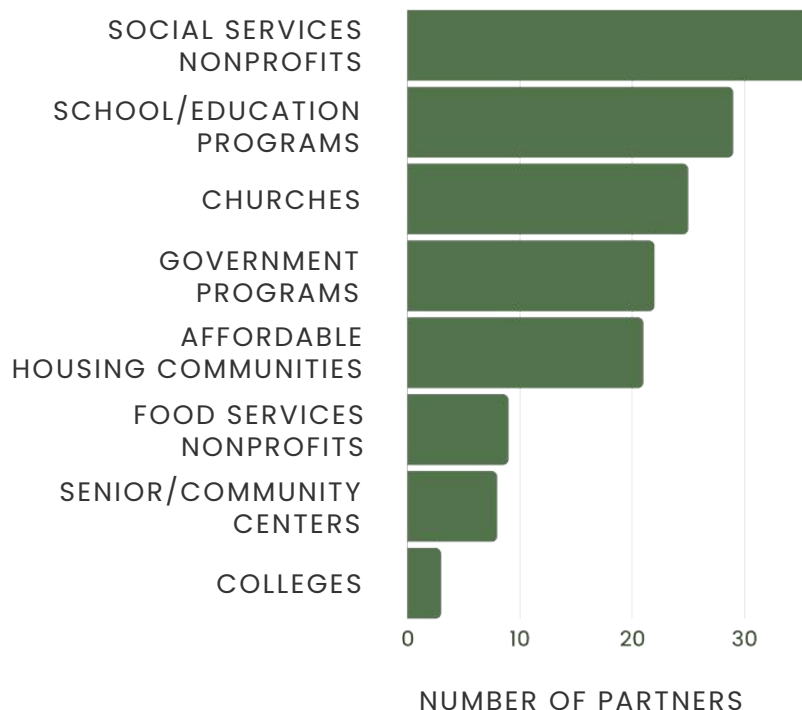
OUR HUNGER RELIEF NETWORK

We are proud that the SLO Food Bank serves as the primary source of food for local nonprofits and organizations working to alleviate hunger in neighborhoods throughout SLO County.

These partners allow us to extend our reach across our beautiful community, from San Miguel to Nipomo and from Cambria to Shandon.

Our Hunger Relief Network consists of over **150** organizations.

TYPES OF PARTNERS IN OUR HUNGER RELIEF NETWORK



“[THE SLO FOOD BANK] HELPS FILL IN THE GAPS THAT WE’RE MISSING AT HOME. IT EASES THE CHALLENGE OF TRYING TO GET DINNER GOING FOR US BECAUSE THERE’S SIX OF US IN OUR FAMILY. ”

- Jesse, Neighborhood Food Distribution Participant

Thank You Volunteers

Every single meal we provide is touched by the hard work and caring hands of a volunteer in the journey to those who need it. Volunteers glean fresh produce from local farms and backyards, sort and pack food for our hunger relief network, hand out nutritious food at Neighborhood Food Distributions, and so much more.

1,900 volunteers
provided close to
15,300 cumulative
hours, or the equivalent
of **7** full-time staff.

Our Amazing Community Partners



*Richard Lasiewski,
D.O. and
Kersti Lasiewski*



1st Capital Bank

Albertson's Foundation

American Riviera Bank

Balay Ko Foundation

California Coastal Real Estate

Central Coast Funds For
Children

Certified Auto Repair

Christopher and Sharon
Connors Charitable Fund

City of San Luis Obispo

Coastal Pediatric Dentistry

Community Foundation San
Luis Obispo County

County of San Luis Obispo

Cuesta College

Dignity Health French Hospital

Dimes Media

Glenn Burdette

Morris & Garritano Insurance

PG&E Corporate Foundation

RRM Design Group

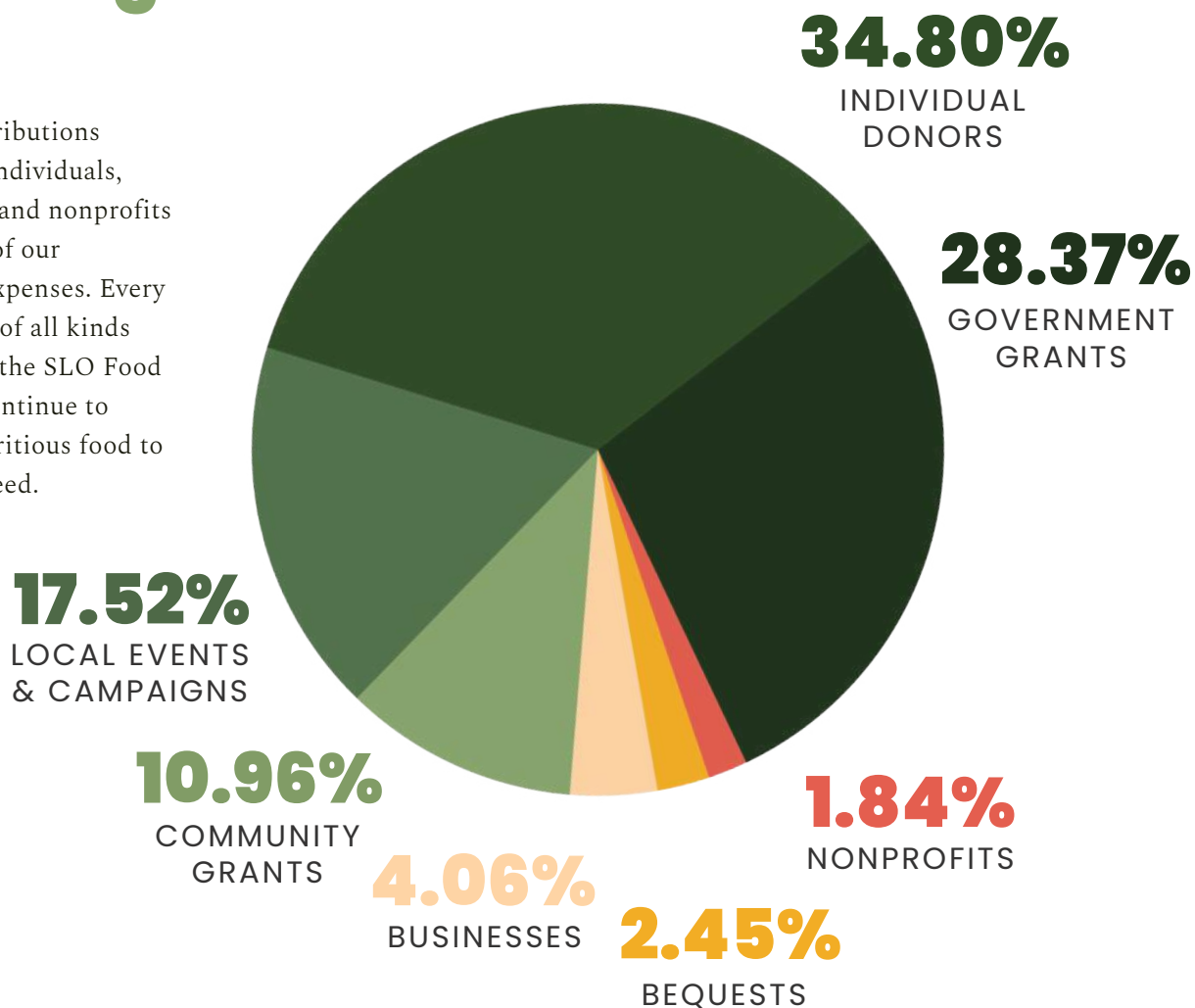
SoCalGas

Wells Fargo Foundation

Wood-Claeysens Foundation

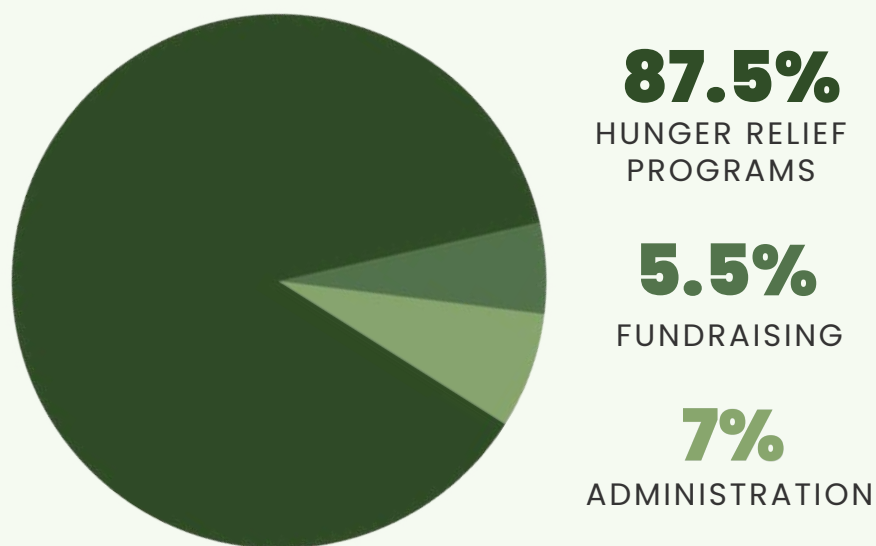
Funding

Direct contributions from local individuals, businesses, and nonprofits fund **72%** of our operating expenses. Every day, donors of all kinds ensure that the SLO Food Bank can continue to provide nutritious food to people in need.



Expenses

With over **87 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR** going straight to hunger relief programs, our donors can take pride in knowing that their generous contributions are nourishing their neighbors experiencing hunger.





**SLO
FOOD BANK**

County Partnership for Hunger Relief

805-238-4664
SLOFOODBANK.ORG

