

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024



foodrecoverynetwork.org



@foodrecovery

We've
doubled
our
movement!



Food Recovery Network (FRN) now mobilizes 8,000+ college students and food system partners in fighting hunger and building a more sustainable and equitable food system, while creating the necessary changes to protecting our planet in the process. That means we've doubled the movement since implementing our strategic framework FRN10X in 2020 (4,000→8,000 people).

Together, we have united college student-led chapters, food businesses, and community partners across the U.S. in the fight against hunger and climate change. We are now preventing more CO2 emissions through food waste reduction and serving more communities experiencing hunger than ever before.

For 13 years, FRN has been harnessing community power to reduce food waste through our network of nearly 200 college and university student-led chapters, along with business and community partnerships. In total we've recovered 18.3 million pounds of delicious food, donated 15.2 million meals and prevented 9,800 metric tons of additional CO2 emissions from unnecessarily entering our planet's atmosphere.

In the past year alone, our volunteers contributed nearly 28,000 volunteer hours to recover more than 3.6 million pounds of food, helping to serve 330 local hunger-fighting partner agencies on the frontlines in communities across the U.S. Through our student chapters, elementary school produce distributions, community fridges, and large-scale event recoveries, we have put \$931,562 back into local communities, in human and financial resources, where it is needed most.

In the following pages, we'll show how each of those volunteer hours has made an impact for local communities and how those hours of service contribute to building a better future for our planet and for all of us.

You'll hear directly from some of our student leaders on how their impact is felt at their college campus communities. We will highlight our successful new annual partnership with Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, which resulted in the recovery of 50,000 pounds of food supporting 8 hunger-fighting agencies in the DC area; a pilot that has led to expanding partnerships in additional metropolitan areas. Additionally, we'll showcase our ongoing work with elementary schools in the Atlanta, Georgia area, resulting in an additional 35,022 pounds of healthy produce made available to the community, a program that has now been launched in 2 additional target communities. Lastly, we will emphasize the importance of large-scale events such as the Las Vegas Players Tailgate recovery, helping to normalize food recovery and expand consumer awareness of our mission.

Our work is far from over. 47 million people in the U.S. are hungry right now. The large-scale nature of our current climate crisis can seem insurmountable and immeasurable. With your support - through powerful partnerships - and our collective action we can achieve our vision of recovering surplus food to feed everyone who is hungry in the U.S. We are strengthened by the growing momentum behind the food justice and climate action movement. You are part of that movement, and we can't stop now.

Together, we are creating a future where our planet is cared for, every person has access to delicious food, and our food systems are sustainable, equitable, and just.

Gratefully,

Regina Harmon
FRN Executive Director



Tina Gooch,
FRN Board President



Regina Harmon

Tina Gooch

FIGHT FOOD WASTE FEED PEOPLE

Board of Directors

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Charles John
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Christian Stanley
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Regina Harmon, Executive Director

Mission

Food Recovery Network (FRN) unites 8,000+ college students, food suppliers, farmers, and local businesses across the U.S. in the fight against climate change and hunger by recovering surplus food from across the supply chain and donating it to local nonprofit organizations that feed people experiencing hunger.

Acknowledgement

Food Recovery Network recognizes that food security, economic security, and climate justice are inextricably tied to racial equity, and achieving ground across any of these areas is dependent on addressing the root causes of these inequities. FRN is committed to racial equity and inclusion through all aspects of our organizational development and programming.

We would like to acknowledge the land our headquarters office resides is land inhabited by the Kinwaw Paskestikweya Clan; English translation is the Piscataway Conoy Clan. Please join FRN in acknowledging the Kinwaw Paskestikweya Clan who were the traditional inhabitants of these lands and water well before we were here and continue to live here. To learn more about the tribal lands on which our chapters reside, please see <https://native-land.ca>.

Food Recovery Network believes Black lives matter, and we are devastated at the continued loss of Black lives.

FRN stands with our Asian Community to collectively stop Asian hate.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI BOARD

FRN's Student and Alumni Advisory Board's experience and commitment have contributed to our exponential impact. As they continue to help mentor our next generation of changemakers, we are confident in our collective ability to make a substantial impact in the fight against food waste and hunger.

Dheeraj Bandaru, Executive Chair — Georgia Tech, University of Chicago
Gal Yovel, Executive Vice Chair — University of Pittsburgh

Charlotte Cai — Mount Holyoke College
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Lydia Vulich — University of Illinois Chicago

I am passionate about food insecurity and FRN has offered me so many opportunities to work on the issue and connect with others also working in the space. I am excited for the future of FRN and am glad to be a part of it!

—**Dheeraj Bandaru**, Executive Chair



My first recovery experience profoundly shifted my perspective on food and waste management. I'm impressed by the significant impact college students nationwide have made in addressing food waste. The unity and leadership demonstrated by students are truly inspiring.

—**Gal Yovel**, Executive Vice Chair

FY24 IMPACT

July 2023 - June 2024

Since we implemented our strategic framework, FRN10X, in 2020, we've doubled the movement. FRN now mobilizes

8,000 


student leaders & food system partners across the U.S.



200
student chapters

3,063,823

MEALS
donated to feed people

1,785 
METRIC TONS
of CO2 emissions
prevented


25 new student
chapters


100 food
business
partners

688,847
LBS recovered by
student chapters

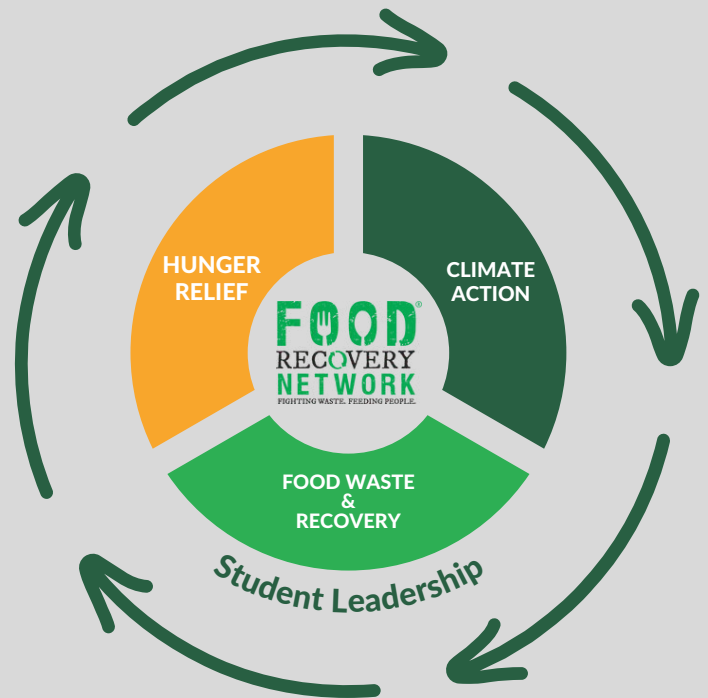
In the past year, FRN redirected
3,676,588
pounds of surplus food to local nonprofits that
feed community members experiencing hunger.



WE BELIEVE NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY

FRN has given students opportunities to volunteer in a meaningful way that helps our community and Earth, and I think people are really touched by the difference they make. I have heard many times, "I want to come back" and "I want to do more work like this." FRN has motivated student's current and future desire to serve.

—**Melanie Young,**
Towson University



Food Waste and Recovery

We unite 200 college student-led chapters and 100 food business partners to recover surplus food that would otherwise go to waste across the supply chain.

Hunger Relief

We increase access to nutritious foods to communities experiencing hunger through partnership with 330 local hunger fighting partners.

Climate Action

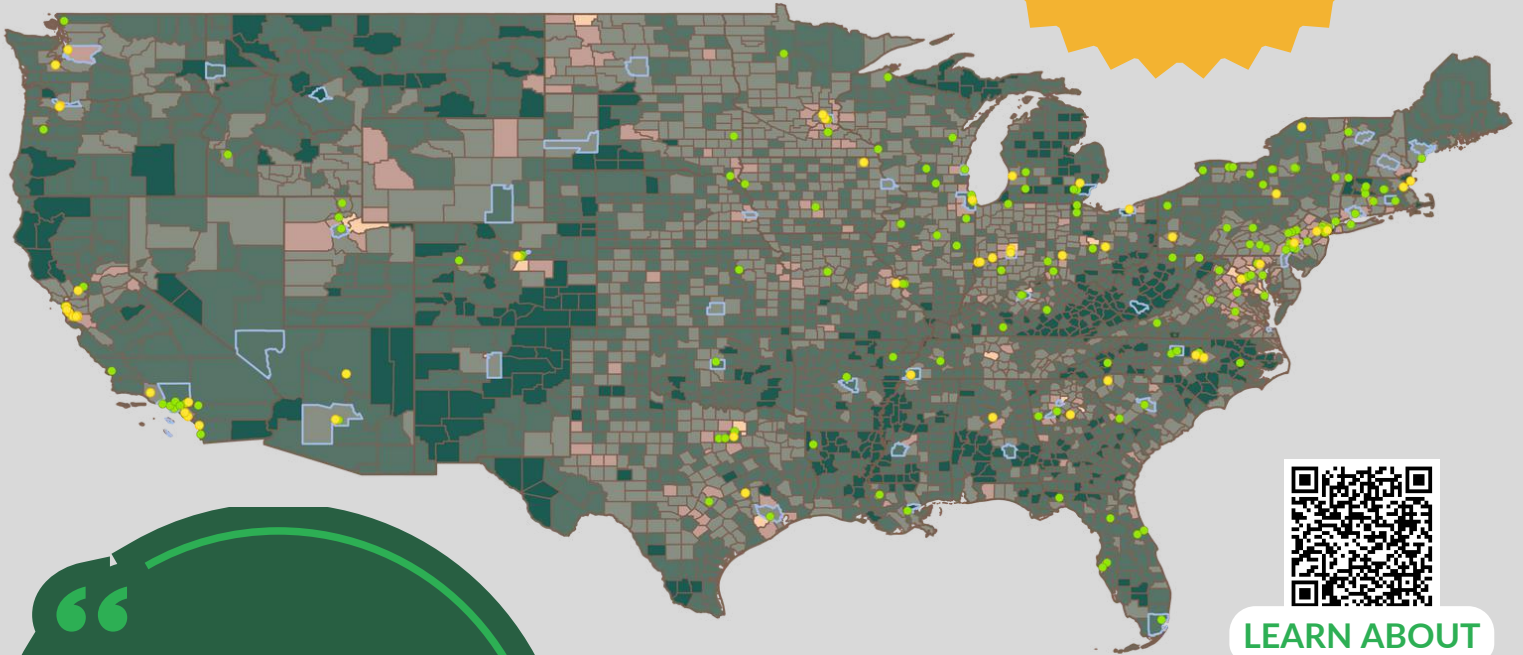
We combat climate change and promote climate action by preventing food from going to waste in a landfill and emitting greenhouse gas emissions.

WHERE WE ARE

In 2020, FRN adopted a data-driven strategic framework called FRN10X, which set in motion our vision to grow our network from 4,000 to 40,000 people by 2030. In the short four years since we implemented this strategic framework, we have grown to a nationwide network of 8,000 people, doubling our network. We recovered more food in 1 year than the entire 10 years prior and distributed 329% more meals than we did in 2019.

FRN geographically targets our work in areas of heightened need for food access and greater opportunity for our food recovery programs - leading to exponentially effective programming.

We've doubled our movement!



LEARN ABOUT OUR MAPS

“
We were able to build connections with more community organizations that will hopefully allow us to grow in the future.
—**Jenna Schaefer**,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
”



- FRN student-led chapter
 - FRN food business partner
 - Priority county with the greatest opportunity and need for food recovery
- Gap Between Median Income and MIT Living Wage
- Shading represents the cap between median household income and MIT's living wage.
 - Darker shading represents a larger gap between median income and living wage.

STUDENT CHAPTERS

Students In Action



1

Student leaders safely recover surplus food from their campuses and communities.

Drake University



Loyola University Chicago

2

Students transport recovered surplus food to their hunger-fighting nonprofit partner.

3

The nonprofit partner repurposes FRN's food donations to feed their community.



University of Pittsburgh

New Chapters

Arkansas State University
Beloit College
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Cabrini University
Colorado Christian University
East Carolina University
Edward Waters University
Elizabethtown College
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Florida International University
Frostburg State University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Harvey Mudd College
Indiana University, Bloomington
Johnson and Wales University
Kalamazoo College
Lafayette College
Louisiana State University
Mount Holyoke College
New York University
Pomona College
Rice University
Roberts Wesleyan University
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Texas A&M University at Galveston
University of California, Riverside
Union University
University of Denver
Worcester State University

“The connective thread through our actions was our commitment to campus stakeholders—students, dining staff, academics, and groundskeeping alike. Since the physical act of food recovery was not feasible at our school, we found alternate ways to contribute to our community's food experience.

—**Charlotte Cai,**
Mount Holyoke College

START A CHAPTER



LEADING THE FUTURE



Arizona State University



Centre College



University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



The Pennsylvania State University



Georgetown University

“

The food recoveries have helped to support students facing food insecurity as well as community members in the greater Springfield area via our partnership with Rachel's Table.

—**Rianna Böttger**,
Springfield College

”

“

Brought our entire community together!

—**Murphy Boksanski**
University of San Francisco

”



Northern Arizona University



Morningside University

“

We hosted an event educating about food waste and ways to help reduce local food insecurity and other United Nations sustainable development goals with over 100 students attending. We also won 2 honorable mention awards that allowed us to donate to our partner agency.

—**Hannah Harris**,
Morningside University

”

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Super Bowl Players Tailgate 2024 sponsored by Hellmann's Mayonnaise

We mobilize our college student and alumni leaders to recover surplus food at a variety of large-scale events to increase awareness of food recovery as a sustainable business practice, while feeding local communities with high-quality, nutritious food. Our annual Super Bowl Players Tailgate, and our partners who support us, are effective at fulfilling this part of our mission.



3,994
pounds recovered

3,328
meals served

4.68
metric tons of CO2 prevented

About the same size
as a white rhino.



Enough to feed a
family of 3 for a year.



The equivalent of 1
passenger vehicle driven for
one year.

*ReFED Calculator



FIND OUT ABOUT FRV

Las Vegas Players Tailgate

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Food Recovery Verified (FRV) & Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center



Powerful partnerships are one of FRN's key strategies for achieving our vision of recovering enough food to feed everyone who is hungry in the U.S. Our powerful partnership with Gaylord National demonstrates the strategy works! Thanks to Executive Chef Jakob Esko for his leadership in helping make our partnership official and special thanks to Brian Coffman, Sous Chef, and the entire Gaylord National team for valuing the potential scale and significance a consistent food recovery program would have for the greater D.C. community.

BIG IMPACT



“Anyone can make a difference, one small action at a time. We just have to say yes. We just have to begin.”
—**Regina Harmon**, FRN Executive Director

50,000 pounds

Enough food to fill a 40ft cargo trailer



8 hunger fighting partners

Gaylord National was able to support 8 hunger fighting partners across Maryland, Virginia, & D.C.



42,000 meals

Enough meals to feed a family of three for 12 years

60.88 metric tons of CO₂eq

The equivalent of 13 passenger vehicles driven for one year



*ReFED Calculator

Impact of recovered food from Gaylord National between June 2023 and June 2024..



“Our group customers frequently inquire about ways to donate their food to those in need, and this collaboration has provided an easy and effective solution. It not only helps combat hunger but also aligns seamlessly with our resort's sustainability initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to both our community and the environment.”
—**Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Annual Survey June 2024**

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR GAYLORD NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP](#)

FRV is committed to helping food businesses passionate about donating surplus food. We offer a variety of partnership options designed to provide the right level of support for any business.



PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION



All surplus produce is purchased from farmers, growers, and distributors in the area to allow them to sell produce that would have otherwise gone to waste. This produce is then distributed free of charge to elementary school students and their families through after-school pop-up produce markets where children and families can “shop” for free produce, to-go bags filled with produce that get distributed in the after school pick-up line, and a community refrigerator stocked with fresh produce and meals that the school community can access.

Atlanta, Georgia

35,000+ pounds of produce

5 community partners

24 produce markets

2,400 elementary school families served



Impact of produce distribution pop-ups in Atlanta Georgia between October 2023 and May 2024. Numbers represent approximation of pounds and people.

2 new communities in FY25

The success in Atlanta has led to two new pilot distribution programs in communities identified by our data-driven maps for our FY25 year.

800 families served

4 weeks during July 2024

Baltimore, Maryland



160 families served

2 weeks during July and August 2024

Twin Cities, Minnesota



FIND OUT ABOUT PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION



ADVOCACY

Food Date Labeling Act

On the heels of success of the 2023 passage of the Food Donation Improvement Act, in FY24 we focused our advocacy efforts on the Food Date Labeling Act (FDLA), a bipartisan, bicameral bill designed to end consumer confusion around food date labeling and ensure people in the United States do not throw out perfectly good, usable food.

Potential Benefits

- \$2.41 billion in net financial benefit to consumers
- 582,000 tons of good food diverted
- 2.73 million metric tons in reduced CO2 emissions
- 162 billion gallons of water saved

(To put this into perspective, 1 billion gallons is the same as 1,534 Olympic swimming pools.)

A year of advocacy—event highlights

Regina Harmon, Executive Director, has been instrumental in leading advocacy efforts aimed at bringing about sustainable and equitable changes to our food system. Her voice is driving meaningful progress and inspiring others to join the cause for a better future. To increase political will, she is actively involved in educational opportunities and direct outreach to legislators. Check out the highlights for FY24.



Food Tank Panel on the Hill



INCREASE YOUR ADVOCACY



First Quarter (July-September)

- Zero Food Waste Coalition - FDLA Panel
- Congressional Hunger Center - Gen Z Day on the Hill
- Food Tank - White House Empowering Eaters Food Access and Affordability

Second Quarter (October-December)

- Food Rescue Conference
- Annual Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference
- Climate Action Now - Climate Party Panel

Third Quarter (January-March)

- Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), Webinar
- Racism in the Food System Convening - Chicago

Fourth Quarter (April-June)

- Food Forum - NYC
- Climate Action Now — Reducing Food Waste in a Warming World



George Washington University

Thank you to our Advocacy Partners for helping build political will to end food waste.

Food Systems
Collaborative



CLIMATE
ACTION NOW



WHITE HOUSE CHALLENGE
TO END HUNGER & BUILD
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

foodtank
THE THINK TANK FOR FOOD



ZERO
FOOD
WASTE
COALITION

FLPC
FOOD LAW
and POLICY CLINIC
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

PROGRAMS

Through our various programmatic interventions, FRN currently recovers surplus food in 60% of our target counties as identified by our data-driven mapping work. By the end of this fiscal year, we seek to grow our programming to 80% of our target counties through the expansion of our programs and increased education and advocacy efforts.

College Chapters

FRN mobilizes college students to recover and donate surplus food from their campuses, reduce CO2 emissions, and advocate for a more equitable food system.

Community Fridges

FRN installs and stocks community refrigerators so people experiencing hunger can access surplus food donations in a way most convenient to them.



Food Recovery Verified

FRN partners with businesses to implement food recovery programs for their events and daily operations to increase sustainability and community support.

Produce Distribution

FRN distributes fresh surplus produce at Title 1 elementary schools to feed young children and families experiencing hunger, while supporting the farming community.



Elizabethtown College

“ I believe FRN has helped me greatly as a leader, learning how to lead a restarting organization and coordinate team planning, event logistics, and donor/recipient partnership. We are starting to see now in this past year more people hear about us by word of mouth and contact us about dropping of food, so we believe we truly are helping to make people more conscious about food waste and where their food goes.

—Arjun Nair
Washington University



George Mason University



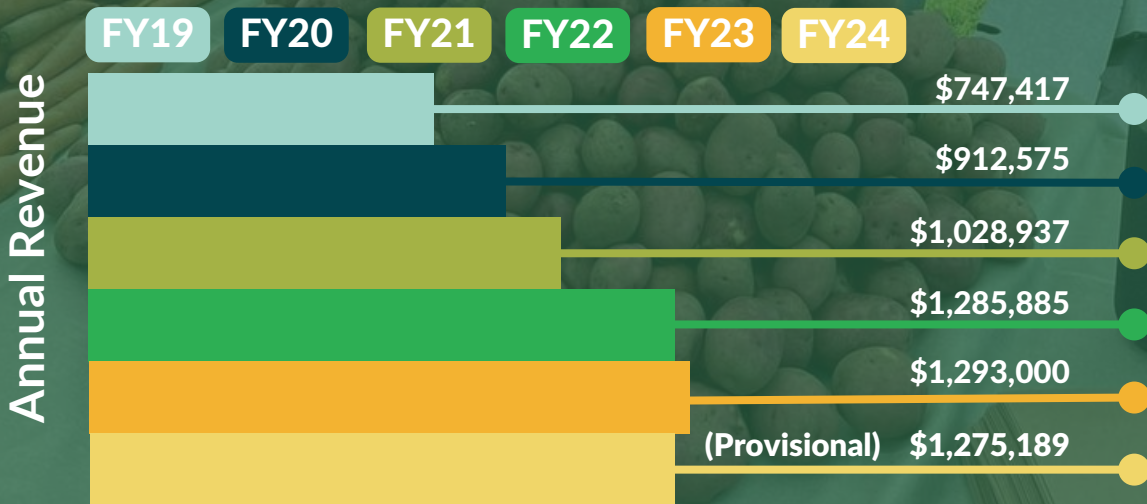
Northeastern University

University of California, Irvine

FINANCIALS

Our work is possible because of our generous funders who believe no one should be hungry. Thank you for your financial support.

- Andrew Family Foundation
- Annenberg Foundation
- Aramark
- Clif Family Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Crawford Heritage Community Foundation
- Dr. Scholl Foundation
- EDL Northwest
- fairlife
- From Now On Fund
- Gerald L. Lennard Foundation
- Harbourton Foundation
- Hellmann's Mayonnaise
- Homestead Foundation
- Ida & Robert Gordon Family Foundation
- James C. & Norma I. Smith Foundation
- Kenneth Goldman Donor Fund
- The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation
- Leo & Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
- Lineage Foundation for Good
- Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund
- National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)
- Olo for Good
- OXO
- Papa Johns Foundation
- Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy
- Shipt
- Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation
- The Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation
- Toast.org
- Walmart
- Wawa Foundation
- Western Digital
- Whole Foods Market



[VIEW FULL FINANCIAL REPORTS AND PAST ANNUAL REPORTS](#)



Twin Cities Elementary School Community Produce Distribution



“ I see FRN as a 3-way win for donating. They are: addressing hunger, reducing food waste and landfill, achieving both in their partnerships with events, communities and students.

Added to that is our confidence that their leadership can grow the model and it's a great fit for our giving.

— Susan E., Donor ”

GET INVOLVED

Join us—take action in the fight against climate change and hunger by supporting our efforts to recover good, surplus food from across the supply chain.



Help us expand our movement nationwide so we can fight hunger and food waste in every part of America. Your support helps us to reach more people experiencing hunger while combating food waste and fighting climate change across the U.S.

SCAN TO DONATE



Address the root causes of food waste and fight enduring food insecurity in the United States through policy to create systemic, positive change.

SCAN TO ADVOCATE



Find a variety of information, toolkits, and guides to help explain and encourage food rescue, recovery, and donation across the United States.

SCAN TO LEARN



For more information about Food Recovery Network, email info@foodrecoverynetwork.org. or visit www.foodrecoverynetwork.org.

