

# food for thought

News from Dare to Care Food Bank



Dare  
to Care  
Food Bank

January 2023



"I'm not afraid to go stand in the line. I know I'm going to eat."  
— Patricia

## Seniors like Patricia receive the food they need because of you!

When Patricia's husband passed away at a young age, she realized she would face her senior years alone, without a loving companion by her side. It broke her heart. In the years since, the financial strain has been equally heartbreaking. "I've been fending for myself," she says. "I get food stamps. I get \$20 a month. That's nothing for me to live on."

Earlier this year, Patricia lost her home because of rent hikes she couldn't afford. Now, she stays at a local senior center, but the living conditions are poor. She's hoping to get into better housing soon and that means making her small income stretch to pay a big rent deposit.

**Food from Dare to Care Food Bank is a lifeline for seniors like Patricia because it helps fill the gap when money is tight.** Patricia receives a small widow's pension but it's not enough. Sometimes there is simply more *month* than money.

### Your loyal support puts food in the arms of seniors—thank you!

Standing in a long food line may not be how a 68-year-old woman wants to spend her day, but Patricia says, "Getting in this line is how I survive. If I get some bread, some jelly, or some butter and cheese, I'm good. I'm going to eat good."

An alarming number of our senior citizens are living with the day-to-day burden of food insecurity. Fortunately, we distribute to 300 partners—like Sister Visitor's Pantry where Patricia receives assistance—who help us turn your donation dollars into nourishing food.

Patricia is so thankful and she has this message: "Please don't let us be hungry. There are people out here in worse shape than me that really need the pantry so they can eat."

**Help more seniors like Patricia in 2023! Send your gift with the enclosed donation form or give online at [donate.daretocare.org](https://donate.daretocare.org)**

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MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

## From Vincent's desk

Dear Friend,

Let me just begin by expressing how much your support of Dare to Care Food Bank means to me. I began serving as a local pastor 25 years ago, and I can still remember the day I met a little girl at Vacation Bible School who was hiding leftovers in a tree so that she could take them home to feed her family. That child stays etched in my mind and my heart to this day. Her story is a big part of why I am so proud to be a part of Dare to Care Food Bank. And it's why loyal friends like you mean the world to me.

People are often surprised when I tell them that the number of people experiencing hunger is even greater than in the worst days of the pandemic. That's due in part to rising inflation, grocery, housing, and gas prices. It's also due to a lack of assistance and awareness among the general public. While hunger took center stage in the darkest days of COVID, in its aftermath, there's less conversation about it. But it's still here—hiding in plain sight.

My hope is that we continue to meet the challenges of food insecurity in 2023, addressing issues of disparity and meeting the growing needs of our community.

My greatest ambition is to put myself out of a job. And I hope you will join me in 2023, as we continue our efforts to end hunger for every man, woman, and child in our community. I promise that every action you take to make this world a better place matters... especially when it's done in the service of someone who can never repay you.

With gratitude,



Vincent James  
President and CEO



# Neighborhood House: Facing a food crisis

**“We’ve never seen anything like this. We’ve never seen our numbers grow month over month like this.”**

Neighborhood House Pantry Director Jennie Jean Davidson never thought her pantry shelves would be almost bare, or that she might have to turn people away. But she describes the need she saw in 2022 as “unprecedented.” She recalls, “In the worst days of the pandemic, it wasn't this bad.”

Luckily, Dare to Care Food Bank was able to step in with more food, thanks to an emergency food purchase last year. “We distribute a healthy mix of canned goods, dried goods, and some frozen meat and fresh dairy products,” Jennie told us. This food is vital to the people in the surrounding community. Sometimes, it's the only food they have to live on.

**You help keep pantry shelves stocked so no one goes home hungry!**

One of the staff told us, “Dare to Care has done an incredible job of feeding this community. And I have a lot of faith in their ability to continue.”

All of this is made possible by supporters like you. You empower us to be the boots on the ground, ensuring food reaches pantries like the Neighborhood House, especially when they face overwhelming hunger in their communities.

**Want to help keep pantry shelves stocked in 2023? Send your gift with the enclosed donation form or give online at [donate.daretocare.org](https://donate.daretocare.org)**



**“We ran out of food in 10 days.”**  
— Jennie Jean

## Program Spotlight

## Kids Cafe Connects Kids With Nourishing Food

What you'll find inside the doors of the Southwick Kids Community Center are happy kids, enjoying meals, laughing, and playing games. This community hub is a partner site for Dare to Care Food Bank's Kids Cafe program and offers local kids a place to go after school where they can also enjoy a nutritious meal and snacks.

LaRhonda, an employee at the center, says, **“It's a safe place. We don't know what goes on outside of the**



**“I love what Dare to Care does for the kids.”** — LaRhonda

## Moms like Amber struggle to put food on the table

When we asked Amber, a mom of two girls, what she'd say to our supporters, she told us, “I would tell them their help is very much appreciated and that some people wouldn't survive without this food.”

Parents like Amber struggle with food insecurity daily. But thanks to our partners like the Neighborhood House Pantry, they can get food and meals that help keep their families healthy.

In the past, Amber had a really difficult time providing for her family. She would skip meals so her daughters would have enough to eat and often faced the choice of paying bills or buying groceries.

**You provide food that nourishes families.**

At the pantry, Amber and her daughters receive nourishing food. “The juice is amazing. We always get cereal and milk,” she says. Her daughters love the food, too. “They get afterschool snacks. Raisins and stuff like that.”

Since the pandemic, Amber relies on the pantry to survive. She came to the pantry because her freezer was empty, and she told us the food she received would be her dinner for the evening.

Thanks to your generosity, we hope to help more families in the coming year. Amber's message to you today is, “Keep saving lives. Keep helping. We appreciate it.”



**“I've got high hopes for my girls. I don't want them to struggle. I want them to see that there's positive and better things out there.”**  
— Amber

**Scan to learn how you can fill plates for moms like Amber:**



## A legacy to help end hunger

### THE LOUISVILLE TIMES

VOL. CLXXIII—No. 22 \*\*\*\*\* LOUISVILLE, FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1969. 62 PAGES TEN CENTS

#### How Could A Child Die Of Hunger Here?

In 1969, a 9-year-old boy in Louisville named Bobby Ellis tragically died of malnutrition. As part of the response to that tragic loss, Dare to Care was created, with the mission of feeding people in our community and preventing anything like that from happening again.

Our ongoing mission is to meet the challenges of food insecurity and ensure our neighbors have access to nutritious food. You can choose to be a part of that legacy through our Bobby Ellis Legacy Society. Your legacy gift can help propel the mission to end hunger for every man, woman, and child today and for years to come.

If you would like to speak to someone about planned giving at Dare to Care, please contact Kate Chandler at 502-736-9416 or by email at [kate@daretocare.org](mailto:kate@daretocare.org).

## Here are some of the ways you can choose to leave a lasting legacy to end hunger through Dare to Care:

- Bequest
- Retirement Plans
- Life Insurance
- Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust

# Providing food and hope in 2023

After Edward's car and tools for work were stolen, he was unable to support himself and turned to the Dare to Care network for help.

When we met him last year, he told us, "I'm just down on my luck. I can't call mama or anybody to come and get me because they're all passed away."

We meet people like Edward every day; good folks who have fallen victim to bad circumstances. With rising inflation, grocery, gas, and housing costs, it's easier than you may realize for hardworking people to go hungry.

Thankfully, we work with 300 partners who help us distribute food and meals in 13 counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. This helps us serve 142,000 people experiencing food insecurity in our local communities. But we couldn't do it without loyal supporters like you. Thank you for being a part of our mission to end hunger. With you by our side, we are able to provide nourishing food for the men, women, and children in Kentuckiana who face hunger.

Edward told us, "I would say, put your kid in my position—wouldn't you want them to have help? Spare what you can spare. We all need help."

As lines continue to grow at our pantries and food distribution events, we need your help more than ever. Together, we can meet the growing crisis of hunger this year with food, compassion, and hope.

**Join us to provide food for our communities in 2023. Send your gift with the enclosed donation form or give online at [donate.daretocare.org](https://donate.daretocare.org)**



## Coming soon: Taste of Derby Festival presented by Brown-Forman!

Ready to celebrate food for a good cause? Save the date so you can join us for the annual Taste of Derby Festival on April 25, 2023!

Taste of Derby Festival is one of our most popular events, giving attendees the chance to sample delicious food and drinks—with the money raised going to fight hunger in Kentuckiana! There is much more information to come, so please visit [daretocare.org](https://daretocare.org) or our social media channels to receive the most up-to-date information.

Thank you, and we hope you can make it!



**"I'd just like to say thank y'all and I appreciate y'all. It's a blessing. It really is."**  
— Edward

## Here's how you helped in 2022!

 **19.6 Million Meals**  
Distributed to neighbors across Kentuckiana, including 5.7 million meals served to children

 **8.4 Million Pounds**  
of fresh produce served

**216,955 Kids Cafe Meals**  
provided by our Community Kitchen for 35 partner sites

**77,271 Innovative Meals**  
prepared at our Community Kitchen to reduce food waste

 **300 Partners**  
Including food pantries, shelters, and kitchens, serving individuals in 13 counties

**22,641 Students Served**  
At 63 school pantries

 **3,835 Volunteers**  
Contributing 13,058 hours of service

**31** Nutrition Education Classes

**30** Prescriptive Pantries

**900** Mobile Pantry Stops

**720** Mobile Market Stops

## Stay connected to the work you support!

Please visit [daretocare.org](https://daretocare.org)

## Follow Us On:

 @daretocarefoodbank

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 Dare to Care Food Bank

**Scan to donate now and be a part of the mission to end hunger!**

