

Behind the Scenes

Be sure to keep up with the New Hampshire Food Bank on the following social media platforms:



Facebook



X (Twitter)



Instagram



LinkedIn



YouTube

Your comments

Thank you for your continued support. We would love to hear from you! Please email us at micaela.whalen@nhfoodbank.org or write to:

Micaela Whalen
New Hampshire Food Bank
700 East Industrial Park Drive
Manchester, NH 03109

Grants

Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support through grants to the New Hampshire Food Bank:

Anonymous:

Food purchase - Spirit of Giving

Bank of America:

Food Purchase

Jane's Trust:

General Operating

RBC Foundation:

Food purchase for youth-serving agencies

Rogers Family Foundation:

Food purchase for Southeastern NH

TJX Foundation:

Food Purchase

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund:

Food purchase for agencies in Coos County

Whole Foods Market Foundation:

Nutrition Incentive Programs

New England Winter Wine Spectacular

Thank you to the following organizations for their support of NH Liquor & Wine Outlet's Winter Wine Spectacular, benefiting the NH Food Bank:



March 2026

Food *for* thought

The New Hampshire Food Bank, as the only food bank in the state, works through a network of partner agencies, providing food and services to empower people to become more food self-reliant and secure.

Upcoming Events and Fundraisers Benefiting the NH Food Bank

NH Food Bank's 10th Annual Steel Chef Challenge

Monday, March 16
Presented by Service Credit Union & Founding Sponsor, Comcast

New Hampshire Renaissance Faire

May, 9, 10, 16 and 17
Learn more: nhrenfaire.com

National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive

Saturday, May 9
Learn more: nalc.org/food-drive

NH Gives: June 9 - 10
24-Hour Online Fundraiser
nhfoodbank.org/nhgives

New Hampshire Magazine's Best of New Hampshire Party: June 25

<https://www.nhmagazine.com/Best-of-NH/>

For the most up-to-date event information visit nhfoodbank.org or visit our social media channels.

Our Impact in 2025

In 2025, when a federal government shutdown threatened access to critical nutrition assistance, the New Hampshire Food Bank acted swiftly — mobilizing resources, partners, and staff to ensure communities across the Granite State did not go without food.

Hunger remains a persistent challenge in our state. Nearly 1 in 9 residents experiences food insecurity, including 1 in 7 children. The Food Bank works in every corner of the state to meet this need, distributing more than 20 million pounds of food—the equivalent of over 17 million meals—last year.

The Food Bank provides approximately 60% of the food distributed by our network of over 400 partner agencies (food pantries, emergency shelters, children's programs, and more).

Here are just a few of the many ways your generous support made a measurable difference in 2025:

- **Mobile Food Pantries:** We hosted nearly 60 mobile food pantries statewide, distributing 550,000 pounds of food to 14,000 households from all 10 counties in NH.
- **Recipe for Success Production Kitchen:** Our kitchen prepared more than 148,000 scratch-made meals for afterschool programs, homeless shelters, and partner agencies.
- **Nutrition Education:** Through 10 Cooking Matters courses (95 classes), our team empowered 557 parents, caregivers, and adults with limited food budgets to shop smarter and cook healthy meals.
- **Volunteers:** Dedicated volunteers contributed 24,496 hours of service, providing essential support across our warehouse, programs, and partner network.

Your commitment strengthens our ability not only to respond in moments of crisis, but also to advance lasting solutions to hunger in New Hampshire. Thank you for your pivotal role in our mission. We look forward to continuing this important work with you in 2026.



Turkey Chili with Vegetables



A Cooking Matters Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 medium onion
- 2 medium carrots
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 large green bell pepper
- 1 (15½-ounce) can red or white kidney beans, no salt added
- 1 Tablespoon canola oil
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 2 (14½-ounce) cans diced tomatoes, no salt added
- 1 cup water
- 3 Tablespoons chili powder
- 1 Tablespoon ground cumin
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 medium lime

Materials

- Can opener
- Colander
- Cutting board
- Large pot
- Measuring cups & spoons
- Sharp knife

Scan here for cooking instructions and more at cookingmatters.org!



Fresh Rescue: Feeding NH, Reducing Food Waste

Fresh Rescue is a core program of the New Hampshire Food Bank, addressing food insecurity and food waste at the same time. Through partnerships with retail stores across the state, unsold food is safely recovered and redirected to local organizations—ensuring it reaches neighbors in need instead of going to landfills.

The Fresh Rescue program connects grocery stores with food pantries, meal programs, shelters, and community organizations. This approach allows families and individuals to access fresher food quickly. The New Hampshire Food Bank coordinates these efforts by matching stores with partner agencies based on capacity, establishing sustainable pickup schedules, and providing oversight around food safety, reporting, and logistics.

In the past year, Fresh Rescue recovered more than 7.9 million pounds of food, supporting 185 active partner agencies statewide directly or through bulk meals prepared by our Production Kitchen. The program currently works with 165 retail stores, with additional partnerships planned in the coming year.



The program supports a wide range of food access models—from volunteer-run food shelves and rural pantries to senior centers, afterschool programs, and high-volume urban organizations. By providing structure and coordination, Fresh Rescue enables agencies to participate without overwhelming limited staff, storage, or transportation resources.

As the program continues to grow, the Food Bank is streamlining processes to make participation easier, expanding access to nourishing food while advancing meaningful solutions to food waste across New Hampshire.



Each year in March, we recognize National Nutrition Month® - an annual campaign established in 1973 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

This year's theme is "Discover the Power of Nutrition."

On a weekly basis, the Academy will offer advice on making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits.

During the month of March, NH Food Bank's Nutrition team will share fun, informative content so keep an eye on our social media channels like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Training the Next Generation of Culinary Talent

The New Hampshire Food Bank is proud to introduce an exciting new partnership with the New Hampshire Community College System (NHCCS) and ApprenticeshipNH.

Together, we will launch a comprehensive career pathway that blends classroom learning with hands-on kitchen experience through our Culinary Job Training Program.



The Food Bank has completed all requirements to become a U.S. Department of Labor–certified Apprenticeship program. With this certification, we are now recruiting both apprentices and partner restaurants.

The Food Bank's culinary team will offer a 7-week certificate program providing students with valuable experience. Additionally, through our collaborations with Manchester Community College and ApprenticeshipNH, we hope to offer a joint certificate that can be applied toward an Associate Degree, and to help build skills for students already employed with a participating restaurant or food preparation site.

With this new apprenticeship initiative, the Food Bank aims to play a meaningful role in workforce development by opening our state-of-the-art culinary facility—and the deep expertise of our culinary team—to individuals seeking employment or wishing to strengthen their skills in the food service and hospitality fields.

12th Annual Distiller's Showcase & 20th Annual Winter Wine Spectacular

Thank you to the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet for their continued support of the New Hampshire Food Bank through their 12th Annual Distiller's Showcase in November and 20th Annual New England Winter Wine Spectacular in January.

Sincere thanks also to the event sponsors, participating restaurants, and attendees for making these events such a huge success.

Over the last five years, these events have raised more than \$600,000 for the NH Food Bank – helping us provide food assistance and address the root causes of hunger across the state.



Mother's and Father's Day Cards: Now Available

Looking for a meaningful Mother's Day (May 10) or Father's Day (June 21) gift?

Make a \$25 donation to the NH Food Bank in their honor, and we'll send a personalized donation card for you!

To learn more and make a donation, call 603-669-9725 ext. 1121 or visit: nhfoodbank.org/send-a-card



Save the Date:
**NH Gives is Back,
June 9-10**

NH Gives is returning this June - be part of NH's biggest day of giving!

This 24-hour, statewide online fundraiser will take place Tuesday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 10.

For updates and announcements, keep an eye on our website, social media channels and NH Gives page at: nhfoodbank.org/nhgives