

FOR EXTERNAL USE: **MEDIA**

**For interviews, stories, statistics
and digital assets, please contact us:**

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ABOUT FOOD LIFELINE:

Our Mission

Feeding people experiencing food insecurity today, while working to end hunger for tomorrow.

Tagline

Hunger Doesn't Have to Happen.

Our Cause

Food Lifeline is on a mission to end hunger in Western Washington. We believe that access to food is a human right. Our goal is to address hunger in two distinct ways: by feeding people who are experiencing food insecurity each day, while addressing the root causes of hunger: poverty, racial inequity, and social injustice. We do this work through advocacy efforts to shape local, state, and federal policy, by partnering with organizations that are addressing other causes of poverty, and through engagement and bundling food assistance with other community-based programs and services.

The Food Problem

Every year, more than 40% of all food grown or produced here in the United States – end up in the landfill. According to the EPA, food waste makes up the largest portion of all items entering U.S landfills. Over time, this food breaks down, creating methane gases that are 27 times more dangerous than Co2.

The Hunger Problem

While billions of pounds of food are lost to landfills, millions of Americans are experiencing food insecurity. With rampant inflation, runaway food prices, and rising financial insecurities, these numbers are growing every day.

The Solution

Food Lifeline provides nutritious food to **1.6 million people experiencing food insecurity** by sourcing surplus food from farmers, manufacturers, grocery stores, and other retail outlets. We distribute this food through a network of nearly **300 food banks**,

shelters, and meal programs, enabling us to provide the equivalent of more than **164,000 meals every single day**.

At the same time, we are working to **end hunger** for the future by addressing its root causes, including poverty, racial inequity, and social injustice. We do this work through advocacy efforts to shape local, state, and federal policy, by partnering with organizations that are addressing other causes of poverty, and through engagement and bundling food assistance with other community-based programs and services.

Hunger Solution Center

Food Lifeline is headquartered in the **Hunger Solution Center** in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle. Our two warehouses span nearly **200,000 square feet of warehouse and office space** allowing us to process and distribute more than **70 million pounds of food** every year.

In addition to a full-time **staff of more than 100**, we engage more than **20,000 volunteers** every year to help inspect, sort, and repack food for our food bank partners.

The Hunger Solution Center is a hub for innovation and partnership that allows our community to join the movement to end hunger.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY:

Food Lifeline's History:

Food Lifeline has been addressing hunger in the region for more than 42 years. We began in 1979 as "Food Oversight-Operation Distribution," an organization created in response to Washington State's need for a central warehouse to accept, store, and distribute large amounts of food that the federal government was distributing to states at the time. Since 1986 we've been known as Food Lifeline, a nonprofit leading the fight to end hunger by delivering millions of pounds of food to people facing hunger every year while working in partnership with other organizations. President and CEO Robert Ojeda leads Food Lifeline to ensure that people in Western Washington have access to nutritious and culturally relevant food while investing in long-term solutions to end hunger and its root causes.

Food Lifeline Statement:

Food Lifeline is on a mission to end hunger in Western Washington. We believe that access to food is a human right and that nobody deserves to be hungry. Food Lifeline provides nutritious food to hundreds of thousands of people facing hunger every year by sourcing nutritious food from a variety of food industry partners. We distribute this food through a partnership of nearly 300 food pantries, shelters, and meal programs, enabling us to provide the equivalent of more than 164,000 meals every single day. At the same time, we are working to **end hunger** by addressing its root causes, including systemic inequity and social injustice. We advance our mission through advocacy efforts to shape local, state, and federal policy; by partnering with organizations that are addressing other causes of poverty; and through community engagement and mobilization efforts. Learn more at foodlifeline.org.

How You Can Help:

At Food Lifeline we believe that it will take all of us to end hunger. Everyone has the capacity to give in a way that is both meaningful and impactful. You can give your time volunteering in our Hunger Solution Center. You can become a hunger relief advocate, joining our grass roots efforts to effect change at the local, state, and national level. You can contribute financially or through food donations.

Donate: Financial and food donations amplify our impact and reach to abate hunger.

Volunteer: Dedicated volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization.

Advocate: Join our movement to end hunger through policy and community engagement.