



## Feeding America in Times of Disaster

When disaster strikes, Feeding America is on the ground and ready to provide food and emergency supplies to help people cope in the aftermath. Our extensive network of food banks reaches every county in every corner of our nation—making us uniquely prepared to respond in the event of a disaster.

Within hours, we are able to quickly deploy trucks and logistical solutions to deliver food, water and supplies to people in the communities where we already operate. Less than one week after Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, Feeding America moved more than 4 million pounds of donated and pre-staged disaster relief food and supplies to devastated areas.

We work alongside disaster-relief partners like the American Red Cross to meet an immediate need. In the days and weeks that follow a crisis, our programs—from mobile food pantries to donation partnerships with food and grocery manufacturers—are amplified to support a coordinated disaster response. Every step of the way, Feeding America is there for disaster victims, offering food and hope as they seek to return to normalcy.

### Feeding America Disaster Relief Services

Feeding America employs a strategy that encompasses all stages of disaster response. From preparing for disasters before they hit, to responding to victims in the midst of the disaster, to continuing to support families and communities through the long recovery—the Feeding America network is committed to serving people in need under any circumstances.

- **PREPAREDNESS:** Feeding America stages emergency supplies strategically throughout the country so we can move quickly in the event of disaster. Planning ahead to coordinate the resources of federal, state and local government agencies and other community partners helps make communities more resilient to disaster. Through our day-to-day hunger-relief operations, we also improve the wellness and stability of low-income and at-risk populations who are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters.
- **RECOVERY:** Feeding America remains rooted in communities long after other disaster organizations have moved on. Our member food banks are major contributors to long-term community recovery efforts.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** During a disaster, the Feeding America network of food banks works closely with other disaster relief partners including FEMA, the American Red Cross, state emergency management agencies, The Salvation Army and other National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) members. By working together, we are able to quickly and effectively reach those in need without duplicating efforts.
- **RESPONSE:** Feeding America provides government entities and other nonprofits with a strong infrastructure to deliver emergency services to people affected by disaster.



## The Strength of the Network

Feeding America food banks are trusted, community institutions. They operate in neighborhoods nationwide long before disasters strike, which allows us to respond quickly and efficiently to immediately provide food, water and relief supplies to residents. And Feeding America member food banks remain in communities long after other disaster organizations leave. After the disaster headlines dissipate, torn lives remain. It is Feeding America's network of food banks that continues to respond for weeks, months and even years to bring hope for survival and a brighter future.

During local and widespread disasters, Feeding America's emergency food distribution network is critical to the resilience and vitality of our nation.



**200 food banks** serve all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico



**60,000 food pantries and programs** serve every county in the country



**2,400 vehicles** are ready to respond



**10 million square feet** of warehouse space nationwide stores food for distribution



**86% of food banks operate mobile pantry programs** that help deliver food to hard-to-reach communities



**2 million volunteers** are ready to help

### SHIRLEY AND HER FAMILY: RISING ABOVE FLOODING AFTER HURRICANE HARVEY



When it started raining, the water began pouring into our house. We tried to stop it by putting towels down by the door, but it kept rising. We were scared, so we wrote our social security numbers on our bodies and attempted to walk through the streets. The water came up to our waists though, there were spiders and insects

all over and we couldn't see through it. This made us even more nervous, so we decided to take our chances and go back to the house.

Thankfully, my son flagged down a truck that was somehow still able to pass through a nearby street. We were finally rescued. We had nowhere to go, so we spent the first night at a furniture store that had opened

its doors and mattresses to storm victims. Now, my four sons and I are staying with my sister. The five of us are all together in one room, but we are grateful to have somewhere to stay.

I was already going through a hard time before Hurricane Harvey. I had applied for disability because I am unable to work. Now, I have lost everything. They estimated my house will take six months to a year to repair. We are looking for a place to stay, but my kids will have to switch schools because we can't find a place close enough to their high school. I'm worried about my kids. They have been so quiet through all of this.

Despite the devastation, it's been encouraging to see all the people willing to help families like mine who have been hurt by this storm – including people at the food bank. They've given me food to feed my family, cleaning supplies to begin the long process of recovery and hope to keep pushing through. I don't know what I would do without their help. Their support has made a difficult time just a little easier, and for that, I'm grateful.

To learn more, please visit [feedingamerica.org/disasterrelief](https://feedingamerica.org/disasterrelief) or call 800.771.2303.

