



# Off the Shelf

Fall 2024



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*Executive Director*

## Neighbor Voices

Recently I was at a strategic planning meeting in Minneapolis, MN with other food bank leaders. I wasn't sure what to expect and wondered what I would take away. As luck would have it (actually some incredible foresight and planning), I was incredibly encouraged by the format of the day.

After a brief outline of what the day would entail, we moved right into the heart of it. Everyone had a name tag, but no one was identified by their role. Each table had representation from food banks, the national office, agency partners, donors, and neighbors with lived experience with hunger. After a short time, it became clear who the neighbors were. Many were quiet early in discussions, however, after becoming more comfortable, they had much to say.

What a simple concept. Even the playing field and give everyone a chance to give input. I walked away wondering, how we can do a better job of listening and truly hearing

what our neighbors have to say?

It made me think about our vision of Access to and Awareness of Healthy Foods for All, as well as our core values – Partnership, Accessibility, Integrity, Respect, Stewardship, Resiliency, and Inclusivity. Two of these have been top of mind for me since this meeting – Accessibility and Inclusivity.

Earlier this year, we conducted in-person neighborhood experience surveys at several partner locations. Nearly half of those surveyed desire more information on healthy eating and afternoon/evening pantry hours, One-third of respondents did not always recognize the foods offered, and one-third requested more produce and animal protein. Fifty percent prefer to choose their own food, while over 10% want to stay in their car for anonymity and/or physical limitations.

We heard that one size does not fit all, that each person's situation is unique. As we work within our network of feeding partners, we are committed to listening, hearing, and making informed decisions with information we gather. As we continue to hear common themes from our neighbors, we will do our best to react and adjust.

To Provide Food, and Develop Awareness of and Creative Solutions for Food Insecurity

# Community Partnerships



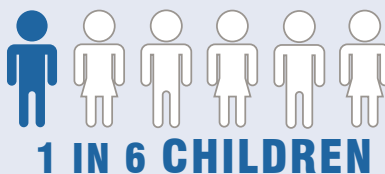
Nutritionist Karen Sibert, with the Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, made a fresh summer salad for attendees of Jacksonville's Summerfest 2024. United Way partnered with Central Illinois Foodbank and several other organizations to give back to the community of Jacksonville.



Through the Illinois-EATS funded by Local Food Purchasing Assistance program, Marcoot Jersey Creamery dropped off various cheeses to go throughout central and southern Illinois.

## IN OUR 21-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

**ONE**  
IN EIGHT



**OVER**  
100,000 people don't  
know where their next  
meal will come from.

### Upcoming Events *We hope to see you there!*

#### Hickory Point Bank's Back to School Cereal Drive

**September 25 | 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
3131 Wabash Ave., Springfield, IL 62704

Please bring a box of healthy cereal, breakfast bars, oatmeal, etc. Nutritious snacks will be made at the Foodbank's mobile kitchen cart along with Smokin BBQ Stewy Style food truck for lunch!

For more information please contact Chloe Lucca at 217-522-4022 or [clucca@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:clucca@centralilfoodbank.org).

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP



**Give Funds. Give Food. Give Time.**

**centralilfoodbank.org**

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