



Destin Harvest

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FOOD SURPLUS & LOCAL HUNGER

2023 - 2024 Annual Report

Opening Words from Executive Director

Destin Harvest had a tremendous impact connecting food surplus to local hunger programs in 2023. Over 1.59 million pounds of fresh and nonperishable food items were provided at no cost to 39 recipient feeding programs in Okaloosa and Walton County. Collectively, DH provided food for 21,941 unduplicated individuals in 2023.

The need is greater than ever. On average, food programs that receive deliveries from DH experience an increase of at least five new families every week in need of assistance – parents that cannot afford diapers, or other basic items for their children, individuals with serious medical conditions with just enough income to not have access to affordable insurance, skilled workers, and households on multiple incomes, and many other vulnerable people are all desperately seeking assistance daily. Most low to mid-income households simply cannot afford the combined basic costs of housing, health care, and food.



The situation for those seeking affordable housing on the Gulf Coast is downright devastating. People who work in Destin are no longer able to afford to live there. Housing in less-expensive

locations such as Freeport, Defuniak Springs, and Crestview can cost a renter \$1,600 - \$2,500 a month for a 2 – 3-bedroom house or apartment. Numerous individuals seeking work with DH have shared that they live in a crowded home-environment with multiple families and often benefit at least once a week from local food programs that receive deliveries from DH.

The threat of homelessness is palpable for most low-income households in Okaloosa and Walton County. For anyone living paycheck to paycheck, access to free foods can mean the difference of having enough funds to pay rent or a mortgage, getting a prescription filled, putting gas in a vehicle, or many other costly necessities.

Overview of Food Distributions in 2023

DH distributed a total of 1,593,491 pounds of food in 2023 to 39 feeding programs in Okaloosa and Walton County, a 5 percent increase compared to 2022.

2023 Food Distribution Totals in Meals (pounds):

Total from local retailers for 2023: 1,517,775 lbs.

Total from Feeding America, USDA, and similar food networks: 75,716 lbs.

Total Foods DH Distributed 2023: 1,593,491 lbs.

Total Foods DH Distributed 2022: 1,524,092 lbs.

Feeding Programs Served in 2023: 39

Total Unduplicated Individuals Served in 2023: 21,941

Cost Per Pound (or meal) : 18 Cents



Statement of Activities (January 01 – Dec 31)

UNRESTRICTED REVENUE	2023	2022
Foundations and Grants:	\$102,800	\$76,000
Public Support:	\$51,251.67	\$52,699.51
Primary Benefactor	\$130,000	\$108,256.35
Total Monetary Contributions	\$284,051.67	\$236,955.86
Food Donations	\$2,708,934.70	\$2,594,869.80
Total Revenue	\$3,001,813.62	\$2,831,825.66

EXPENSE	2023	2022
Fundraising and Marketing:	\$909.76	\$140.98
Admin / Non-Operating Expenses	\$71,472.18	\$65,160.21
Program / Operating Expenses	2023	2022
Monetary Operating Expense	\$213,099.30	\$196,837.86
Foods Distributed to Programs	\$2,708,934.70	\$2,594,869.80
Total Operating Expense	\$2,922,034.00	\$2,791,707.66
Total Program Expense	\$2,994,415.94	\$2,857,008.85
Net Change in Assets	\$7,397.68	\$-25,183.19
Total Assets (Dec 31)	\$62,726.98	\$52,381.24
Total Liabilities (Dec 31)	\$5,220.90	\$2,272.84
Total Equity (Dec 31)	\$57,506.08	\$50,108.40
Price per Pound	18 Cents	17 Cents



Dedicated Freeport Resources Continue into 2024

Feeding the Gulf Coast presented DH with an opportunity to connect a truck load of food twice a month to feeding programs in Freeport Florida. The foods are made available for free through a USDA grant and generally include four to six pallets of fresh produce, meat, and nonperishables. DH connects an additional 14k - 18k pounds of food to Walton County each month with this bi-weekly route.

Aldi's in Fort Walton Beach and City Produce - New Food Donors 2024

DH began pick-ups at Aldi's in Fort Walton in December of 2023. The budget-friendly store contributes 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of food monthly.

DH is also receiving food surpluses from City Produce. They are a primary vendor for public schools in Okaloosa and Walton County. During holidays and school closures, they have pallets of milk and other items they need to offload. DH received over 10k in food donations, mostly milk, from City Produce this past December.

Food Insecurity Strikes Fort Walton Beach's Highschool Football Team

Bobby Clayton, coach for the Fort Walton Beach football team, was concerned about many of his players showing up to school and football practices hungry and exhausted. He connected with Parker Destin seeking services to aid his players. DH has been making weekly deliveries directly to the school since August OF 2023. 15 - 20 players eat out of a lounge area daily and have access to frozen pizzas and other frozen meals, fresh fruit, and snacks. Coach Clayton prepares weekly food bags for five of his players that have a need for additional food at home.

Closing notes from the Executive Director – Gratitude to our Recipient Programs

Okaloosa and Walton County are blessed to have many programs committed to serving the growing population of families and individuals in serious need. DH currently connects food to 39 programs in Okaloosa and Walton County. Without hardworking programs to accept and distribute weekly food donations, DH's operation would not be the same.

Perishable foods DH captures with refrigerated trucks daily are generally connected directly to individuals and families in need the same day. Many recipient programs offer a wide array of services to low-income and at-risk communities, including residential shelter, showers, counseling, afterschool care, health, and medical services, and more. Providing access to free foods bolsters their ability to help their clients.

Without passionate and committed advocates at these programs, willing to organize and make time to accept a delivery each week from DH, nearly 22,000 unduplicated low-income people in Okaloosa and Walton County would struggle to secure access to free foods.



