



# Impact Report

July 2022 - June 2023

Letter from the Director

# The Power of Partnerships

I've often heard the work of Table to Table described as a "simple" idea. We like that redistributing surplus food that would otherwise go uneaten is a no-nonsense idea. However, this only works smoothly if it's on a solid foundation of relationships, collaboration, and connection: essential components for a healthy food system and healthy individuals. Essential... but it turns out: not simple. There isn't really anything simple about leveraging the strengths of organizations and individuals throughout the community to make food accessible to thousands of people each year.

Here are some of the ways we've done that this year:

- **We nurtured partnerships to prioritize equity and access** by redistributing food in a way that promotes fairness and addresses the specific needs of different communities. **Doing this means not doing what's easiest but finding the way to do what's most just.** We redistributed food purchased by local food hub *Field to Family* from marginalized local farmers through the *Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development*-led Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program (LFPA).

We continued our partnership with *Grow: Johnson County* to deliver over 50,000 pounds of produce grown in their educational farm program, many of which are culturally-specific vegetables grown at the request of our neighbors who will nutritionally and emotionally benefit from these foods that make them feel at home.

- **Through collaboration with Feeding America Food Bank HACAP Food Reservoir, we better understand the regional food insecurity landscape** and work together to ensure **adequate resource distribution in Eastern Iowa.** Examples include, redistributing thousands of pounds of ripe strawberries from HACAP, and HACAP offering 10,000 pounds of protein recovered by T2T to partners across 7 counties.
- **Strengthening our anti-hunger network** increases our adaptability and allowed us to respond to more than a dozen large volume, time sensitive food recovery opportunities this year. **With little notice, organizations across Johnson County answered their doors to accept thousands of pounds of unexpected food deliveries** ranging from prime sirloin (yes, really: it was going to be dumped unless we stepped in) to milk, eggs, high-protein breakfast bowls, and even gallons of muffin batter.

It is through our network of distribution partnerships that we are collectively building a more just and less wasteful food system. Together, we show love for our neighbors through food, recognizing that food is a building block of community and connection. **We want a community where nutritious, desirable, and culturally-meaningful food is accessible to all. We hope you will join us in making this vision a reality.**

Nicki Ross, Executive Director

## T2T Board of Directors

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T2T rescued **2,287,968** pounds of food this year.  
▲ 4% increase over previous year



**125** stores, warehouses, processors, farms, markets, & cafeterias donated food.

T2T food reached **25,000+** neighbors this year. Nearly 1/3 were children.

T2T coordinated **14,000+** food pickups & deliveries.

Volunteers rescued food from stores, warehouses, & dining halls on **2,300** routes.

To learn more about the contributions of the 8 staff, 8 AmeriCorps service members, and 2 practicum students who helped make all this happen, visit [table2table.org/team23](http://table2table.org/team23).

Thanks to new software you helped fund, we are using even more data to drive our work. Join us for a virtual demonstration of FoodForce. Sign up at [table2table.org/foodforce](http://table2table.org/foodforce).

# Adaptability Through Partnership

Unfortunately, an ever-increasing number of neighbors need to turn to food pantries for assistance with getting food on the table, feeling the effects of rising costs due to inflation and significantly reduced SNAP benefits. **Johnson County residents visited T2T's three largest food pantry partners nearly 180,000 times last year** (North Liberty Community Pantry, CommUnity Food Bank, and Coralville Community Food Pantry). Typically, they have seen a 15% increase from year to year. In 2023, the need for food more than *doubled*.

We cannot sing the praises of our partner organizations enough as they are ALL providing more support than ever before. They need more food to meet the higher need, more volunteers to support programs, and more staff to manage these unprecedented changes. We know it takes creativity, flexibility, and extra time and effort to make use of all the food we bring to the door, and they maintain their efforts in spite of the circumstances. We've weathered this year together through the strength of our partnerships.



The T2T distribution network delivered several thousand pounds of strawberries to partners across Johnson County **on 10 distribution routes in 3 days!**

This only works if the entire network is ready – from knowing who to call when a donation comes in to lining up volunteers to sort and distribute the food when it arrives. Our quick delivery model and motivated partners are key to our adaptable process.

## More large volume donations that required adaptability:



We distributed a 1,300 pound tomato donation through partners and a free produce stand.



Protein from food supply chain partner Lineage Logistics is delivered to local pantries weekly.



3,000 pounds of squash and potatoes from local farmers was delivered to neighbors' tables!

Our donor and recipient partner lists change with the changing needs of the community. For a complete and current list of partners, visit [table2table.org/about](http://table2table.org/about).



# Collaborations to Increase Access



Table to Table distributed 40,000+ pounds of excess produce harvested from generous local farms, donated directly by farmers and gardeners in our community, and recovered from farmers markets and auctions. We distributed 12,500 pounds of that at 36 free produce stands. We work with the public and 11 key community partners to identify neighborhoods where access to affordable fresh produce is more difficult. Read more about our produce stands and the partners who helped make them happen here: [table2table.org/producestand](http://table2table.org/producestand).



**Partner Highlight:** Since 2021, Echollective Farm has donated 30,000+ pounds of produce to local nonprofits.

"We truly could not have done this without the support of Table to Table. Having Table to Table's support in gleaning at our farm as well as giving us one accessible, easy place to donate produce is truly invaluable... When organizations like Table to Table work to give everyone in the community access to freshly grown, Iowa produce – including those who are food insecure – we all benefit!" – Molly Schintler, Echollective Farm



New T2T partner Free Medical Clinic (FMC) serves marginalized neighbors, many of whom are unable to access consistent healthcare for chronic diseases. Now, through T2T deliveries, FMC is offering fresh, nutrient-dense foods recommended to clients by clinic doctors for improved health.

# Volunteers are the key to vital connections.

T2T volunteers truly embody a passion for recovering food and delivering it to our neighbors. Along the way, they develop strong relationships with those who donate and receive the rescued food.

Two best pals who volunteer together on a weekly Saturday morning food rescue route,

**Cheyenne and Jasmine,** chat with produce department staff when they pick up donations. They know each other by name and the employees seek this volunteer pair out each Saturday to make sure they don't miss any food set aside for donation.

Have we mentioned **Mary Palmberg?** Well, we're going to again. Mary is T2T's longest-serving volunteer, now in her 25th year. Throughout her roles at T2T since 1998, she's been an ambassador to our community, using every opportunity to promote and garner support for our mission. Mary builds great relationships with food donors, increasing their donations and commitment to our mission. She makes T2T deliveries memorable for recipient agencies and their volunteers, expressing sincere and heartfelt gratitude for their partnership and work.

**Dina Janzen** has driven T2T's straight truck to deliver pallets of food for years. "I absolutely love connecting with the people inside the back doors of warehouses, stores, and food pantries every week," she says. "I find it fascinating to observe how the complex systems that exist to rescue all this food are constantly adapting. My part of this system is simple, but my role feels essential."

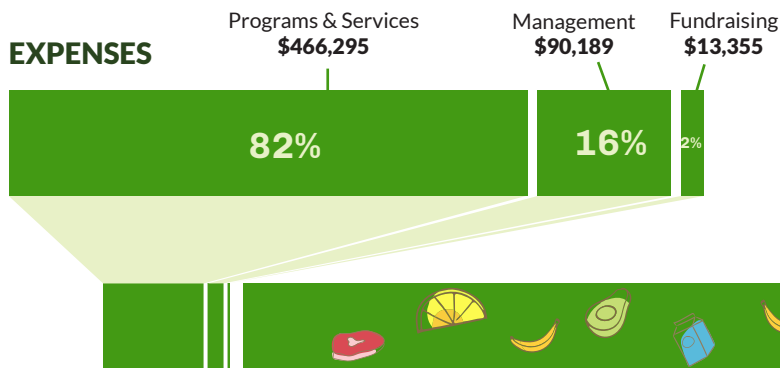
T2T volunteers enjoy forging global connections, too. T2T was fortunate to host **Fellows of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders** through the University of Iowa's International

Institute for Business for two days this year. Fellows recovered food on routes and gleaned alongside T2T volunteers and discussed the innovative work they're doing in their own communities in countries across Africa – a great learning experience for all involved.

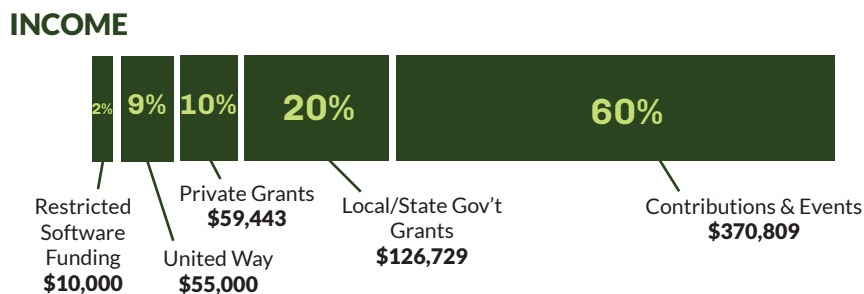
T2T volunteers are essential to retail food rescue, fleet prep, driving our straight truck, office work and data, gleanings at farms and orchards, community outreach, free produce stands, and more! Learn how to get involved at [table2table.org/volunteers](http://table2table.org/volunteers).



## Our Financials



**YOU'VE INVESTED \$569,839 TO RESCUE 2.3 MILLION LBS. OF FOOD VALUED AT \$7,106,336**



**\$621,981 COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT**  
Direct donations from community members like you make up well over half of our operating fund.

\*Unaudited financials



**30+ million pounds of food recovered and distributed through hundreds of partnerships since 1996**

*Read about the impact of those partnerships inside!*



PO Box 2596  
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319-337-3400  
[www.table2table.org](http://www.table2table.org)

Rescue food with us:  
[www.table2table.org/volunteers](http://www.table2table.org/volunteers)  
Donate to the cause:  
[www.table2table.org/donation](http://www.table2table.org/donation)



Table to Table  
nourishes  
25,000+ neighbors  
in partnership with  
hunger relief  
organizations across  
Johnson County.



**DONATE**

Chaim Jensen, T2T Logistics & Relationships Coordinator, and Marquis Heard, AmeriCorps member serving at T2T (top), deliver a truckload of fruit from Costco to Coralville Community Food Pantry, where Hai Huynh, Associate Director, and Loyal Ulm, Home Delivery Program Manager are excited to connect these nutritious options to our neighbors. (Photo courtesy of Coralville Community Food Pantry)

