

Volunteer Newsletter

319-337-3400 EMAIL GINA AT DISPATCHER@TABLE2TABLE.ORG

Introduction to our new volunteer newsletter...

Hi, I'm Gina and I'm the Dispatcher here at Table to Table. I am starting this volunteer newsletter for all of us as a way to keep in touch with our mission and to continue to get to know each other. Please enjoy the newsletter and I look forward to learning more in 2024 together!

Impact Report Data

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.



Winter Safety Tip

For your personal safety during the winter season - the vans are equipped with a scraper, shovel, and container of sand.

Partner Spotlight: CommUnity Food Bank

To kick off our Partner Spotlight, I went next door to our partner CommUnity Food Bank and talked with Food Bank Manager Krystal Kabela. I learned from Krystal that in the previous week CommUnity served 1,050 households, and combined with their home delivery service, they move 35,000 to 40,000 pounds of food a week!

Their operations are supported by 20-30 volunteers a day, with around 50-75 recurring volunteers. The team enjoys seeing clients get excited about an item available they really need. Krystal loves to see the different relationships that form between volunteers and employees, as well as the relationship built with T2T, increased by having us next door.

What are a few things for T2T volunteers to know?

Due to food allergies, CommUnity is unable to accept unmarked food - anything without a label listing all its ingredients or nutrition. Also, with the number of deliveries they get a day, the banana boxes pile up quickly! After the vans are unloaded, T2T volunteers can check for empty boxes to load in the T2T vans before bringing them back.

Per Krystal: "We would not be able to provide what we do without Table to Table. T2T provides close to 50% of the food that goes out. Our deliveries have increased in quantity as Table to Table's donations have increased." Krystal and I both expressed an appreciation for being neighbors, allowing for the opportunity to build a strong relationship, plus the convenience and efficiency of being able to walk next door for support. What a great partnership!

Food Category: Protein!

We've recently switched our former food category of "Meat" to "Protein." Please categorize eggs, tofu, and other high protein items under "Protein." When in doubt, just use your best judgement! This isn't an exact science.



Volunteer Mark unloads at CommUnity every Friday

Recruit a friend to volunteer!

We're often short on volunteers in the winter. Do you have a friend or family member that would enjoy rescuing food with us? Let us know you'd like to bring them along for a route to show them the impact of food rescue firsthand!



Volunteer Spotlight Abby Crow

Abby is a rockstar Core Support volunteer! She's spent every Friday this fall at T2T filling in on food rescue routes, prepping our vehicles, cleaning and organizing our warehouse, and helping with projects that need extra hands. She even rescued food from a restaurant solo on her very first day, and a couple months ago she celebrated her birthday at T2T! She quickly learned a lot about our operations and made our Fridays run smoothly.