

URGENT – Food & Hunger Crisis: How You Can Help



What's happening

- The U.S. is facing a growing food insecurity crisis. In 2023, **13.5% of U.S. households** (about 18 million households) experienced food insecurity — meaning at some point they couldn't reliably access enough nutritious food.
 - Federal benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are set to **end this weekend** unless emergency funding is renewed.
 - With fewer benefits and rising food costs, the burden on local food banks and pantries is intensifying.
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Why your help matters

- A benefit cut or delay means families who count on SNAP may have *no* resources for groceries in the coming days.
 - Local mission partners are already seeing increased demand — food banks are stretched, funding is tight.
 - Our church can be a source of hope — by giving, donating food, volunteering, and reminding our neighbors they are not alone.
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How you can respond right now

1. Give Monetary Gifts

- Donate to our mission partners:
 - **Monument Crisis Center** – serving local families with food and resources.
 - **Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano** – distributing food throughout our region.

- Financial gifts help purchase bulk food, cover delivery costs, and meet emergency needs fast.

2. Donate Food

- Bring non-perishable food (canned goods (no glass), pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, etc.) and drop it **in the food barrels between the Ministry Center and the Oak Room.**
- All donations go directly to Monument Crisis Center and the Food Bank.
- Consider purchasing family-size or shelf-stable items that stretch a long way.

3. Volunteer

- If you'd like to **help deliver collected food** to our mission partners, we can always use more volunteers!
- It's a simple, hands-on way to serve and see the impact of our congregation's generosity.
- To sign up to volunteer at **Monument Crisis Center (MCC)**, please contact **Michelle Browning** at Michelle@lopc.org.
- **Starting in 2026**, we will also have **monthly LOPC Food Bank service dates** where members can serve together at the Food Bank.
- For more Food Bank workdays, please visit the Food Bank website: <https://volunteer.foodbankccs.org/>

4. Spread the Word

- Encourage your friends, neighbors, and small groups to join in giving and collecting food.
- Share the urgency: with SNAP benefits ending this weekend, now is the time to act