

# UCAR Gives Back

*Kathy Tedesco, 7/9/19*

Last week members of the 2019 UCAR Leadership Academy volunteered at the Community Food Share of Boulder and Broomfield Counties. The event was organized by Kathy Tedesco (CPAESS) as a team building exercise for their Leadership Academy Cohort, COBO (Cohort of Bike Owners), and as a desire to give back to the community. After researching several worthy volunteer opportunities, COBO members chose to support Community Food Share, a Feeding America food bank, which provides 24,000 meals per day to the local community. Community Food Share not only provides food directly to families, seniors, students, and others, they also serve as a hub – delivering millions of pounds of food a year to local food pantries to reach people in their communities.

COBO volunteers included Davide Del Vento (CISL), Travis Kuennen (HAO), Ryan May (UNIDATA), Kathy Tedesco (CPAESS), Randy Shalhamer (HR), and Jamie Wolff (RAL) representing various programs across UCAR & NCAR. All who participated agreed that the experience was rewarding and plan to continue engagement with Community Food Share in the future.



*UCAR Community Food Share volunteers (from left to right): Kathy Tedesco (CPAESS), Joana Blum (Denver Public Schools), Travis Kuennen (HAO), Randy Shalhamer (HR) and his daughters Salma and Isla, Davide Del Vento (CISL), Jamie Wolff (RAL) and her daughter Kaylynn. Not pictured: Ryan May (UNIDATA).*

It was especially gratifying to share this opportunity with the next generation of community conscious individuals. Our experience was enriched by exposing them to the need in our local area and inspiring them on what is possible through volunteerism. Randy said "I'm so happy I got to teach my girls what giving back to the community looks like!" One of the younger participants will actually be returning to Community Food Share next week to volunteer again.

## Community Foods Share

Community Food Share was created as a non-profit organization in 1981 with the mission to eliminate hunger in Boulder and Broomfield Counties through engagement, collaboration and leadership. By the end of 1981, after operating for only six months, Community Food Share had distributed 48,000 pounds of food. In January 2018, Community Food Share distributed 986,919 pounds, a record for monthly pounds distributed.

### Where Does the Food Come From?

**91%**

#### Donated Food

Most of our food is donated through food rescue, but we also receive it from local farms and community food drives

**5%**

#### Purchased Food

To supplement donations and meet the nutritional needs of those we serve, we leverage national and local relationships to purchase food at the lowest possible price

**4%**

#### Government Commodities

We receive some of our food through federal programs that are overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture

**FOOD RESCUE** — Community Food Share rescues safe, surplus food from going to waste so that it can instead help nourish those struggling with hunger. Retail grocers, farmers, producers, distributors, and foodservice operators donate food that is not profitable to sell, close-dated, overstock, seasonal, or cosmetically damaged.

We rescue **11 tons of food a day** that would otherwise go into landfills!

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### Where Does the Food Go?



70%

#### Partner Agency Distribution

Most of our food is distributed through a network of more than 40 local non-profit organizations.



30%

#### Direct Distribution

We also provide food directly to families, seniors, and other individuals in need through our onsite and mobile pantries.

There are many opportunities to volunteer and donate to Community Food Share including through food drives and Community Garden Donations. Community Garden Donations, in collaboration with [Earth's Table](#), collects any size donations of fruit, vegetables, and herbs from volunteer's home gardens.

For more information and ways to donate go to: [www.communityfoodshare.org](http://www.communityfoodshare.org) or please contact

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