



FOREVER HOME FUND

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Growing to Meet the Need



FEEDING
NORTHEAST FLORIDA

J. WAYNE & DELORES BA



A New Home For A Better Tomorrow



Since our inception in 2014, Feeding Northeast Florida has worked tirelessly to rescue high-quality food and deliver it to those in need. We are currently facing immense challenges as our legacy facility limits our ability to procure, store, and distribute food to the over 260,000 food-insecure neighbors in our service area.

We witness the impact of our work on individuals and families daily. To those who must choose between paying for food or medicine or skipping meals so their children can eat, our food pantries and programs extend beyond the dinner table. Our education, advocacy, and resources create a ripple effect of positive change throughout the community.

Our new warehouse will facilitate an even greater impact. Shedding space and system limitations will enable us to reach more people in need and further strengthen lives and communities.

The complex logistics of food distribution require coordination of refrigerated trucks, skilled staff, warehouses, cold storage facilities, and a network of food pantries. Feeding Northeast Florida excels in managing these complexities. However, our current facility prohibits us from achieving the scale we need.

Today, we serve more families struggling with hunger than ever before, but we can serve more. With your support, we can give families struggling with hunger a taste of hope and turn the despair of an empty stomach into the comfort of a home-cooked meal.

Meet Ivana

Ivana's journey as a nurse at an affordable care clinic is deeply intertwined with her role as a mother. When she found out she was pregnant while in nursing school, Ivana faced a daunting challenge. "I was in survival mode. I didn't have access to any resources."

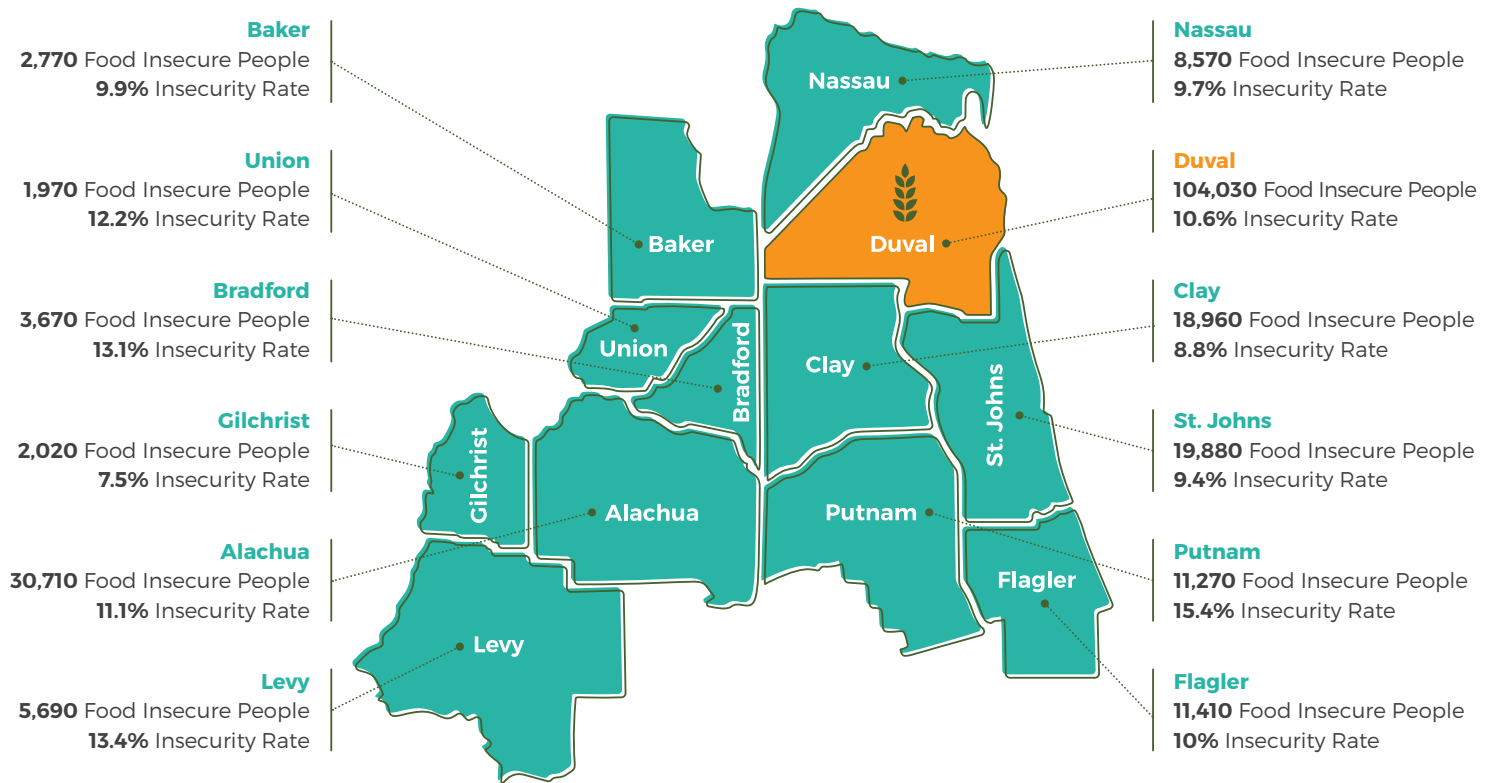
Ivana knew that providing healthy meals was vital for her and her daughter's health, so she found a local food pantry. "I was worried about my ability to pay for nursing school, keep my grades up, and provide for myself and my daughter." The assistance she received from the food pantries not only helped her graduate but also instilled in her a deep gratitude for the support she received when she needed it most.

Now, as a nurse, Ivana channels that gratitude into her work, particularly when connecting cancer patients with healthy food. "I sometimes have patients who have never needed help before but are now facing a cancer diagnosis, so they can't work. The burden of paying for food and the cancer treatment they need is written all over their faces." She understands the impact of providing more than just medical care; it's about offering hope and support, just as she received during her own time of need.

"People are so thankful when you give them food," she notes. "Their eyes well up, and they hug you. You can just see how much it means to them. It's obvious... food is love."



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Hunger Knows No Boundaries

Data courtesy of Feeding America's Map The Meal Gap, 2021

It touches every community in the US. Locally, **more than 260,000 people face the daily realities of hunger**. That means that **1 in 10 adults and 1 in 7 children in North Florida** often **worry about their next meal.**

With your support, we have made significant strides over the last decade in food distribution, advocacy work, nutrition

education, and programming. **In 2023, we distributed over 34.6 million pounds of food** - our highest ever for a single calendar year, surpassing the record need during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our success yesterday means nothing to the person who will be hungry tomorrow.

**People facing
hunger are at
the center of
all we do.**

Our mission is to use food as a catalyst to strengthen lives and communities. Our vision is a healthy, hunger-free community. Our holistic approach to address hunger: Nourishment, Education, Health, Advocacy.





We Need Your Help.

Operating in our original leased space from 2014, we now find ourselves severely constrained by space and system limitations. We can no longer adequately handle the increase in healthy, perishable foods that require refrigeration and prompt distribution. A myriad of process and storage hurdles cause daily delays and setbacks that affect our ability to get fresh food into the hands of the people who need it.

Luckily, these are entirely solvable limitations.

The Future Is Bright.

With your help, we will transform how we function. This new facility is a game-changer, expanding our square footage from 60,000 to over 110,000 sqft. This expansion brings increased efficiency, lower costs, and enhanced capabilities to our operations.

Our consolidated location will unite staff, food, logistics, and operations under one roof, facilitating future growth and enabling us to serve more and do better.

Forever Home Site Plan

We're consolidating two disconnected warehouses, multiple cold storage trailers, and a temporary office trailer into a modern, centralized community distribution center. This will lead to permanent improvements, including:



“Everyone
deserves
the opportunity
to not just live,
but **to thrive.**”

- A Doubling our cold storage capacity to provide more fresh produce and healthy foods:** We're committed to being a reliable resource for healthy food and nutrition education. This expansion will allow us to store more fresh produce, dairy, and meat.
- B Removing limitations to accepting large food donations:** Our current space is small and inefficient for distribution. When our space is full we have to turn away good food because we simply don't have space for it.

- B Simplifying and managing our receiving and distribution system:** Our current facilities are overcrowded, requiring additional hours and resources for inventory and food safety management. The new facility will implement state-of-the-art inventory management systems to automate much of our current manual work.

- C Offering a wider variety of food to hunger-relief partners and programs:** The new facility will triple the space available for our food pantry partners to select culturally appropriate and desired foods for the families they serve.

- D Facilitating future growth with a commercial kitchen and culinary center:** This facility will expand possibilities for events and education, and create growth opportunities for programs like home-delivered meals, food processing, cooking classes, and repurposing large food donations.

- E Increasing volunteer group capacity by 400%:** Hosting more volunteers means we can sort, inspect, package, and distribute food more quickly, getting it into homes and onto dinner tables faster.

- F Providing a space for learning and connecting with hunger-relief work:** Our Event + Education Center will host corporate events, community groups, seminars, and fundraising events to raise awareness and create lasting change in solving hunger.

“The location’s proximity to major highways ensures efficient daily trips to our 12-county service area.”

Preserving History

We want to be where we are most needed.

When choosing a site for our project, we prioritized staying in the 32254 area to serve the Northwest neighborhood, a significant food desert. Our research-led approach ensures we’re increasing access to healthy food in the areas with the highest food insecurity rates. The location’s proximity to major highways ensures efficient daily trips to our 12-county service area. Rather than constructing a new building, we’ve opted to renovate a 1950s window manufacturing facility, preserving its character and function while investing in the community we serve.



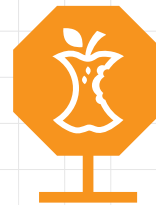
Building A Greener Future

We are committed to sustainability.

We are actively working on ways to decrease both our carbon footprint and our energy bills, recognizing the importance of being good stewards of every dollar we receive. Our efforts include:

- Using solar energy to offset cooler and freezer energy use
- Upgrading to energy-efficient windows and doors
- Installing motion-sensor lights
- Improving the roof system to reduce energy consumption
- Installing commercial air purification systems to extend the life of fresh produce
- Creating a teaching garden with 12 raised beds, a greenhouse, and fruit trees for education and events

Our dedication to sustainability extends beyond our facility. Each year, our current initiatives prevent food waste in the community from retail partners, distributors, and in homes with the help of our nutrition education programs. Our efforts have led to the prevention of over 218 million pounds of food waste and the reduction of 828 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts are equivalent to removing over 81,646 cars from the road.



Prevention
Of Over

218
MILLION
LBS.

Of Food Waste

Reduction Of

828
MILLION
LBS.

Of Greenhouse
Gas Emissions





“This food means life to me. It means comfort, it means safety.”

- Giovanna Gerio

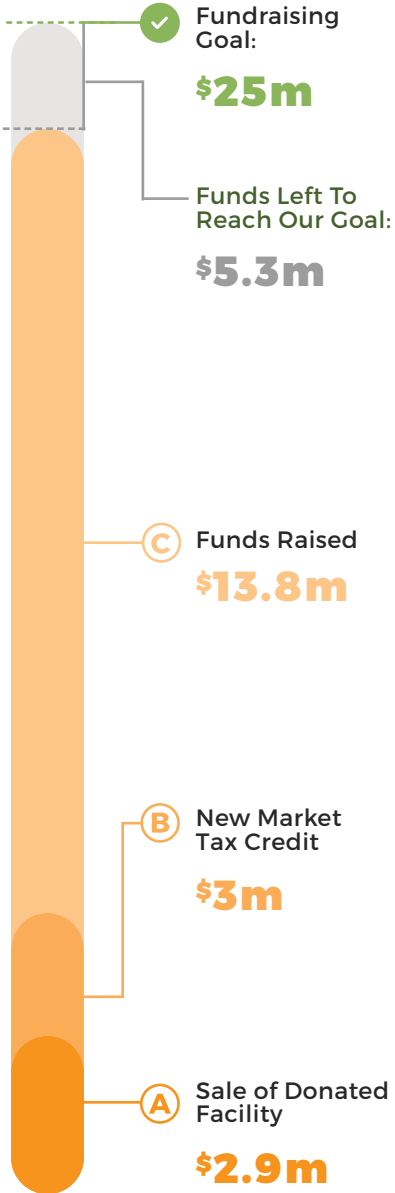
A Bold Goal To Address Hunger

We are close to realizing our fundraising goal, having secured grants, a New Market Tax Credit, profits from the sale of an owned warehouse, and significant support from members of our community. With a total campaign goal of \$25m, we are only 20% away from making this vision a reality. We now turn to you- the people, foundations, and businesses who believe in the mission of Feeding Northeast Florida - and ask for your generous engagement with our Forever Home Fund.

This expansion is about more than a building; it's about creating meaningful impact in the lives of individuals, children, seniors, and veterans in our community.

Your support ensures that we can say “yes” to opportunities that were once out of reach. You are providing a lifeline to our community, demonstrating the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to not just live, but to thrive.





Help Us Reach Our Goal
Help Us Fight Hunger.



Scan QR Code Or Visit:

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The need in our community continues to grow, and we're committed to increasing our efforts to meet that need. While the best news we could ever hear is that our services are no longer needed, that's unfortunately not the case. This new facility will bridge the gap in the lives of those facing food insecurity today. **Your generosity is the catalyst for change.** We're incredibly grateful to exist in a community that cares deeply about the needs of others. **We truly could not make this new warehouse possible without you, and we thank you for your commitment to our work today and our vision for tomorrow.**

- Susan King, President and CEO



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