



# 2023 Annual Report

January 2024

<https://foodbanklakeside.org/>



# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

At FoodBank Lakeside, we are dedicated to continuous improvement to ensure our operations and processes are effective and efficient. The Leadership Team is committed to fostering a culture of collaboration and strategic planning to uphold our standard of excellence. In 2023, notable advancements were achieved in each of our eight key focus areas:

1) **Operations-** The quality and quantity of despensas have seen improvement, delivery schedules have been adjusted to match our capacity, and standardization in ordering and purchasing for despensas and community kitchens ensures consistency in pricing and volume.

2) **Partnerships/Community Outreach-** In addition to the provision of despensas in seven communities, FoodBank Lakeside broadened our network of community-based partnerships in 2023:

Proyecto Niños de San Antonio – A Community Kitchen in San Antonio Tlayacapan, and the Ajijic DIF (Desarrollo Integral de la Familia).

In the San Antonio Community Kitchen, dedicated Mexican volunteers prepare and serve meals to 50 to 70 elderly or disabled individuals five days a week. Additionally, the kitchen plays a vital role in supporting Ajijic DIF by providing cooked meals five days a week to around 50 people who are unable to cook for themselves.

Recognizing the importance of this initiative, FoodBank Lakeside has expanded its commitment to Proyecto Niños de San Antonio, increasing its monthly support from the provision of one despensa to

\$5,000 MXN. This enhancement aims to broaden the program's coverage to benefit both San Antonio and Ajijic communities.

Comedor de Banco de La Ribera – A Community Kitchen in San Juan Tecamatlán, just east of Chapala. Serving 62 children with a hot lunch twice a week, the program also welcomes adults on Saturdays.

FoodBank Lakeside played a crucial role in relaunching this program, offering financial support of \$2,200 MXN per week, as well as assisting with food ordering and shopping. FoodBank Lakeside had previously provided essential appliances, including a stove, refrigerator, and freezer.

CreSer – Kids Kitchens – Five kitchens are dedicated to providing a daily mid-day meal to over 300 children in Mezcala and San Pedro Itzican. The program extends its support by providing weekly despensas to 130 families with members on dialysis, as well as the elderly and less abled. In a testament to our commitment, FoodBank Lakeside has increased its financial support to Kids Kitchens from \$24,000 MXN to \$28,000 MXN per week.



# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

(CONTINUED)

### 3) Donor Management/Fundraising-

To enhance donor relationships, we introduced a new strategy involving small gatherings with existing donors, gathering feedback and insights to strengthen our mission. The implementation of data analytics aims to better understand and engage our donors, creating an improved donor experience.

### 4) Volunteer Management-

Volunteers are the heart of FoodBank Lakeside, and our management approach continues to evolve. Direct individual outreach, refined tracking of volunteer profiles, and a comprehensive jobs list for prospective volunteer needs contribute to ongoing improvement.

### 5) Marketing-

In collaboration with the Fundraising Team and dedicated new volunteers, the Marketing Team embodies organizational collaboration. Their efforts amplify our mission, solicit donations, and attract volunteers and supporters.

6) **Strategic Planning-** a vision statement was created and adopted this year: “FoodBank Lakeside envisions a Lakeside community that works together at every level to ensure sustainable food security for all.” Read on for specific strategic goals for the year ahead.

7) **Finance-**read on for more details on the financial picture of FoodBank Lakeside. A significant highlight of 2023 was the decision to pursue Mexican nonprofit status, with details on the application process researched and implemented.

8) **Administration-**the backbone of the organization ensures effective internal communication with a written record of the weekly team meetings. The admin team added team leader accountability through weekly project and tasks monitoring. Picking up all the pieces seems to be the primary job description, and this is performed better than ever as time goes on.



*2024 Strategic Plan*

# LOOKING AHEAD



## Our Vision

FoodBank Lakeside envisions a Lakeside community that works together at every level to ensure sustainable food security for all.

## Our Mission

FoodBank Lakeside works to relieve the chronic food poverty of our most disadvantaged neighbors, collaborating with donors, volunteers, businesses, and community organizations to ease suffering and offer the hope of a brighter future throughout the Lakeside Community.

## Our Core Values

- **Respect and Kindness.** We treat all our recipients, donors and volunteers with equality, dignity, and kindness.
- **Transparency and Accountability.** We provide full transparency in all our operations, including the criteria we use to select recipients and distribute products.
- **Collaboration.** We value and honor input from our community at large, our donors, our volunteers and the families who benefit from our services.

*2024 Strategic Plan*

# LOOKING AHEAD

(CONTINUED)



Demonstrating our dedication to continuous improvement and upholding a standard of excellence, the FoodBank Lakeside Leadership Team is actively involved in a systematic exploration of strategies to propel our mission forward. Four key strategies have been pinpointed as top priorities for 2024. The Leadership Team convenes monthly to assess and refine the strategic plan, presently focusing on formulating S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) goals for each identified strategy.



## ONE Night = ONE Month

The price of an average dinner out for you...  
is equal to 1 month of food for Pepe & family\*



Funding thousands of meals per month to hungry kids, our elderly, and people with disabilities who live in food poverty. Please help our community eat tonight.

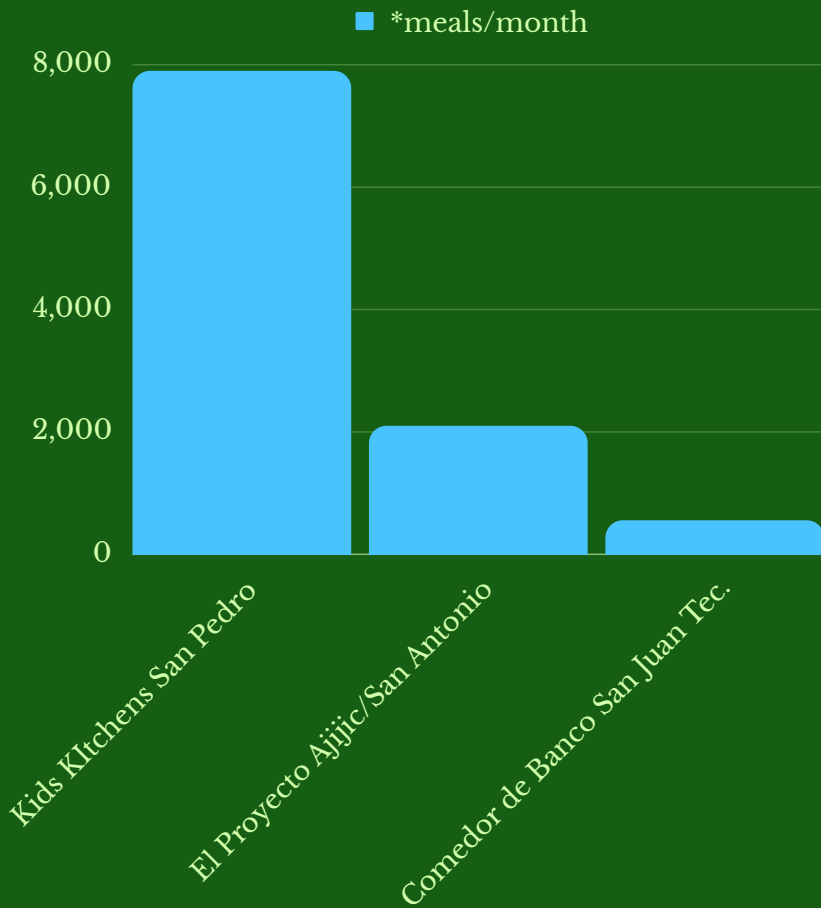
\* Family of four. All volunteer organization. Donations are tax deductible.

## 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

- Strengthen the Partnership with CreSer
- Partnership and Community Collaboration
- Relationship Development with Donors
- Organizational Development

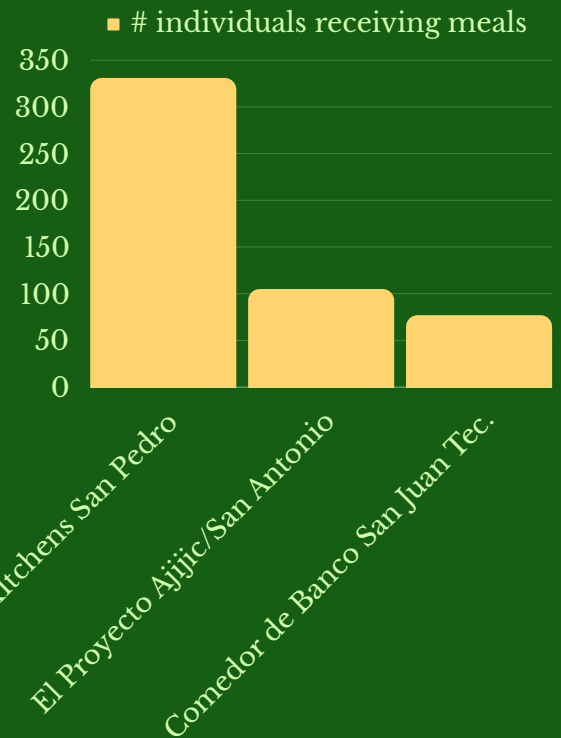
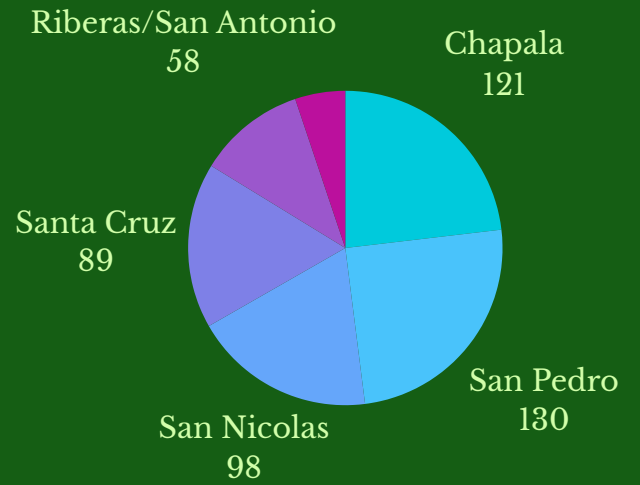
2023

# NUMBERS SERVED



hover over bars for actual numbers

# # Monthly Despensas



FoodBank Lakeside has significantly enhanced its tracking and accounting processes for the services offered in 2023. Standardization of despensas ensures uniform quality and quantity across all communities, fostering consistency in food costs. In 2023, the number of families receiving despensas underwent changes through a thorough review and evaluation of eligibility criteria. Many individuals, whose circumstances had evolved since the onset of the pandemic, were fortunately able to transition off the recipient list. This positive development enabled the expansion of support to the three community kitchen programs.

Thanks to your support, FoodBank Lakeside now delivers 10,556 meals to 513 individuals monthly and distributes 580 despensas to an additional 580 families each month.

*A Year's Overview*

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In September 2022, the monthly donation revenue averaged \$150,000 MXN, while monthly expenditures for despensas and other food costs amounted to around \$250,000 MXN. Several significant factors contributed to this challenging situation.

By November 2022, food costs had risen by an average of 17%. Additionally, the exchange rate between dollars and pesos began declining in early 2023, reaching \$16.68 MXN to \$1 USD by the end of July 2023, instead of the previous \$20 MXN to the dollar. This affected the value of donations received in dollars, as expenses continued to be paid in pesos. The decreasing exchange rate also impacted donors' ability to contribute to charity, as their expenses unexpectedly rose.

While there were sufficient funds in the bank to cover the shortfall between revenue and expenses for a few more months, the end of 2022 marked the need for tough decisions. The Leadership Team recognized the unsustainable nature of the current model and saw the impending financial reality as a catalyst to intensify fundraising efforts and scrutinize outgoing expenditures for potential cost reductions.

# Thank You



The Fundraising Team developed a comprehensive strategy to boost ongoing donations. As of December 2023, monthly donation revenue has increased to an average of \$187,000 MXN, a 25% rise, thanks to our generous donors. Monthly expenses have slightly decreased due to operational streamlining and standardization, totaling approximately \$216,000, reflecting a 16% reduction.

While our financial position has significantly improved, we still operate at a monthly deficit of \$29,000 MXN.

Your support can make a difference! [Click here](#) to establish a monthly donation and ensure uninterrupted services.



"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Mother Teresa



"Hunger is not a problem. It is an obscenity. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank



"When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, 'Now is that political, or social?' He said, 'I feed you.' Because the good news to a hungry person is bread." Desmond Tutu



"If you want to eliminate hunger, everybody has to be involved." Bono

