

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

(filling in
the blanks)



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FILLING IN THE BLANKS - A YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

Thank you for your support of Filling in the Blanks! We wanted to take this opportunity to share what we have been able to accomplish together this past year.

We're so grateful for the impact we've made together — thanks to your support. In 2024, Filling in the Blanks continued to grow, reaching more children and families than ever before. This was only possible because of you—our dedicated donors, volunteers, and community partners.

Childhood food insecurity remains a pressing issue, but thanks to your unwavering support, we were able to provide over ONE Million weekend meals, expand our Fresh Food on the Move mobile pantry, and build meaningful partnerships that bring health and wellness services directly to those who need it most. Each meal we provide is more than just food—it's hope, security, and a step toward a brighter future for the children we serve.

This year also marked exciting new milestones. Our team worked tirelessly to expand our reach to serve every school in Bridgeport, Norwalk and Stamford, added a Bridgeport site to our Fresh Food on the Move Mobile Pantry, and partnered with UCONN Stamford's on Campus Pantry. We have seen firsthand the difference that consistent, nutritious meals make in the lives of children and their families, and we are more committed than ever to expanding our reach.

Looking ahead, we know there is still much work to do. The need continues to grow, and with your continued support, we will rise to meet it. Together, we can fill in the blanks for even more children in 2025 and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Your generosity fuels our mission, and we are deeply grateful to have you by our side.

With Gratitude,



Shawnee Knight, Co-Director



Tina Kramer, Co-Director



Where We Served

PRE-SCHOOLS

Brewster

Brewster Pre-K

Bridgeport

Adam J. Lewis

Bright Giggles Learning Center

Classical Studies Magnet

Cesar Batalla

Discovery Magnet

Hall Neighborhood House

New Beginnings Family Academy

Precious Memories

Roosevelt School

Danbury

AaBbCc Early Learning Center

Action Early Learning Center

Danbury School Readiness

Mill Ridge Primary PreK

Head Start Danbury

Greenwich

Family Centers of Greenwich

Armstrong Court

Gateway

Grauer

Warburg

Norwalk

Greater Norwalk Head Start

- Ben Franklin

- Nathan Ely

Family and Children's Ellsworth

Agency ASPIRE

Growing Seeds

Norwalk Early Childhood Center

Odyssey

Room to Grow

Stepping Stones ELLI

Stamford

Apples Early Child

Children's Learning Centers

- Franklin

- Lockwood

- Maple

- Palmer Hill

- Westover

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Brewster

John. F Kennedy

H.H. Wells

Bridgeport

Achievement First

Black Rock

Beardsley

Bridgeport Learning Center K-12

Bryant

Classical Studies Magnet

Claytor Magnet

Curial

Edison

Geraldine Johnson

Hall Elementary

High Horizons Magnet

Hallen

John Winthrop

Luis Munoz Marin

Madison

Park City Magnet

PL Dunbar

Skane

Read

Thomas Hooker

Waltersville

Wilbur Cross

Danbury

Ellsworth

Great Plain

Hayestown

King Street

Morris Street

South Street

Shelter Rock

Stadley Rough

Park Avenue

Pembroke

Darien

Royal

Hindley

Tokeneke

Fairfield

Stratfield

Greenwich

Hamilton Avenue

Hubbard Day

Julian Curtiss

New Lebanon

New Cannan

East

South

West

New York

Bedford Hills

Mt. Kisco

Norwalk

Brookside

Cranbury

Columbus

Concord

Fox Run

Jefferson

Kendall

Marvin

Naramake

Rowayton

Silvermine

Sono

Tracey

Wolfpit

Stamford

Davenport Ridge

Hart

Julia A. Stark

KT Murphy

Newfield

Northeast

Rogers International

Roxbury

Stillmeadow

Strawberry Hill

Springdale

Stamford Charter School

for Excellence

Toquam

Waterside

Westover

Stratford

Franklin Elementary

Westport

Coleytown

Greens Farms

Kings Highway

Long Lots

Saugatuck

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Brewster

CV Starr Intermediate

Bridgeport

Achievement 1st

Barnum

Blackham

Cesar Batalla

Multicultural Magnet

Danbury

Broadview

Rigers Park

Westside

Darien

Middlesex

Fairfield

Covenant

Tomlinson

New Canaan

Saxe

New York

Fox Lane

Norwalk

Nathan Hale

Ponus Ridge

Roton

West Rocks

Stamford

Cloonan

Dolan

Rippowan

Scofield Magnet

Turn of the River

Westport

Coleytown

Bedford

Where We Served

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bridgeport

Bassik
Bullard-Havens Tech
Central
Fairchild Wheeler
Harding
Military Academy
Tisdale

Darien

Darien High School

Fairfield

Fairfield Ward
Walter Fitz

Greenwich

Greenwich
Windrose

New Canaan

New Canaan High School

Norwalk

Brien McMahon
Norwalk High
Future Ready
Norwalk HS Next Steps
PTECH
Global Studies

Stamford

AITE
SPS Anchor
Stamford
Westhill

Westport

Staples

CAMPS

Greenwich

Horizons at Brunswick

Norwalk

Odyssey Pre-School Camp
Stepping Stones Pre-School Camp
Grassroots Tennis Summer Camp
Family and Children's Agency Carver Center

Stamford

Stamford Boys and Girls Club
Chester Addison Community Center
The Yearwood Center

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Danbury

Grassroots Academy

Greenwich

Greenwich Boys and Girls Club

Norwalk

Colonial Village Community Center
Family and Children's Agency/ASPIRE
Grassroots Tennis
Norwalk Housing Authority
Youth Business Initiative

Stamford

Future Five

PARTNER AGENCIES

Bridgeport

Mercy Learning Center
The Color A Positive Thought

Darien

Darien Town Hall

Greenwich

Meals on Wheels
Jewish Family Services

Norwalk

Senior Umbrella
Norwalk Housing Authority
Carver Center
Norwalk PS State Dining Services
Horizons at Ct State Norwalk

New Canaan

New Canaan Food Pantry

Westport

Westport Town Hall

**In 2024 we served 186 schools and
28 after school programs**

**FITB's programs are at every school in
Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford**



Meals We Served

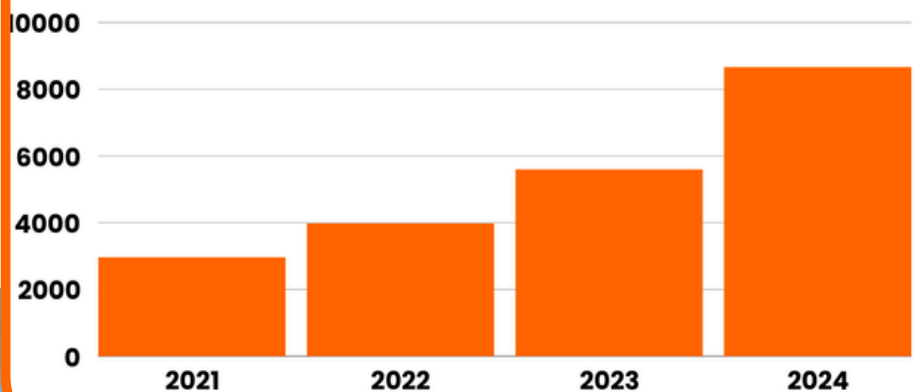
While children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch programs, their need extends beyond school hours – to weekends, holidays, and summer months. Families struggling to feed their kids often forgo other basic needs to close the gap.

Since 2013 we have provided children in need with easy-to-prepare, non-perishable, and nutritious food for the weekend. Not just during the school year, but all summer, too.

We are intentional about the food we provide, and rotate through three different menus to ensure variety.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED SINCE 2021

INCREASE OF 191% IN 4 YEARS.



Our Impact

Families and teachers have seen our impact on children.

77%

of families say the whole family benefitted from the weekend meal bag

81%

of families say the weekend meal bag decreased stress in the household

52%

of teachers reported a decrease in hunger symptoms amongst their students



Fresh Food on the Move Mobile Pantry

The Fresh Food on the Move Mobile Pantry launched in October of 2023. It complements the weekend meal program, providing fresh fruits and vegetables, grains, proteins, dairy products, and hygiene items.

Each month, the Mobile Pantry rolls into **Norwalk, Stamford, and now Bridgeport**, bringing fresh, nutritious food straight to the heart of local neighborhoods. By showing up where families live, the program fuels healthier meals and makes it easier than ever to access the wholesome options everyone deserves.

The mobile pantry goes beyond providing quality food—**it's a trusted source for nourishment and support**, serving as a community hub that offers health and wellness services for the entire family.

In 2024, our Fresh Food on the Move Mobile Pantry distributed 698,000 pounds of fresh food to 12,150 families.



Community Partners at the Mobile Pantry

Family Services

Family Centers
Family and Children's Agency
Family Center Mothers for Others
Norwalk ACTS
The Child Guidance Center of Southern CT
Toys for Tots

Health and Wellness

Community Health Center
HUSKY Dental
HUSKY Insurance
Liberation Program
Norwalk Health Department
Stamford Health
United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut

Housing

Eversource
Stamford Fire Department

Immigration

Building One Community
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants

Legal Services

CT Legal Services



“While working at their weekend mobile food pantry distributions, we handed out more than 115,000 diapers and 3,000 packages of wipes in 2024. Their distribution network and mobile pantries not only provide efficient and effective ways to reach families where they need help, but they also strengthen our communities and build ties among organizations, families, volunteers and neighbors. We are so grateful for Filling in the Blanks”

- Karen Giannuzzi Founder Mothers for Others

Launch of the UCONN Stamford Partnership

In September of 2024, Filling in the Blanks partnered with Husky Harvest Food Pantry at UCONN Stamford to ensure students have access to much needed nutrition.

A UCONN student survey found 38% of students faced food insecurity, while about 30% reported skipping meals to save money across each campus.

90 students signed up in the first month. Donate today to support this exciting new partnership and our commitment to providing \$30,000 of food for 2024, 2025, and 2026.

“Partnering with Filling in the Blanks has created an opportunity for our students to significantly help ease their worries about food insecurity. The ability for them to come into the Stamford Husky Harvest and “shop” for food items to help support them in an already stressful time in their lives, gives them peace of mind knowing they’ll be able to eat that week.”

- Rosa Rizzo, UCONN University Specialist, Campus Operations



Volunteer Impact



At FITB, we rely not only on generous donations but also the dedication of thousands of volunteers who give their time, energy, and talents to support our mission.



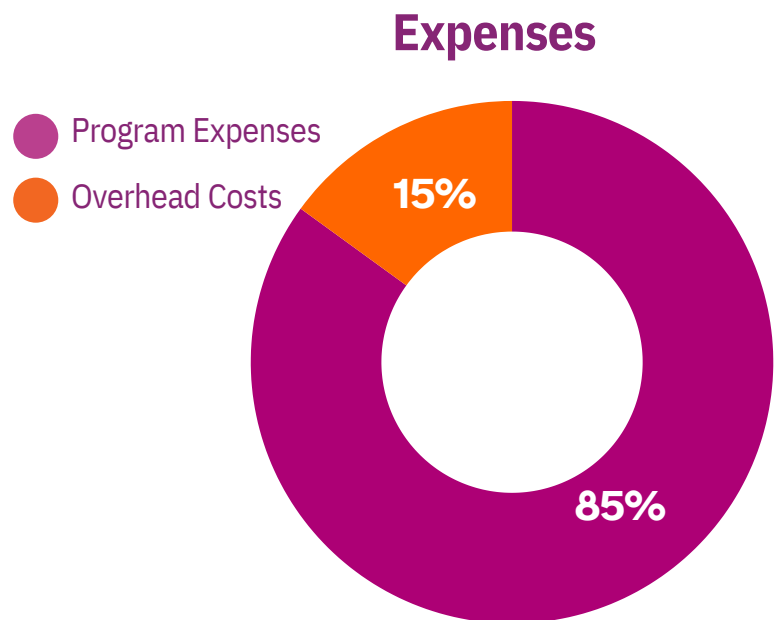
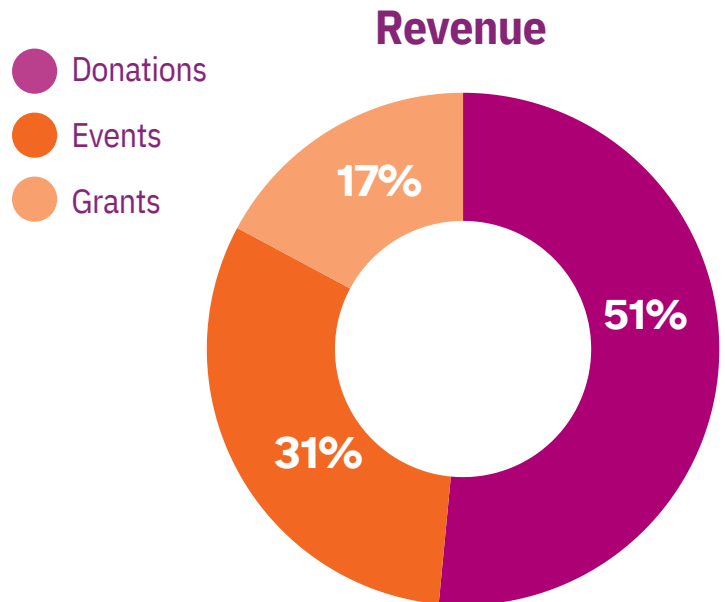
Whether packing weekend meal bags, distributing food at our mobile pantry, or serving on our leadership committee, their efforts help provide nutritious meals to children facing food insecurity.

In 2024 FITB welcomed over 13,000 volunteers, who collectively logged 16,000 hours of service.



Expenses and Revenue

Our largest expense, by far, is our food program. We are funded primarily by individual donors, corporate sponsors and grants.



Filling in the Blanks Purchases 99% of our food delivered
In 2024 that equaled just over \$2M

Ways to Give

Join us in fighting childhood hunger

This last year was tough, but our community is tougher.

With your help, families across CT and NY have felt immediate relief from hunger as we expanded our reach to new public schools. Food insecurity takes a physical, mental, and emotional toll, and your support helps kids feel like kids again.

Volunteer Opportunities

volunteer@fillingintheblanks.org

Giving

fillingintheblanks.org/give

Join us, fight childhood hunger, and bring relief to these families that need us now.

“First, thank you for the countless hours assembling and carefully delivering these bags week after week. Our family of 10 greatly appreciates all your hard work and sacrifice. Second, keep up the great and amazing work. You are seen and valued and without you my family would struggle to eat over the weekends.” - Family in our Program



Our Partners

Ducera

**The Harold W. McGraw, Jr.
Foundation**



J5consulting



SGT SILVER GOLUB
& TEITELL LLP



Campbell's
SNACKS

JOY in
childhood
FOUNDATION

BRINGING JOY TO SICK AND HUNGRY KIDS



baskinBRobbins

CMI + DUNKIN'
CAIN MANAGEMENT INC.

DCG Digital
Currency
Group


Viking
Global Foundation

 **CellMark**

Ruth Brown Foundation

Who We Are

Our Founders

Shawnee Knight
Co-President/Co-Founder

Tina Kramer
Co-President/Co-Founder

Our Team

Jen Badalamenti
Administrative Assistant

Brenda Sanatar
Bookkeeper

Luca Palombo
Director of Operations

Kevin Demmo
Warehouse Manager

Paola Arango
Family and Community
Engagement Coordinator

Matt Knight
Assistant Director of
Operations

Jennifer Moran
Special Events
Coordinator

Jenn Mason
Director of Development

Sidney Hayes
Delivery Driver

William Restrepo
Delivery Driver

Dave Lawrence
Delivery Driver

Glenn Spearman
Delivery Driver

Our Board

Michael Kramer
Board Chair

Laura Jordan
Director

Douglas Knight
Director

Thomas Conheeney
Director

Laura Waitz
Director

Chris LaSusa
Director

Kristin Thomas
Director

Michael Johnson
Director

Sue Mirza
Director

Our Leadership Team

Roseann Conheeney
Holiday Backpack Chair

Kristin Thomas
Grant Writer

Caryn Kelly
Community Outreach

Michele Casey
Volunteer Coordinator

Jera Flood
Communications and
Public Relations Specialist

Kara Bonitatibus
Government Relations Specialist and
Volunteer Coordinator

Kevin Kaster
Food Procurement Specialist





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