Fact Sheet | Rotary and The Global FoodBanking Network

Partnership background

Rotary's service partnership with The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN) provides opportunities to work together to create and support food banks around the world.

Food banking is a proven solution to two critical global problems: world hunger and food waste. There is enough food to feed the world, but one-third of it is wasted, never nourishing a hungry person. Food banks rescue perfectly edible, nutritious, nonsalable surplus food before it is wasted and redistribute it to feed hungry people.

This food comes from a number of sources, including food manufacturers, grocery stores, restaurants, and farms. In most countries, food banks distribute food through a network of community agencies, including school feeding programs, food pantries, soup kitchens, AIDS and tuberculosis hospices, elderly care facilities, orphanages, and nongovernmental organizations that provide food to the hungry.

In order for individuals and communities to thrive, food is essential. Food banks nourish individuals, support communities, and protect the environment.

About the Global FoodBanking Network

The Global FoodBanking Network is a global not-for-profit organization dedicated to alleviating world hunger through food banking. GFN creates, supports, and strengthens food banks and food bank networks around the world. GFN currently supports existing and developing food banks and national food bank networks in more than 25 countries, home to more than one-third of the world's nearly 1 billion undernourished people.

The global-local approach: Through its network, GFN makes food banking efficient on a global scale. Working with businesses, service and faith-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and others, it finds socially responsible and economically effective ways to utilize resources in support of food banking.

How can my Rotary club or district get involved?

Rotary encourages clubs and districts to:

- Support an existing food bank:
  - organize food collection drives
  - organize a fundraiser within your community
  - sponsor trucks for distribution of food
  - donate food and grocery products, equipment, and services to a food bank
  - identify recipients in need of food
  - distribute food or meals
- Assist in creating a needed food bank by:
  - coordinating introductions and support between GFN and Rotary leaders in cities where start-up activities are taking place
  - connecting food banks with local resources, governments, and partners

- Raise awareness: cover community hunger issues in a meeting or conference agenda and brainstorm ways to get involved.
- Distribute food to hungry children through the school feeding programs.
- Offer professional expertise to food banking organizations.
- Join the board of directors of a local food bank.
- Participate in presentations and networking at the Food Bank Leadership Institute, the annual global institute held by GFN to provide training for new and developing food bank leaders. The institute is a cornerstone program in GFN's efforts to strengthen and support existing food banks and to promote the development of new food banks to reduce global hunger.
- Learn more about global hunger and how to promote food banking around the world at www.foodbanking.org.
- Share food banking projects on Rotary Showcase or email them to rotary.service@rotary.org. Success stories may be used as model projects on Rotary's website or in its publications.

Additional Resources

Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects (605A)

Community Assessment Tools (605C)

GFN's Knowledge Center and Video Library

Join the Global Fight Against Hunger and Malnutrition (recorded webinar)

Contact information

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