



NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS



IMPACT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

2,376,501

Total pounds of food distributed

WELCOME MARI JO!

Colleagues and friends:

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023.

As you know, our past president, Denise Santos recently retired, and I now have the privilege of working with our team to continue her legacy: an operation up to par with the best banks in the Feeding America network. Our team's pride in our operation is evident every time we receive visitors.

For 34 years, through emergencies, natural disasters, and our ongoing work to address the needs of our most vulnerable populations, Banco de Alimentos has remained steadfast in its mission to eradicate hunger in Puerto Rico. Thanks to you, our donors, sponsors, volunteers, our Board of Directors, and our member organizations, we have become the first line of defense in the fight against food insecurity on the island.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we know there is still much to be done. With a re-designed and tightly-run operation, we are ready to grow into new areas that will help us transform Puerto Rico's food insecurity landscape.

Over 145 member organizations are our extended hands across the island addressing the needs in their communities. Our goal for 2023 is to ensure continuous service in all 78 municipalities, especially in remote communities where access to essential resources is limited.

We will expand our digital and integrated operations, leveraging technology to increase efficiency and expand services. Technology will also allow us to better understand our neighbor's needs so that we can better focus our programs.

As part of our 35th anniversary, we will launch marketing efforts to ensure that every household knows about our work, how we can assist in times of need, and how their support can help us achieve our mission of a hunger-free Puerto Rico.



We currently rescue over 7 million pounds of food that would otherwise end up in landfills, but this is just the beginning of what is possible. We are already exploring new opportunities and strengthening our ties with the local food industry to increase our rescued volume and thus our distribution capacity.

Beyond our ongoing food rescue operation, we will develop new agriculture and labor development programs, so that our neighbors can move out of food dependency into self-sufficiency. If we want to solve the food insecurity problem in Puerto Rico, we must be part of the root-cause solution. As we hear so often in our Feeding America network: "Food for today, food for tomorrow, food for a lifetime".

A career in marketing and management in private and non-profit organizations and the public sector has now given me the opportunity to put my experience to the service of those who need it most. For the past 6 months, I've had the privilege of working with our operations staff, understanding the challenges of managing a food bank. Few times in my career have I seen a team more committed to their cause.

Thank you for welcoming me to your home, which is now mine. I am sure that together we will continue to establish the Banco de Alimentos as Puerto Rico's pantry.

For those I have not met in person yet, I look forward to meeting you soon. Please feel free to reach out if you need our support in ensuring that "No One Is Ever Left Hungry".

Always,

Mari Jo



BOXLUNCH AND THE FOOD BANK OF PUERTO RICO

We have a new partner! Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico participated in the opening of the new BoxLunch store at the Puerto Rico Premium Outlets in Barceloneta. When you donate your change during your purchase, you will be helping to deliver food to people in need in Puerto Rico. Visit the stores located at Puerto Rico Premium Outlets and Plaza Las Americas.

Thank you BoxLunch for joining our cause!



WIPR INTERVIEW

We continue to support our older adults.

"There is no better definition of love than giving to others", concluded our interview with Pastor Roig in the "Somos Uno" radio program at WIPR 940 AM, in which we had the opportunity to talk about our work with children and the elderly together with various non-profit organizations.

Thank you WIPR 940 radio for the very special interview on Valentine's Day.



REBEKAH MCMURRAIN VISIT

To address food insecurity with dignity and intention, it is important to know our local food needs and preferences.

This month we received a visit from Rebekah McMurrain, Director of Food and Agriculture Initiatives at Feeding America. She was able to visit member organizations and retail industry facilities to learn first-hand about the diet and needs of Puerto Ricans. All this, to develop agreements and initiatives that allow us greater access to agricultural products that are available in through our network of Feeding America Food Banks. We also explored new ways to support local agriculture and increase the availability of fresh products within our communities.

Thank you #FeedingAmerica for your support always!

COLABORATIONS



Alejandro Gil, comedian and entertainer

MASTERCARD CAMPAIGN

Thank you Mastercard, Plaza Las Américas, Plaza del Caribe, and Dynamics Payments, for supporting our work at Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico. The campaign matched 100% of the donations made to the Bank through Mastercard.

We also want to thank Chef Edgardo León, Come con Juan, Alejandro Gil, Borilicious, Danyeshka Hernández, The Pecking Order and Houzze P.R., for helping us spread the word through social media:

"Feeding the present for a bright future: it's priceless."



PUERTO RICO SALUDABLE WITH MCS FOUNDATION

We continue to support our seniors.

In partnership with MCS Foundation and committed to helping all communities in need, we continue to partner with MCS to distribute food and hope at the Puerto Rico Saludable events in Naranjito and Humacao. See you in the next one!



3RD PHASE OF LONCHERA DORADA

During the month of February, we launched the third phase of Lonchera Dorada program, together with the MCS Foundation, Abbott and the Puerto Rico Hospital Association to improve the program objectives to reduce hospital re-admissions by providing food to seniors suffering from malnutrition. We currently collaborate with 9 participating hospitals.

DONATIONS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY MAIN DONORS



BANCO DE ALIMENTOS WILL HAVE SOLAR PANELS! Mellon Foundation Donation

Thanks to a generous donation from the Mellon Foundation, Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico will convert to solar power in our facilities.

This solidifies our commitment as an emergency support hub, moving us closer to our goal of becoming an eco-friendly Food Bank.



ATH MÓVIL FOR PUERTO RICO CAMPAIGN

Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico participated in ATH Movil for Puerto Rico campaign in february 13-17 . We are very grateful to everyone who contributed: your donation helps feed thousands of people in Puerto Rico.



AMERICAN EAGLE CAMPAIGN

During November and December, American Eagle Outfitters stores invited their customers to donate to Banco de Alimentos with each transaction, AE credit card purchases and online purchases.

We are so grateful for your usual support. On behalf of all, thank you.



MAKE TOMORROW BETTER Globe Life Donation

Thank you Globe Life Family Heritage Division for choosing Banco de Alimentos as the recipient of their local community celebration during "Make tomorrow better" convention in the Island.

Thank you to its producing agents for helping thousands of families facing food insecurity in Puerto Rico.

Thank you Globe Life!



AMERICAN BANK ASOCIATION DONATION - FORUM ON CONSTRUCTION LAW

The members of the American Bank Association selected the Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico as the recipient of the donations made at their last meeting in Puerto Rico. Participants strive to leave a mark in every place they meet, and boy did they!

Thank you American Bank Association for trusting in our efforts to alleviate hunger and donating to our organization.

VOLUNTEERS



AMICUS SOLAR

Thanks to the Amicus Solar volunteers for taking a plane and choosing Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico to give us their time as volunteers. There were 64 volunteer hands that helped to complete 1,000 emergency food boxes. You, our volunteers, are a valuable resource in carrying out our Mission.

DONORS

We also want to thank the thousands of anonymous donors who, month after month, use ATH Móvil and PayPal to selflessly offer us their constant support.



United Way
de Puerto Rico



**JOIN AND
CONTRIBUTE!**

Help us continue fighting food insecurity in Puerto Rico. You can contribute via check, credit card or :



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