

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

September is National Hunger Awareness month. Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico focused its efforts on raising awareness of food insecurity in the Island, so that we can find solutions together and achieve a Hunger Free Puerto Rico.

Zero Hunger is the United Nation's second sustainable development goal by 2030.



"HELP US FILL THIS VOID" CAMPAIGN

As part of our 35th anniversary, we launched an innovative national awareness and fundraising campaign: "Ayúdanos a Llenar Este Vacío" (Help Us Fill This Void).

"Statistics are overwhelming for our society," said Mari Jo Laborde, CEO of Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico, in a statement during the campaign launch event. "45% of Puerto Rican families, almost half of the population, live below poverty levels, but very few of us know that almost all of them, including children, suffer from food insecurity. Even in this day and age, we still have families that have access to less food than they need to be healthy. This is unacceptable for us at the Food Bank and, as we celebrate 35 years, we are raising awareness of this reality and mobilizing everyone in Puerto Rico to, together, solve this crisis," concluded Mari Jo Laborde.

FORUM: WE ARE HUNGRY FOR SOLUTIONS

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Food resilience to disasters and climate change: How do we prepare and/or create resilience in the food chain

Nino Correa

Commissioner, Emergency Management and Disaster Administration (NMEAD)

Alberto Maldonado

President, Colegio de Agrónomos de Puerto Rico

Lee Vanessa Feliciano

Regional Executive for Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, American Red Cross, Puerto Rico Chapter

NAP to SNAP:

How SNAP changes the poverty landscape in Puerto Rico

Kelly Quintero

Director of Public Policy, Feeding America

Ángel Santiago

Executive Director, Grupo Navis

José Soto

ACOMER Puerto Rico Founder and Regional Leader, Bread for the World

Alberto Fradera

Administrator, Family Socioeconomic Development Administration



The Root of Hunger: Poverty A critical look at poverty and food insecurity in Puerto Rico

Estela M. Reyes Rodríguez

Advocacy Manager, Puerto Rico Youth Development Institute

Mari Jo Laborde

Executive Director, Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico

José Caraballo Cueto

Associate Professor of Business Administration, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus

Ángela Díaz

Executive Director, Nutriendo Puerto Rico



Innovative Solutions to the Problem of Food Insecurity

Oscar Meléndez

Principal Development Officer, Trito Agro-Industrial Services (TAIS)

Salvador Coleman-Tió

Agroecology Coordinator, Para la Naturaleza

Iris Núñez

Coordinator of Social Action and Volunteering, Centro Sofía, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón



ANNUAL PARTNER AGENCY MEETING

At the annual meeting of member organizations on September 27, 2023, we discussed new changes and initiatives that will improve our network's services to communities in need.

Among the topics discussed, we announced new extended hours, the implementation of a better data collection platform, and the upcoming launch of a pilot program to promote free food choice.



ZERO HUNGER AWARDS

For the third consecutive year we presented our Zero Hunger Awards to support projects working to alleviate hunger on the Island. These donations are possible thanks to a generous gift by Ms. Mckenzie Scott in November 2020.

THIS YEAR WE AWARDED 6 PROJECTS:

Cocina del Ángel

SFM Charities

Almacén de Alimentos y Cocina Comunitaria

Fe Que Transforma Inc.

Raíces de Conciencia

CREARTE

Educación sin Hambre

Hogar Forjadores de Esperanza

Happy Kitchen

Servicios Sociales Episcopales, Inc.

Huerto Comunitario, CoMesa

Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

Thank you for being part of the fight against food insecurity on the Island. Congratulations!



HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

This year, September 15th was designated as Hunger Awareness Day. Thank You to Plaza Las Américas, the Capitol of Puerto Rico and Universidad del Sagrado Corazón who joined our efforts by illuminating their buildings with green and orange, the Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico colors and symbols of the fight against hunger.



FARM BILL AND NAP TO SNAP WASHINGTON FLY-IN

As part of Hunger Awareness Month, we joined nearly 100 Banks in Feeding America's national network on September 12-13, for a historic visit to Congress to support the major nutrition assistance programs covered by the Farm Bill. This legislation, which incorporates most USDA programs including the Nutrition Assistance Program, is under congressional review in 2023, and is of special importance for Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico's transition from the NAP program to SNAP is one of Feeding America's top priorities in this effort. This transition would expand access to nutrition assistance programs and increase the amount allocated per family. Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico, in support of Puerto Rico's transition to SNAP, met in these 2 days with over 13 congressmen from states with a high Hispanic population, in an effort to inform and educate about the importance of this transition for all Puerto Ricans. We continue to develop alliances and support for this important initiative.

Thanks to Feeding America, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Food Bank of New York City, Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida for allowing us to accompany them in these efforts, and the Puerto Rico Coalition for Food Security for their support.

ZERO HUNGER COMMUNITY IMPACTS



COMMUNITY MARKET

On September 6th we celebrated our 1st Choice Market in our facilities in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Residents and non-residents of the area visited and had the opportunity to choose their foods, with the vision that, beyond just ending hunger, each Puerto Rican has access to food according to their needs and preferences. This is just the beginning of new initiatives that will encourage free choice and a hunger-free future.

Thank you to everyone who collaborated in the success of this event:

- Centro El Oasis Fortaleciendo al Caído, Inc.
- MCS Puerto Rico
- Puerto Rico Public Health Trust
- La Fondita de Jesús
- Fundación Azriel

IMPACTS IN THE EAST AND WEST

To continue expanding food accessibility, in the month of September we carried out drive-through services open to anyone in need in the towns of Juncos and Mayagüez. We successfully distributed food to more than 500 families.

Thank you to all the donors who make our work possible.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DONORS



 **CVS pharmacy**

Daniel Erat

Fair Food Network

Maximum Fun

JOIN AND CONTRIBUTE!

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

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 bancodealimentodepr

 **PayPal**
 paypal.me/bancodealimentopr