



2024–2025

Annual Report

Table of Contents

- 03** From the Executive Team
- 04** Who We Are
- 05** Our Impact
- 06** School Programming
- 07** Leadership Development
- 08** Policy & Advocacy
- 09** Our Leadership
- 10** Our Financials
- 12** Get Involved





From the Executive Team

What happens when the world as you know it comes to an end? When the ground you've been standing on for 15 years is shattered, and you're called on to rebuild with what you've learned?

FoodCorps learned the answers to these questions this year. Last October we welcomed Rachel Willis as President, eager to leverage her expertise in education and longtime leadership on FoodCorps' board. Three weeks after Rachel joined the team, the presidential election reshaped the landscape we've known since our inception.

In the months that followed, FoodCorps navigated intense, necessary change within our organization, and advocated for kids who were facing unprecedented threats. Following a visit from DOGE, AmeriCorps—FoodCorps' lead funding partner for the last 15 years—canceled 45% of grants outright and laid off 85% of its workforce. FoodCorps ultimately received notice that our grant would not be renewed beyond the program year covered in these pages.

Anticipating that this kind of seismic shift was coming, we moved early into scenario planning.

Our leadership team spent several months looking with fresh eyes at FoodCorps, asking ourselves one underlying question: If we were building this organization from scratch today, knowing what we know now, how would we build it to best serve kids?

We landed on a three-part strategy: school programming focused on a smaller set of spotlight communities; leadership development that applies lessons learned in our AmeriCorps program to educators and school nutrition professionals embedded in the systems we seek to change; and policy and advocacy where FoodCorps can raise our voices for and with kids at a time when children need a powerful advocate.

Our constituents—supporters like you—are the backbone of our effort to meet this moment. These pages include a small slice of all FoodCorps was able to accomplish in the 2024–2025 school year, despite unprecedented challenges.

We reached more than 460,000 kids, from rural Kentucky to southern California, with lessons and meals that showed the best of what nourishing food can be. Our members bolstered cafeteria menus with 220 new dishes informed by students' tastes and traditions.

For the grown-ups in our corner, we launched a tool to more easily share local opportunities for advocacy on behalf of kids' well-being, and connected with more than 20,000 people at events designed to bring families into the fold.

Thank you for coming on this journey with us, and for continuing to stand with FoodCorps as we navigate such a critical time for our nation's students.

With gratitude,
Curt Ellis, Co-Founder and CEO
Rachel Willis, President



Who We Are



Our mission

FoodCorps advances children's health, education, and well-being through food in school.



Our vision

Every child, in every school, experiences the joy and power of food.



Our North Star

Every child has access to food education and nourishing, free meals in schools.

Our Impact



[Our school] did more cafeteria tasting than we've ever done before, and the impact on students is incredible. They eat more veggies than other equivalent-sized schools because they are constantly being offered new items to try."

—Oregon site supervisor



461,487
students reached in schools and districts



21,301
attendees at family engagement events



17,808
hands-on lessons taught



220
new items added to school or district menus



14,031
taste tests and promotions



95%
school staff satisfaction with FoodCorps program



798
farmers engaged in procurement



100%
nutrition staff satisfaction with FoodCorps program

School Programming

With nearly 15 years of proven impact, our school programming effects change along two tracks: food education and school nutrition.

01



02



03



04



05



06



01 Chef Andrew Wilkinson of North Coast Seafood tops kelp meatballs with sauce. FoodCorps members led a taste test of the briny bites at Freshman Academy in Lowell, Massachusetts. **Photo by Julia Sienkiewicz**

02 School Nutrition Member Hannah Moore chats with students after a taste test of sorrel, a tangy herb, in the cafeteria at Saccarappa Elementary in Westbrook, Maine. **Photo by Julia Sienkiewicz**

03 A student gives the stamp of approval to a taste test of vegetable chickpea stew at Amanda C. Rowe Elementary School in Portland, Maine. **Photo by Julia Sienkiewicz**

04 Third-graders practice their knife skills and taste fresh fruits during a lesson with FoodCorps member Cyan Cox at West Perry Elementary School in Hazard, Kentucky. **Photo by Rochelle Li**

05 In Greenville, Mississippi, students explore the soil and plants in the school garden.

06 Students are greeted with this warm welcome in the school garden at Oakland Academy of Knowledge in Oakland, California. **Photo by Christiana Lederman**

Leadership Development

Since our inaugural cohort of 50 FoodCorps members kicked off our work back in 2011, our alumni network has grown to nearly 1,700 members across 45 states (plus Washington, DC). 91% of them work in careers that continue to advance FoodCorps' mission, like education, school nutrition, or policy.

Food Systems graduate program. And our Alumni Advocacy Leads spent the year honing their advocacy skills for causes like healthy food access and farm-to-school supply chains.

Our network of school nutrition changemakers continued as a hub for professionals in the field to connect. This spring, participants moved through a learning series to grow their skills as storytellers and communicators.

This year we partnered with Arizona State University to provide scholarships to 26 alums and returning members in the Sustainable



Alumni Spotlight

As executive chef for Cherry Creek School District in Colorado, Cady Molloy (NY '18) serves nearly 40,000 meals a day. Of course, she's not doing it alone: she's developed a comprehensive culinary training program for the district's kitchen staff to increase scratch cooking in its 65 schools. She started by considering how to transition the most popular dishes from heat-and-eat to scratch cooked. First up was orange chicken; next is macaroni and cheese.

“ *One of the biggest challenges as a chef in schools is the negative perception of school food. I am continuously working to change this idea of the food we serve, and reinforce that school food can be delicious!*”

Policy & Advocacy



This year, more than 4,000 FoodCorps advocates sent more than 12,000 messages urging their lawmakers to prioritize kids. Despite the changing political winds, we've found common ground advocating for policies that hold broad support across political lines, like protecting free school meals, removing ultra-processed foods from lunch trays, and helping schools buy food from local farmers. And in longtime FoodCorps states like New Mexico, we uplifted community voices through events like Youth for Food Day, where hundreds of kids spoke up to lawmakers as the experts on what food in school should be.

At the start of this year, FoodCorps launched a tool to build a more connected, informed, and action-ready network—right when the need for policy engagement has never been more urgent. Through our School Food Policy Action Map, changemakers across the country can see where key policies are unfolding in their states and take meaningful steps to get involved. This platform has already sparked thousands of advocacy actions, helping people turn awareness into action in their own backyards.

Scene from Youth for Food Day at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photos by Genevieve Russell



New York State of Mind

In May, New York (a former FoodCorps state) became the ninth and latest state to enact a school meals for all policy. Thanks to a program newly included in the state budget—and to years of advocacy by the Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids coalition—New York's more than 2.7 million students will receive breakfast and lunch every school day at no cost to their families. The benefits of free school meals are widely known: better nutrition for students, reduced stigma for families, and fewer administrative hurdles for school nutrition professionals.



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Leadership Team

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Leadership Development

Ramon DeJesus | Vice President of
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Dana McCurdy | Vice President of
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Sarah Hausman | Vice President of
School Programs

Jermaine Smith | Vice President
of Revenue

Our Financials:

Financial Position



Assets	FY25	Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	\$ 6,355,625	Accounts Payable	\$ 270,837
Investments	\$ 12,748,268	Other Liabilities	\$ 899,094
Receivables	\$ 10,533,814	Total Liabilities	\$ 1,169,931
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 250,006	Net Assets	
Fixed Assets	\$ 89,272	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 10,670,967
Other Assets	\$ 115,610	Income and Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 18,251,697
Total Assets	\$ 30,092,595	Total Net Assets	\$ 28,922,664
		Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 30,092,595

Partner Spotlight: The Humana Foundation

In an especially challenging year, we're grateful to our partners at the Humana Foundation for standing as a true example of philanthropy—love of humanity—in action. Thanks to Humana's support, FoodCorps successfully

launched programming in Kentucky during the 2023–2024 school year. FoodCorps Kentucky has since grown into one of our strongest partner states in the Southern region, demonstrating how powerful food education and nourishing school meal programs can be in both rural and urban communities and across all political environments.

Last summer, the Foundation's president, Tiffany Benjamin, called FoodCorps a "model program for [their] child-focused portfolio of grantees"—a reflection of the deep alignment and shared vision that fuels this partnership. We're proud to be building a healthier future for kids with the Humana Foundation beside us.

Our Financials:

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Philanthropy	\$ 12,830,601
Government	\$ 6,590,330
Program Fees	\$ 2,029,329
Investment and Other	\$ 900,173
Total Revenues	\$ 22,350,433

Expenses

Program Staff and Corps Members	\$ 17,960,252
Program Training & Talent Development	\$ 835,551
Program Research, Technology, and Communications	\$ 627,169
Program Support Expenses	\$ 932,026
Total Program Expenses	\$ 20,354,998
Administrative Expenses	\$ 2,506,016
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 3,860,175
Total Expenses	\$ 26,721,189
Change in Net Assets	\$ 4,370,756
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 33,293,420
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 28,922,664



FoodCorps members and partners pose at the Perry County Farmers Market in Hazard, Kentucky.



Get Involved



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