

# Free Produce Market Summary 2023



- Why?**
- Summer is the hungriest time of year for families - kids are home and don't have access to free school meals.
  - Food insecurity is rising across Minnesota, partly because of increased food costs.
  - There is high community interest and support for this program.



## PARTICIPANTS

736 unique families  
3029 visits  
10,000+ people

## VOLUNTEERS

93 people  
964 hours



**137,511**  
pounds of  
food  
distributed



**165,013**  
estimated  
number of  
meals  
provided



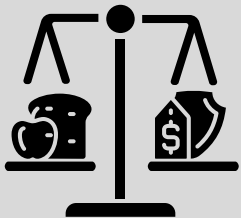
**24** varieties  
of produce  
offered  
throughout  
the summer



**2 SITES**  
CHASKA MIDDLE  
SCHOOL WEST  
&  
NYA PAVILION



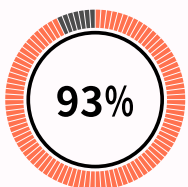
of families said the  
program made them feel  
like they belong in the  
community



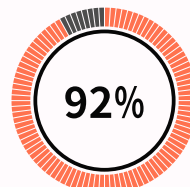
**84%** of  
families  
experienced  
food  
insecurity in  
the past 12  
months

**72%** of families  
reported needing  
food assistance  
due to recent  
higher prices of  
basic necessities

**48%** of  
families  
experience  
ongoing need  
for food



said volunteers or  
staff made them feel  
welcome



liked the food  
choices available



## **SURVEY RESPONSES**

Thank you! I have no money to buy groceries so it is greatly appreciated.

Excelente atención, el idioma español me ayuda mucho.

Me ayude economicamente, gracias.

## **Partners**



A Better Society  
Bountiful Basket Food Shelf  
Carver County  
City of Norwood Young America  
Eastern Carver County School District  
Mi CASA  
Second Harvest Heartland  
Southwest Carver County Food Shelf



## **Financial Sponsors**

- Bank Vista
- Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
- Carver Lions
- Chanhassen Rotary
- Chaska Lions
- Eastern Carver County School District
- Family of Christ Lutheran Church
- Southwest Carver County Food Shelf
- Victoria Lions
- Westbrook Community Church



- Will partner with local food shelves to increase capacity and improve services to better meet the needs of the community.
- Will continue to collaborate with hunger relief partners to address root causes of food insecurity.
- Carver County Hunger Relief Collaborative will complete strategic planning in 2023.
- Will continue the Free Produce Market in 2024.



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