

Free Produce Market Summary 2024



- 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

713 unique families
2506 visits
9,000+ people

VOLUNTEERS

130 people
1270 hours



91,756
pounds of
food
distributed



76,463
estimated
number of
meals
provided

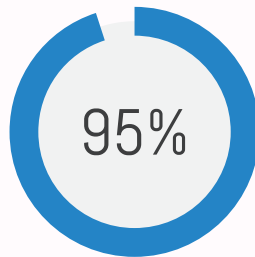


24 varieties
of fresh
produce
offered
throughout
the summer

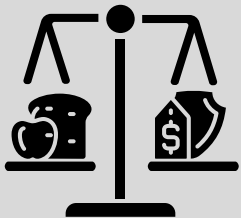
2 SITES



BLUFF CREEK
ELEMENTARY &
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



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

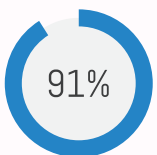


67% of
families
experienced
food
insecurity in
the past 12
months

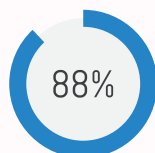
74% of families
reported needing
food assistance
due to recent
higher prices of
basic necessities

44% of
families
experience
ongoing need
for food

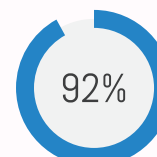
Because of the Free Produce Market program...



of families eat
more fruit and
vegetables



of families
eat
healthier



of families have
less financial
stress



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“Helped make it to pay day.”

“We finally have a savings started.”

“Allows us to spend money on other household bills.”

“Makes it easier for me to get fresh fruits & veggies.”

“Don't have to worry about running out of food.”

“...There was less stress around feeding my family & paying medical bills.”

“I had no food today until now. Thank you.”

“We can eat healthier meals & not eat junk food.”

Partners



- A Better Society
- Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
- Carver County
- Central Public Schools
- Eastern Carver County Schools
- Mi CASA
- Second Harvest Heartland
- Southwest Carver County Food Shelf



Financial Sponsors

- Bank Vista
- Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
- Chaska Rotary
- District 112 Foundation
- Grace Church
- Eastern Carver County Schools
- NYA Lions
- Nicolet National Bank
- Scheel's
- Second Harvest Heartland
- Southwest Carver County Food Shelf



NEXT

- 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.
- Will continue the Free Produce Market in 2025.



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