

DRIVING CHANGE | DONOR NEWSLETTER | July 2026

Welcome to our new quarterly donor newsletter, ***Driving Change***. In this issue, you will learn more about Beyond Hunger's pantry program, get an update about our future home, discover upcoming events, and find ways you can support.

A NOTE FROM JENNIE



As the policy landscape continues to shift, we are closely monitoring changes that affect our neighbors' ability to access nutritious food and health care. This includes ongoing changes to SNAP, anticipated changes to Medicaid, and continued discussions surrounding the USDA Farm Bill.

Recent data from the [Food Research & Action Center](#) found that **SNAP participation in Illinois declined by 13%—more than 254,000 people—**

from January 2025 to April 2026, highlighting the real-world impacts of program disruptions and changes enacted through H.R.1. As these changes continue to unfold, we're working to understand what they mean for our community and preparing to respond where needs emerge.

While the future remains uncertain, one thing is not: Beyond Hunger will continue advocating for policies that strengthen food security while ensuring our neighbors have access to the nutritious food and support they need.

LATEST NEWS



This month, students from ***Off the Wall***, a program of the **Oak Park Area Arts Council**, are installing a new mural on the North Avenue side of our building. This special project is a generous gift from the **North Avenue Business District** and the **Oak Park Area Arts Council**, bringing creativity and community spirit to our new building. We encourage you to drive by to see the mural take shape and celebrate this vibrant addition to our future home.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



Thanks to the generosity of our community, Beyond Hunger has surpassed our original capital campaign goal. As we prepare for construction on our future home, additional support will help complete the renovation, equip key program spaces and build a reserve for long term maintenance. **To see the progress firsthand, we invite donors to join us for a hard hat tour of the space** and learn more about how your support will help us finish strong, including opportunities for permanent recognition within the building.

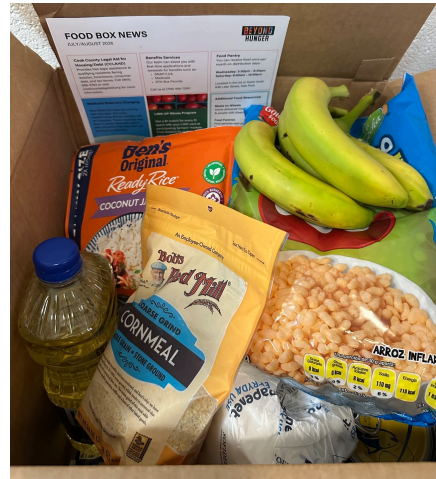
Please contact [Rashida Dairyko](#) to schedule a hard hat tour.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

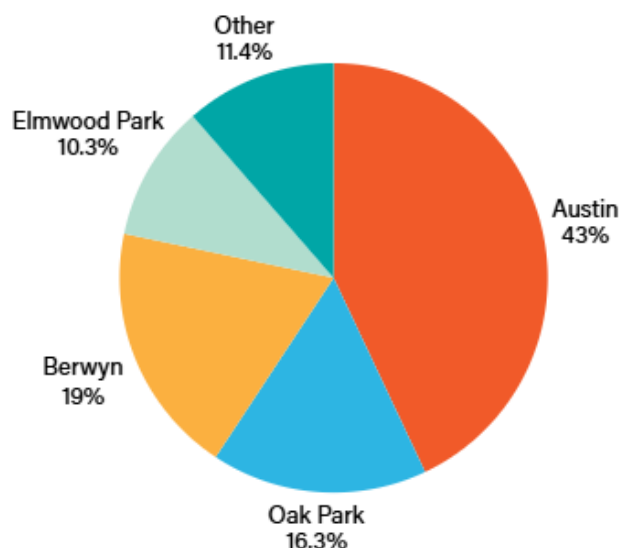
DID YOU KNOW?

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

At every food distribution, Beyond Hunger works to create a respectful, dignified experience while offering a balanced variety of foods our neighbors can use and enjoy—including fresh produce, grains, plant-based proteins, canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, and pantry staples. Guided by the [Supporting Wellness at Pantries program](#) (SWAP), our team prioritizes nutrient-dense foods that are lower in saturated fat, sodium, and sugar. With support from our Registered Dietitians and Nutrition Education program, 90% or more of the food we distribute meets the green or yellow SWAP standards.



Top Communities Served in Fiscal Year 2026



- In fiscal year 2026, across all programs, Beyond Hunger served **71,872 individuals—an 8% increase in individuals since fiscal year 2025.**
- The top four communities served by the pantry program in 2026 were **Austin** (60644 and 60651), **Berwyn** (60402), **Oak Park** (60301, 60302, 60304), and **Elmwood Park** (60707).

WAYS TO SUPPORT

death cab for cutie

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT **THE SALT SHED**

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR BEYOND HUNGER



BEYOND HUNGER

PRESENTED BY:

THE MOLLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

THE REEDY FAMILY FOUNDATION

93XRT
CHICAGO'S FINEST ROCK

We're so excited to invite you to a night of incredible music and community

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Shed. This year's headliner, ***death cab for cutie***, sold out in 5 minutes.

A limited number of sponsorships with tickets are still available starting at \$1,200. Do you have a group of friends or community members who would like to join us? Every sponsorship helps Beyond Hunger provide meals and critical support to families in need right here in our community.

Come enjoy the music, bring your friends, and be part of a night where fun meets philanthropy. Secure your sponsorship today and contact [Lauren Brightmore](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beyond Hunger Events

September is Hunger Action Month. Join us along with neighbors, volunteers, and partners as we learn, connect, and take action to strengthen food access across our community.

September - Hunger Action Month		
9/16/2026	Beyond Hunger Townhall	Join a virtual community conversation to hear updates about the state of hunger relief in our community and Beyond Hunger programs.
9/19/2026	Children's Storytime at Dandelion Bookshop	Bring the kids for a cozy story time that raises awareness to food access and celebrates community.
9/24/2026	Mandala Art Workshop	Unwind and create beautiful mandala art in a relaxing workshop that brings our community together.

Community Events

- Food Aid Festival at Robert's Westside [8/21/2026](#) & [8/22/2026](#)
- [LemonAid](#) - 9/11/2026
- Day of the Dowd Concert at Robert's Westside - 11/1/2026

