

# 20<sup>20</sup> ANNUAL 25 REPORT



This year, **FoodLink rose to meet unprecedented challenges while continuing to expand our reach across Tulare County.** When the government SNAP disruption created uncertainty for many families, our team responded quickly to help stabilize access to nutritious food for those most affected.

Through **strategic partnerships** and **thoughtful growth**, we increased capacity, strengthened community collaborations, and delivered critical resources where they were needed most. Our work remains focused on ensuring reliable access to healthy food while building a more **resilient food system for our community.**



## PROGRAMS

*"What makes our team special is that we have each other's backs. There's a shared commitment to the mission, and we support one another in doing this important work in both the challenging and uplifting times."*

• **Jovanna Grant, Programs Manager**



**Programs Manager Jovonna Grant and Programs Assistant Nicole Oneto lead the Programs Department. Together, they oversee the administrative operations of Foodlink's four food distribution programs:**

The Emergency Food Pantry Program  
Nutrition-on-the-Go (NUGO) distributions  
Smartpacks  
Community Partners Program

# OUR REACH BY THE NUMBERS



**POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED**

**12,835,330**

**Distributions Held**

**270**

**Households Served**

**43,415**

**Miles Traveled**

**10,572**

**Total Volunteers**

**1,169**

**Donors**

**931**

**New Donors**

**177**

*"This year, I have seen FoodLink continue to expand its reach and responsiveness, ensuring that food gets to people who need it most, even as economic pressures grow. The organization has remained steady and adaptable, supporting families, seniors, and individuals who are often navigating multiple challenges at once."*

**• Dr. Kristin LH Ochs, DC., Board Member**



## **REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

Financial Contributions & Grants: \$1,729,074.76

Fixed Assets: \$1,680,337.87

Other Assets: \$246,263.71

**Total Revenue: \$2,675,061.17**

Management & General: \$1,055,428.99

Operations: \$113,438.83

Programs: \$1,146,977.35

**Total Expenses: \$2,865,414.29**

DEEP Roots is FoodLink's agroecology and food systems department, expanding beyond emergency food assistance to strengthen long-term community well-being across Tulare County through education, shared resources, and hands-on programming.

In 2025, DEEP Roots distributed over 20,000 live plants, hosted composting workshops and a Spring Tulip Festival, improved demonstration gardens, supported home garden projects, and began planning the Peace Garden at Freedom Elementary. We also mentored a TerraTech intern and celebrated Eric's Permaculture certification.

**Together, we continue planting the seeds for a healthier, more resilient Tulare County.**



## DEVELOPMENT

*"It has been incredible to watch our events grow and our brand continue to evolve this year. From welcoming new creative energy to expanding beloved events like the Harvest Festival and Return to the Chefs, the momentum around FoodLink's mission is stronger than ever. Most importantly, our community continues to show up and stand with us."*

- **Cassandra Phelps, Development & Community Engagement Director**



### Garden Volunteers

**326**

### Total Pounds of Food Grown and Distributed

**1,178**

### Seedlings Distributed

**9,468**

### Total People Served

**4,288**

*"2025 has been a year of challenges, learning, and growth for deep roots while never losing sight of our goals of food sovereignty and the education and empowerment to create a self-sufficient community."*

- **Eric Wellington, DEEP Roots Coordinator**

## WAREHOUSE

*"Our warehouse team works hard every day to make sure food reaches the families who need it most. While the numbers tell an important story of pounds distributed and households served, what matters most is knowing that our work helps put food on the table for thousands of people across Tulare County."*

- **Justin Pendleton, Warehouse Manager**

# A NOTE FROM **ANDREA**

## **2025: A Year of Growth & Impact**

*This past year, FoodLink reached new heights in our mission to fight hunger across Tulare County. We distributed 12 million pounds of food and expanded into rural areas to ensure fresh food reaches the families who need it most. We also broke ground on our new facility and partnered with the Tulare County Office of Education to provide more students with weekend meals and neighbors from Salt & Light. Beyond the numbers, it is the human impact that drives our work. We are committed to providing not just food, but resources and skills for a lifetime. Through access to nutritious options and opportunities to grow their own food, we strive to empower every individual we serve.*

## **Looking Forward**

*We believe the work we do now sets the tone for decades to come. This year, we are launching Harvest Academy for food-based entrepreneurs and expanding garden hubs with local schools and community gardeners to strengthen long-term food security. We hope you will partner with FoodLink to make this possible. Whether through time, skills, or financial support, everything counts. Thank you for helping us make a difference.*

*In Community,  
**Andrea Kelly, Executive Director***



# HERE IS TO A SUCCESSFUL 2026



In 2026, FoodLink of Tulare County is stepping into a powerful season of growth. With the continued development of our Community Resilience Hub in Exeter, we are expanding hunger relief while creating space for education, workforce development, and local food entrepreneurship.

We look forward to strengthening DEEP Roots, increasing access to fresh and culturally relevant foods, and deepening partnerships across schools and neighborhoods. **Together, we are building sustainable systems that move families from crisis to stability and strengthen Tulare County for the long term.**