

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation

2024 Report



From the President



The Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation continues to focus on finding solutions to end hunger and waste in our communities and across the country.

We have learned so much since establishing the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation and our Innovation Fund in 2018. We are grateful for the leaders, advisers, donors, grantees and other organizations who share our mission and supported our journey during the past six years.

Our foundation is designed for impact philanthropy. We aim to direct new and different types of philanthropic funding to help achieve Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste impact plan. Ending hunger and waste remains an incredibly ambitious goal that requires collaboration and innovation.

As a nonprofit public charity, the foundation plays a unique role in directing grants to nonprofit and for-profit organizations that make a difference in our local communities. We steward funds from Kroger, its customers and other donors to organizations recovering food and providing meals and innovators with creative ideas for solving these big problems.

In 2023, the foundation continued to serve neighbors and neighborhoods across the U.S. We are humbled by the task still in front of us; however, we remain optimistic that new tools and technologies will help overcome some key barriers to lasting success.

What we need more than ever is innovation—game-changing solutions to test and scale in collaboration with others. The past few years have been challenging. Some of the Innovation Fund's portfolio companies have continued to grow, while others have closed their doors. We are taking some time to carefully consider how to design the next challenge for a new cohort of Innovation Fund grantees.

We still need to solve the fundamental food system problem at the heart of Zero Hunger | Zero Waste: collectively, we are still throwing away too much food in our homes, on farms, in stores and restaurants, and around the world. We remain hopeful that we can change behaviors and uncover bold new solutions.

We remain committed to this challenge and finding new ways to feed more people and protect our planet.

Denise Osterhues

President, The Kroger Co.
Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation
Senior Director, Sustainability & Social Impact, Kroger

Board of Directors

The foundation's board of directors includes the following Kroger leaders:

Vice President: **Keith Dailey**,
Group Vice President
of Corporate Affairs

Secretary: **Milen Mahadevan**,
President & Chief Operating
Officer, 84.51°

Director: **Juan De Paoli**,
Vice President, *Our Brands*

Director: **Victor Smith**,
President, Atlanta Division

Director: **Ryan Verbecken**,
Vice President and
Chief Sourcing Officer

Director: **Lisa Zwack**,
Head of Sustainability

Interim Treasurer and Executive
Director: **Patty Leesemann**,
Head of Philanthropy

Our Mission

Established in 2018, The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation is a nonprofit public charity designed to create a more equitable, waste-free food system through collective action and innovation. Nearly 38% of all food in the U.S. is unsold or uneaten,¹ yet more than 44 million Americans still struggle with hunger.²

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



National Collaborations

Special thanks to these valued national nonprofit organizations that share our mission:



¹ Refed.org: [Food Waste in America](#)

² Feeding America: [Hunger in America](#)

Our Strategy

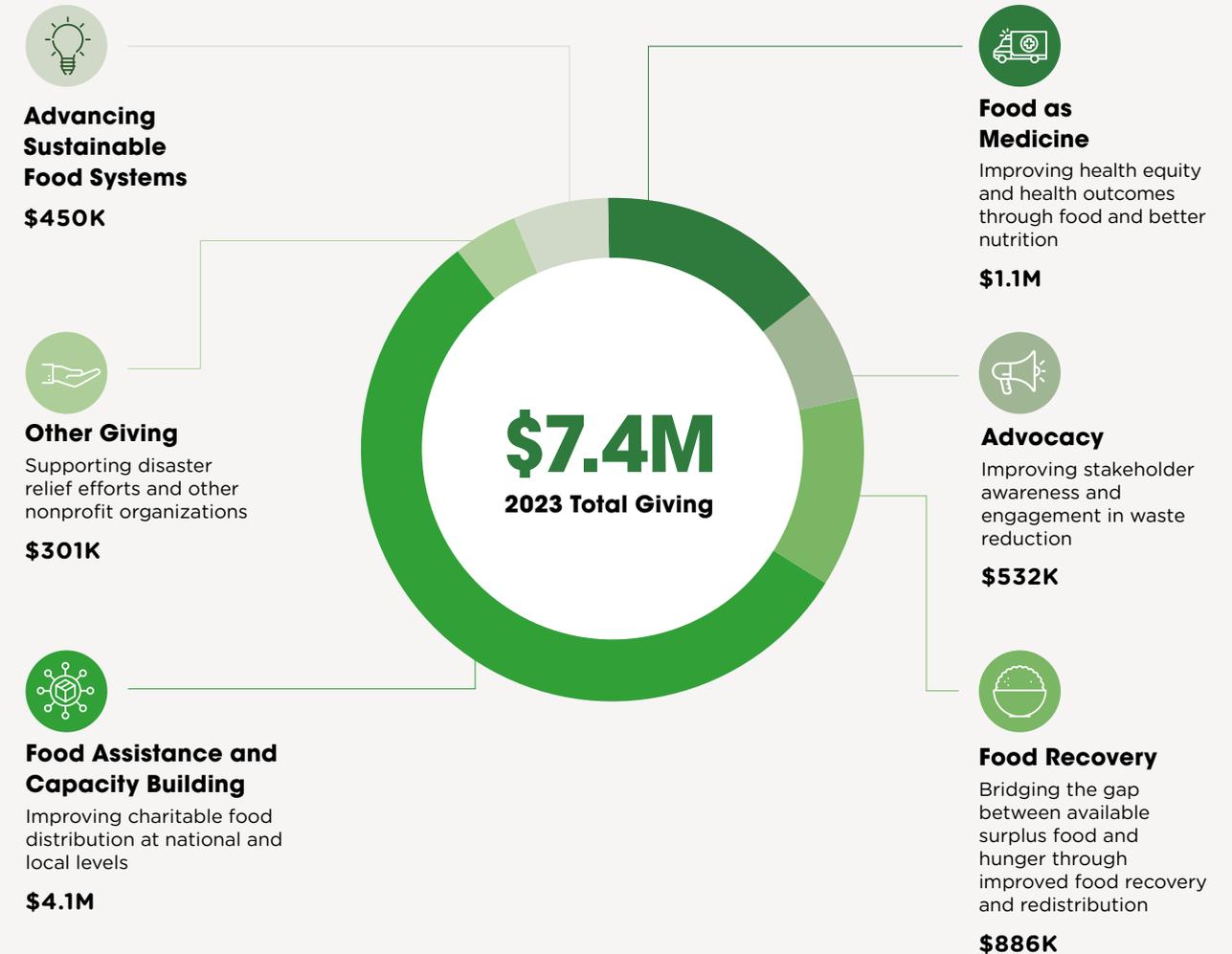
The Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation exists to support innovative organizations, entrepreneurs and creative thinkers who are focused on improving food security, ending food waste and more. The foundation cares for our communities one meal at a time, and is guided by three pillars:

Creating a More Equitable Food System
Supporting organizations focused on increasing food access in underserved communities

Enabling Collective Action
Directing funds to mission-aligned organizations to advance greater positive impacts together

Catalyzing Innovation
Providing grants and impact investments to entrepreneurs and creative thinkers

Community Investments



M = million | K = thousand

Fiscal Year 2023 Financials

2023 Financials³

Summary of Revenue & Expenses:	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Revenues	\$19,098,786	\$8,577,535
Total Expenses & Grants	\$11,811,340	\$7,816,935
Excess Revenue Over Expenses	\$7,287,446	\$760,600

Assets, Liabilities & Net Assets	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total Assets	\$18,732,224	\$19,492,824
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net Assets (without donor restrictions)	\$18,732,224	\$19,492,824

Annual Operating Expenses

Fiscal Year 2023

Total operating costs

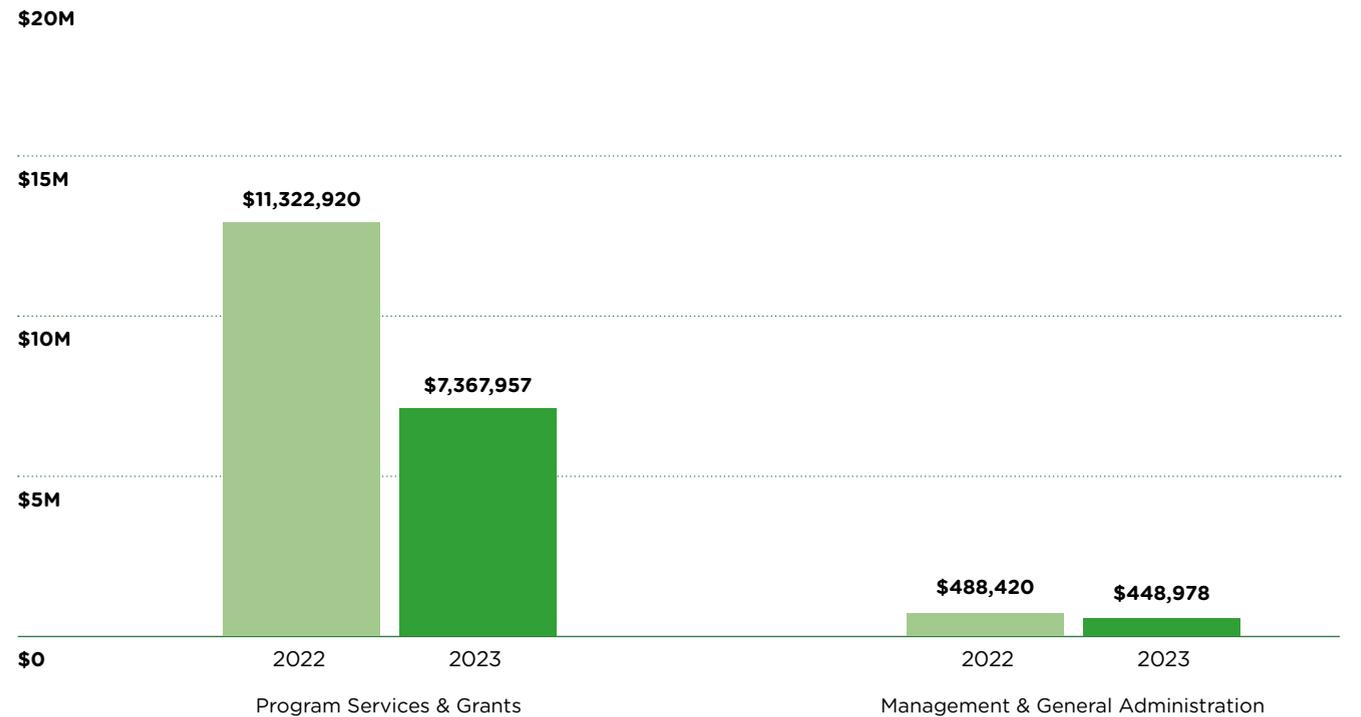


Total Program Services

94%

Mission Support

Annual Totals



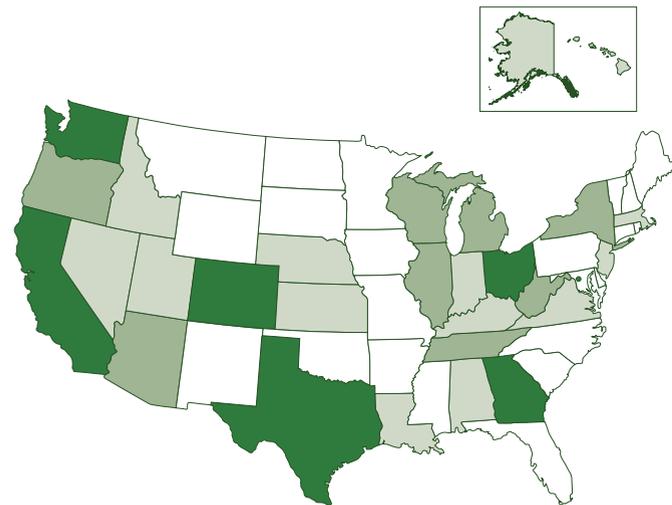
³ Financial data reflects Form 990 filings

Our Impact

We work with national and local organizations and innovators with big ambitions. Our partners are passionate about building a stronger future, together.

Geographic Focus

● \$501K+ ● \$250K-\$500K ● Less than \$250K



K = thousand



South Region

HOUSTON, TX
Montgomery County Food Bank

A foundation grant supported the food bank's Student Food Assistant Programs, which provide weekend food bags for elementary and middle school students experiencing hardship and support pantries for junior high and high school students facing food insecurity.

ATLANTA, GA
The Common Market

A grant to The Common Market's Food Access Fund supported local community organizations and helped increase access to fresh nutrient-dense food from nearby family farms.

West Region

DENVER, CO
We Don't Waste

Funds helped expand the We Don't Waste facility, which enables the organization to recover and distribute more food across the Denver metro area through its Mobile Food Markets. This improvement project included increased food storage capacity, a teaching kitchen and classroom, and an area for composting and gardening.

PORTLAND, OR
Store to Door

We supported the growth of Store to Door's volunteer-led grocery and food box delivery programs to 760 homebound, low-income seniors and adults living with disabilities.



Community Direct Response

MAUI, HI
Hawaii Food Bank

Thanks to customers shopping in our Ralphs, Food 4 Less, Fry's, King Soopers/City Market, Fred Meyer, QFC and Smith's stores, the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation raised more than \$145,000 for the Hawaii Food Bank to support victims of the 2023 Maui wildfires.

Midwest Region

MANHATTAN, KS
Cats' Cupboard

Kansas State University's Cats' Cupboard, an on-campus food pantry, is a collaborative effort among students, faculty, staff and community focused on increasing food security on campus. A foundation grant helped the pantry raise awareness and increase students' access to essential food and personal hygiene items.

GENEVA, IL
Northern Illinois Food Bank

Our funding helped Northern Illinois Food Bank acquire and distribute more food throughout its network. Its direct-to-neighbor program serves vulnerable populations who may not be able to use the traditional food pantry network.

Creating a More Equitable & Resilient Food System

We're building stronger communities through grants that feed people today and help create a world without hunger tomorrow. The following organizations are among the foundation's grantees in 2023.

\$4.1M

in grants distributed to 49 hunger relief programs at 44 distinct organizations

30

programs strengthened food distribution networks

19%

of investments went to organizations providing direct service to people in need

Food Recovery Network: Supporting Surplus Food Recovery Efforts

Food Recovery Network (FRN) is a national nonprofit that unites 4,000 college students, food suppliers and local businesses in the fight against hunger. They work by recovering surplus food from across the supply chain and donating it to nonprofits that feed those in need. The foundation supported FRN's food recovery and outreach efforts, which aim to retain student chapters and food businesses. These efforts also target the expansion of programs in the Southeast, Southwest and Appalachian regions.



Nomi Network: Youth Workforce Development Program

The Nomi Network creates positive impacts for at-risk young women and victims of trafficking who are working toward social and economic stability. Our grant supports the Nomi Network's Dallas Youth Workforce Development Program. Here, they offer a wide range of empowerment opportunities for vulnerable youth, including education, financial skill-building, workforce training and employment to help people end the poverty-to-exploitation cycle.

Equitable Food Initiative: Improving Farm Labor Practices

The foundation supports the Equitable Food Initiative (EFI), a capacity-building and certification organization that helps improve agricultural and labor practices in the fresh produce industry. EFI engages producers and growers in the Ethical Charter Implementation Program (ECIP), which offers guidance and programs for growers to build or improve management systems for respecting workers' rights. Through an assessment tool and skill-building resources, ECIP helps strengthen growers' alignment with its principles and measure positive impact.



Feeding America: Directing More Food to Families in Need

We support Feeding America's network operations and programs, helping to direct more food to families in need in our communities. In 2023, the foundation directed \$2.9 million in support to Feeding America and its affiliated food banks. This included a \$1 million Retail Agency Capacity grant to help select food banks pick up more surplus food from stores in Atlanta, Houston, Memphis and Flint, MI. More frequent pickups mean more fresh food donations and meals for our neighbors.

Enabling Collective Action

The foundation continues to convene coalitions of action and generate new opportunities for collaboration. We know that when we work together, we can build networks of support and achieve greater positive impact. We invite others to join us on our journey to create a world with zero hunger and zero waste.



Serving Arizona Communities

The foundation and Fry's Food Stores division in Arizona supported the United Food Bank's Summer of a Million Meals campaign. With a \$206,000 grant, United Food Bank and local partners provided more than 2 million meals to feed thousands of children, individuals and families who live in eastern Maricopa, Gila, Pinal and southern Navajo and Apache counties in Arizona.

Future Foods—National STEM Festival

In April 2024, the foundation participated in the first-ever National STEM Festival—a nationwide initiative to foster creativity, critical thinking and a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among middle and high school students. The foundation sponsored the Festival's Future Foods pillar. Student innovators were challenged to research, design and propose practical ideas for more sustainable and equitable food production, distribution and consumption, considering factors such as food security, resource conservation and a changing climate.

The foundation also joined a roundtable discussion with students to discuss new ideas for Future Foods. Participants shared their experiences in developing projects aimed at ending hunger or improving health and nutrition through fresh foods. In addition, we also discussed the students' career aspirations and options for exploring STEM jobs to build a more sustainable food system.

\$273,000

invested in organizations supporting their communities through education and youth development, conservation efforts, and promoting economic well-being

\$531,815

invested in organizations advocating for improved food waste-reduction practices and environmental conservation

Restoring Green Spaces

A foundation grant to the national Arbor Day Foundation helped replace critical tree canopies in communities affected by extreme weather, including Shreveport, LA, and Bowling Green, KY. In each community, Kroger and Arbor Day Foundation volunteers distributed hundreds of trees to replace trees lost to natural disasters. Expanding tree canopies in these areas will help combat adverse impacts from hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms and extreme flooding.



Supporting World Wildlife Fund

To celebrate Earth Month, the foundation engaged Kroger associates and customers in a campaign to support conservation organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In April 2023, 100% of customer donations supported critical efforts to protect natural habitats and wildlife across the country and around the world. WWF received more than \$480,000 to help in its mission to deliver science-based solutions to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, halt the degradation of the environment and combat the climate crisis.

Catalyzing Innovation

The foundation’s Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Innovation Fund helps fill a critical gap in philanthropic funding for pioneering solutions at national and local levels. Innovation Fund grants to date have supported entrepreneurs tackling the complex problems of food loss and waste in our communities.

We continue to talk with subject matter experts and others in our communities to determine next steps for the Innovation Fund. In 2023, the foundation worked with Village Capital to explore ways to expand access to fresh, nutritious food and improve health equity. We also provided funding to No Kid Hungry and Partners in Health to support their health-focused work.

\$1.1M

invested in organizations expanding the reach of effective practices in school-based health centers and coalitions of community organizations

33%

of grantees in historically underserved or communities of color

Partners in Health

A grant to Partners in Health enabled the organization to expand its pilot Navajo Nation Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program to serve more Indigenous communities in the Navajo Nation. Funding helped enroll additional participants, buy more healthy food, increase awareness about nutrition, and teach residents how to shop and prepare healthy meals for school-aged children.



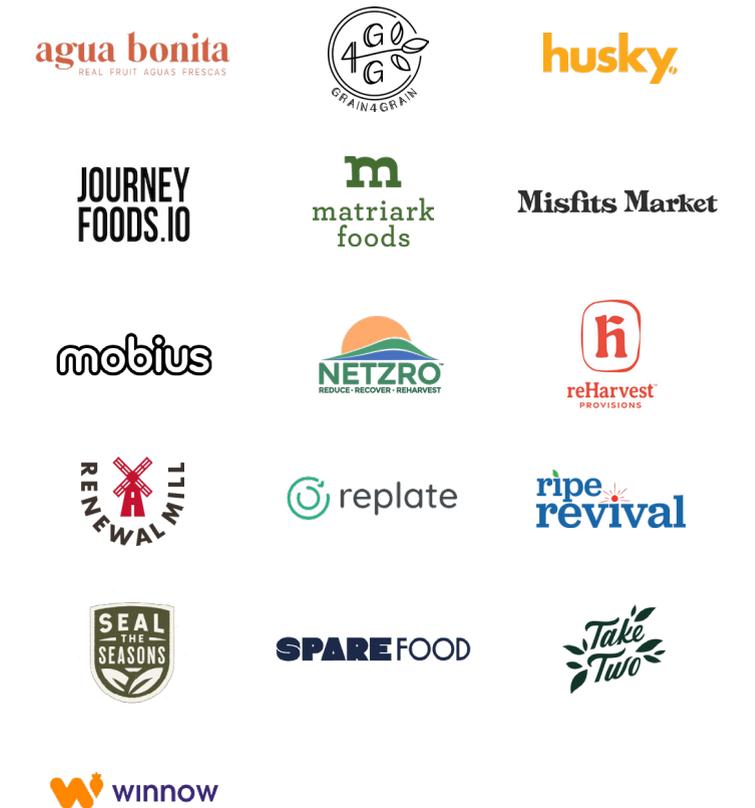
No Kid Hungry

A grant to No Kid Hungry expanded and scaled their School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) program to increase nutrition security for children and families in Colorado and Ohio. This second phase of foundation support enabled No Kid Hungry to enroll more families in food assistance programs and increase food access. SBHC interventions focus on reducing disparities and improving health for people in underserved communities.

Innovation Fund Portfolio Companies

The following innovators and entrepreneurs received Innovation Fund grants during two rounds of grantmaking since the foundation was established in 2018.

All of our portfolio companies are aligned to our Zero Hunger | Zero Waste mission.



Join our journey



Round up your purchase to the nearest dollar or donate to the foundation at checkout stations across the Kroger family of stores.



Volunteer at your local community food bank or community clean-up effort.



Visit ZeroHungerZeroWasteFoundation.org

