WhyHunger
Envisions a Future Where

There is fresh food on every plate.

Systems of oppression no longer exist.

Emergency food systems are reserved for global crises and events.

Agriculture is led by the wisdom of those who work the land and waters and unites science with Indigenous knowledge.

All workers have respect, rights, and equity.

Our Mission
WhyHunger believes a world without hunger is possible. We provide critical resources to support grassroots movements and fuel community solutions rooted in social, environmental, racial, and economic justice. We are working to end hunger and advance the human right to nutritious food in the U.S. and around the world.
We welcomed our new Executive Director, Jenique Jones, to the WhyHunger family!

Mobilized $1.1 million across 24 countries to support 4 global social movements and 62 grassroots organizations and their solutions to hunger.

Provided over $135,000 in Rapid Response grants across 10 countries in the aftermath of crises like earthquakes, drought, climate events and crippling inflation.

Raised over $6.7 million in revenue thanks to the generosity and partnership of donors, funders, artists and corporations.

Held our first ever Hungerthon Kick-off Concert, Amplified!, showcasing talented artists and performers united behind the vision of a world without hunger.

Raised over $6.7 million in revenue thanks to the generosity and partnership of donors, funders, artists and corporations.

Connected over 932,556 people to healthy food and essential services in their communities.

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$1.1M

$135K

$6.7M

$6.7M

932K

YEAR IN REVIEW
WE SUPPORT

24 Countries
We Partner with Four Global Social Movements

La Via Campesina
The World March of Women
The World Forum of Fisher Peoples
The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples
Supporting Black and Indigenous food sovereignty is a critical part of our strategy to address hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Systemic injustices have resulted in serious social and economic inequities that are root causes of hunger in these communities.

"Our goal as a financial ally is to prioritize relationship building, offer long-term general support that is flexible, and provide capacity building support with participatory approaches. This means we hear of the plans and priorities in true partnership with the communities we work with...all towards the goal of food sovereignty."

— Betty Fermin
Co-Director of Global Movements
Whether it’s land, seeds, tools, education, advocacy, funding, or training opportunities, WhyHunger is here for our partners every step of the way. In 2023, we invested over $1.1 million to help communities nourish themselves, including:

- Supported **21 organizations** with **$545,000 to train and equip Black farmers** in the U.S. to grow food sustainably and resource infrastructure projects that help scale healthy food production and boost income.

- Mobilized **$146,750 to 12 Indigenous organizations worldwide** to support agroecology and the recovery of Indigenous foodways and ancestral medicines.

- Provided **$38,351 in funding to social movements and grassroots organizations** to participate in conferences, events, and learning exchanges around the world to organize and strengthen food sovereignty strategies.

...this is the first time they have received utensils and cooking pots which they say will be of great use to their families for a very, very long time as food will get finished but household goods such as utensils and pots will remain with them longer. The communities especially appreciate and celebrate WhyHunger’s effort in supporting their projects in fisheries, livelihoods, sustainable environment, and capacity building of women and youth.”

— Gurapau Women Group member of WFFP in Kenya
Rapid Response

In the wake of natural disasters, climate events, and economic and political upheaval, WhyHunger can quickly provide Rapid Response support. Our grassroots partners, who live and work in affected communities, are the true first responders. They are digging out roads, delivering food and water, cleaning up homes and farms, and searching for the missing long before international aid arrives and long after it’s gone.

"WhyHunger’s Rapid Response Fund is one of the most crucial methods of support we can provide to our partners. Our support provides immediate relief but also allows our partners to continue their anti-hunger work without having to shift all their resources to disaster recovery."

— João Fonseca
Grants Manager
With your support in 2023, we mobilized $135,000 to partners in 10 countries to support grassroots first responders. Here are a few examples:

- After extreme drought in Kenya, WhyHunger supported partners providing water and food to communities on the brink of a large-scale famine.

- In the aftermath of a magnitude 6.8 earthquake in Ecuador, WhyHunger worked with partners on the ground to provide food, water, and other basic necessities in communities.
WhyHunger Find Food Tools

To end hunger for good, we know we must tackle its root causes. But we also know that millions of people are experiencing hunger right now, and they deserve nutritious food today, tomorrow, and always.

To power our national WhyHunger Hotline and Find Food services, we built and maintain the largest online directory of food pantries, soup kitchens, summer meals sites, government nutrition programs, and grassroots food justice organizations in the U.S. It’s accessible in English and Spanish by call, text, and online search.

In 2023 we:

- Expanded outreach about these important tools to over 500 community programs including nonprofits, hospitals, schools, clinics, re-entry programs, and mutual aid groups.

- Connected over 932,556 people to healthy food and essential services in their communities.
Stories from our Hunger Hotline

Amy in Louisiana had been working as a nursing home social worker for 30 years, when she was laid off without notice when the nursing home was sold. She was having trouble paying phone and utility bills and getting food on the table. When she spoke to our Hotline Advocate, Amy shared how much she loved her work, and that she was actively applying for jobs and determined to find one. She had never experienced a situation like this and was grateful for WhyHunger’s support to connect her to healthy food and other resources to get back on her feet.

Worried about the health of her pregnant daughter, Marie in California called our Hotline for help. Health issues had forced her daughter to take unpaid sick leave several months earlier, and the pressure to catch up with bills had reduced the expectant mother to a diet of rice and pasta. During the daughter’s recent OB/GYN visit, she was told that her baby’s health was at risk and she must start eating better immediately. WhyHunger’s Hotline staff connected Marie to local food pantries with healthy options and provided SNAP and WIC information for the expecting mother.

These are just two stories from the 932,556 people this year whose unique food needs have been met by connecting to WhyHunger’s Hotline & Find Food Services this year.
Protecting the Human Right to Food

People’s inability to get fresh foods is an equity issue that can lead to poor health outcomes, including preventable disease, obesity, and shortened lifespans. To push for progress, WhyHunger is a member of the Coordinating Team of the National Right to Food Community of Practice, working together toward U.S. policy reform in food, agriculture, health, labor, and the environment.

- Collaborated on exciting new draft legislation: Declaration of Miami and Food Bill of Rights.
- Fostered shared learning and capacity building among state-level organizers and community-based organizations advocating for the Right to Food.
Tedeschi Trucks Band and WhyHunger staff volunteer at Haley House in Boston, MA.
Telling a Different Story About Hunger

WhyHunger and our partners are changing the narrative about hunger and how to solve it. Through storytelling and connection, we uplift the experiences of our allies who are telling a different story about hunger’s causes and solutions.

This year we:

- Continued to resource and steward **Closing the Hunger Gap**, a national alliance of emergency food providers and advocacy organizations that uses narrative change to shift public opinion and change how food providers tackle hunger in their communities.

- Launched **Voices At The Root**, a new video podcast series spotlighting artists and creatives who are building a just world from the ground up.

- Published **20 blogs** uplifting the voices of our partners and challenging dominant narratives with over 10,000 views throughout 2023.

- WhyHunger secured earned media, resulting in over 222 million impressions, appearing in outlets including The Hill, Axios, Civil Eats, Chronicle of Philanthropy, Spin, Relix, MSN and AOL among others.
Accompaniment: Building Trust and Relationships

Our programs and grantmaking are grounded in relationships with grassroots partners. Visiting and hosting our partners strengthens our relationships and helps us better understand the impact of our support. It’s especially important after such a long period of pandemic isolation. Some highlights from 2023 include:


- The **World March of Women’s 13th International Meeting** in Ankara, Turkey.

- Convened a **cohort of 25 grassroots organizations** from across the Midwest, many led by BIPOC farmers and gardeners, to foster collaboration that furthers their work toward community food sovereignty.
Inspired by our co-founder, the late musician and activist Harry Chapin, WhyHunger has always mobilized artists and their fans to raise funds, build awareness and spark action.

In 2023 we:

- Joined **Bruce Springsteen** on his recent tour, raising nearly **$31,000** from fans at MetLife Stadium on August 30 and setting a record for most funds raised at one of his stadium shows.

- Raised nearly **$37,000** in partnership with Fandiem and **The Tedeschi Trucks Band** by offering fans a chance to donate to win a trip to Boston to attend a concert, volunteer with the band at our local partner Haley House, and more.

- Partnered with Artist Activist Management and REVERB on **Dead & Co’s** 2023 Final Tour, receiving **$33,000** to support our mission.

- Hosted our first Hungerthon Kick-off Concert, **Amplified!**, showcasing talented artists and performers united behind the vision of a world without hunger. Musical performers included **Eric Krasno & Friends** featuring Ivan Neville, Tony Hall and Nikki Glaspie with **special guests** Celisse, Matisyahu, Emily King, Molly Tuttle and Robert Randolph. Check out our **video** to relive the magic of that night!
Amplified! WhyHunger's Hungerthon Kick-off Concert at Brooklyn Bowl.
WhyHunger’s Co-Director of the Global Movements Program at a convening of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples in Turkey.
PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

Land Back in Maryland

The Black Dirt Farm Collective is a group of Black and Brown farmers, educators, scientists, and land stewards in Brandywine, Maryland, dedicated to regenerating and nourishing the land while building equitable food systems. WhyHunger supported the Black Dirt Farm Collective to grow its membership and cooperatively purchase 33 acres of land. The Black Dirt Farm Collective won the Food Sovereignty prize in 2023.

Supporting Farmworkers in North America

The Farmworker Support Committee/El Comite de Apoyo a Los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA) is a nonprofit organization governed by and composed of farmworkers who are actively engaged in the struggle for better working and living conditions. In 2023, we supported CATA in creating space for their members to grow their own food, learn about agroecology, and strengthen community relationships.

Land Access in Haiti

Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP), a social movement that advocates for the rights and interests of peasant farmers and rural communities in Haiti, also won the Food Sovereignty prize in 2023. After the floods in 2023, WhyHunger supported MPP to provide seeds, including beans, corn and perennials, and livestock to 250 families.
In 2023, your generosity and support helped usher in another successful year of sustained revenue growth and impact. Here are a few highlights:

**OUR FINANCIALS**

- Raised over $6.7 million in revenue to fuel our mission.
- Built new funder relationships and strengthened existing ones, bringing in over $3.4 million in foundation support to power our programs.
- Benefitted from the generosity of thousands of individual donors, totalling $1 million in support for WhyHunger’s mission.
- Raised over $1 million through our 38th Annual Hungerthon, with special thanks to our partners at SiriusXM, Audacy NY and iHeart NY, as well as Bruce Springsteen and Yoko Ono Lennon.

WhyHunger is honored to be good stewards of your generosity. We are proud to be a 4-star charity, with the highest rating for excellence in fiscal management, accountability and transparency from America’s leading independent charity evaluator, Charity Navigator.

Our 2023 audited financials are available at [WhyHunger.org/Financials](http://WhyHunger.org/Financials).
For almost 50 years, our mission at WhyHunger has remained steadfast: to eradicate global hunger. We persist in collaboration with our partners worldwide, addressing immediate crises while also fostering resilient, community-centered food systems for the long term.

We draw inspiration from our partners’ relentless dedication to food sovereignty, recognizing their tireless efforts in strategizing and organizing. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our donors, corporate allies, and foundation supporters whose trust and backing powers our endeavors.

Reflecting on our journey, we’re humbled by the lessons learned and the invaluable partnerships forged, all of which fuel our commitment to evolving as a more just, equitable, and impactful organization.

As we forge ahead, WhyHunger remains resolute in our collective mission, channeling resources into vital projects across the United States and 23 countries around the globe.

On behalf of the entire WhyHunger team, we extend our sincere appreciation.

The marathon continues,
Reflecting on our journey, we're humbled by the lessons learned and the invaluable partnerships forged, all of which fuel our commitment to evolving as a more just, equitable, and impactful organization.”

— Jenique Jones
WhyHunger’s new Executive Director