

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS BRING A COMMUNITY TOGETHER!


"It's a beautiful thing to see our churches and community groups unite with hope and joy to serve others," says Thomas Martin, Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church.

Since 2013, Warren Temple United Methodist Church has been a Feeding the Valley Partner Agency, leading a passionate food ministry. Monthly food boxes and warm meals every second Saturday have helped many neighbors, and a drive-through model during COVID made sure everyone continued to receive vital support.

Warren Temple. By Wednesday, cars line up early for the Mobile Pantry, where smiles, prayers, and much-needed groceries are shared.

This ministry touches people from all walks of life—families, seniors on fixed incomes, and hardworking individuals balancing tight budgets. Elizabeth Thornton, a leader in Warren Temple's food ministry, reflects, "The fellowship among volunteers, church members, and those we serve is heartwarming. None of this would be possible without our partnership with Feeding the Valley."

Together, they embody love in action!



Your generosity stocks the shelves to keep this ministry thriving!

In 2021, sister church First United Methodist joined the mission. Along with support from Mackey Wilson Jennings Funeral Home, they've been expanding their efforts to meet growing needs in their community.

Every Tuesday, volunteers from both congregations, alongside men from a local transitional home and others from the community, come together to pack food boxes at



FRESH THOUGHTS

From Frank Sheppard, President & CEO



Generous community members like you really stepped up to make 2024 a year of growth and transformation for Feeding the Valley! Here are just a few of the things we've accomplished together:



Facility Expansion Complete

We completed our 24,000 sq. ft. expansion and opened our new Hunger Action Volunteer Center to give our heroic volunteers an even

better experience. Volunteers are the backbone of our mission, giving their time and talents to make an impact. We want each volunteer to leave feeling fulfilled and motivated to return, bringing others with them!

Farmer's Truck Launch

During the growing season, our new Farmer's Truck—filled to the brim with fresh fruits and vegetables—traveled to specific areas to reach seniors and underserved communities, especially in smaller counties where resources are scarce.



Food as Medicine Gains Traction

Funded by a grant from the Amerigroup Foundation, our Food as Medicine program continues to grow. Partnering

with healthcare providers, we deliver nutritious,

healthy meals to patients battling diet-related illnesses. We're also empowering individuals to take charge of their well-being through healthy cooking classes and smart shopping tips for nutritious meals on a budget.

Big Gobble Success

Thanks to our donors, we delivered more than 3,000 traditional Thanksgiving meals to seniors, homebound individuals, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness. There's nothing more rewarding than knowing you made someone's holiday brighter!



These accomplishments are all the more important when you consider that food insecurity has been rising across the area we serve. As more families and seniors struggle to balance their budgets in 2025, every donor, volunteer, and partner is essential to meet the growing need. Thank you for your incredible support to feed hope and fight hunger in your community!

Frank Sheppard
President & CEO

LET'S MEET UP!

Once a month, the passionate nonprofit professionals of LaGrange and Troup County come together for the Nonprofit Development Meet-Up, where connections are made, collaborations spark, and resources are shared! This Meet-Up is the perfect opportunity to network with fellow changemakers, stay up-to-date on fundraising trends, and share valuable insights on annual development plans, donor stewardship, special events, and SO much more!

Hosted by a mix of nonprofit organizations, event venues, and local civic leaders, the Meet-Up is led by Feeding the Valley's Director of Development, Jennifer Shawa. Every session offers fresh perspectives and engaging discussions, leaving you with new tools to elevate your nonprofit work.



**NONPROFIT
DEVELOPMENT
MEET-UP**

Want to be part of this inspiring community?

Reach out to Jennifer Shawa at jshawa@feedingthevalley.org to join the next Meet-Up!

Don't miss out on the chance to learn, grow, and collaborate with some of the most dedicated professionals in the field.

THANK YOU!

Thank you! We are filled with gratitude for the generous support of these local community grants that will make such a difference in LaGrange and Troup County:

- A heartfelt thank you to the Charter Foundation for their support of our Food as Medicine Program, helping provide nourishment and care to those in need.
- A special thank you to First Presbyterian Church for their grant, which will allow us

to purchase new equipment for our LaGrange warehouse and better serve our community.

- And a sincere thank you to the Davison Bruce Foundation for their contribution to our Buddy Pack Program, as well as their support for our general operations, making it possible for us to continue our vital work.

These grants are truly wonderful for LaGrange and Troup County, and we appreciate this unwavering support more than words can express!

FARMER'S TRUCK ON THE ROAD!

In senior living communities, many of our neighbors are living on a fixed income and struggling to afford the nutritious food they need to stay healthy. Meanwhile, in many remote areas in our southern counties, it can be hard for residents to access fresh foods. The solution? Our new Farmer's Truck!

Thanks to the generous support of Publix Charities, we were able to launch this new program last summer. Fully loaded with fresh, healthy fruits



and vegetables, the Farmer's Truck traveled to underserved communities, where people were eagerly awaiting this special delivery. It didn't take long for shelves to empty and bags to fill with delicious produce. The smiles said it all—the Farmer's Truck is a huge hit! Here's to nourishing our community together, one delivery at a time.

NEW OVENS HEAT UP MEAL DELIVERIES

We're excited to share that our commercial kitchen—where all the meal magic happens—will be getting two brand-new ovens!

Our Kids Cafe, Senior Meals, and Food as Medicine programs rely on our commercial kitchen to turn the ingredients you supply into healthy, filling meals for many of our neighbors facing food insecurity

and other challenges. These new ovens will help us serve even more meals to those who need them most.

We're grateful to Publix Charities for their investment in our community and to all of our donors whose caring support helps put good food on the table!



LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Visit our website feedingthevalley.org for ways to get involved! You can donate food, start a food drive, volunteer at the Food Bank, or make a donation. Join us in ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry.

