

NOVEMBER 2024

Filling Plates 365 Days a Year

Dear friend,

As I reflect on what Share Our Strength has accomplished through our No Kid Hungry campaign this past year, I am continuously inspired by our community of donors and partners who remain committed to ending childhood hunger. This includes members of the culinary community like long time No Kid Hungry chef champion, Zach Bell. I know you'll enjoy reading his story.

Here are a few examples of how your support has fueled our work this year. We've advocated so nearly 21 million children could receive \$2.5 billion in summer grocery benefits. We've invested over \$8.4 million to connect families to nutrition benefits with our partner the American Public Human Services Association. We've helped ensure more kids start school with a healthy breakfast, ready to learn and reach their full potential.

I'm excited about the road ahead—from continuing to expand school breakfast programs and increasing SNAP and WIC participation to closing the summer hunger gap—we're making sure families can maximize their buying power with a new summer grocery benefit. We're also reaching families in hard-to-reach rural areas to access multiple days' worth of meals through pick-up and delivery services.

But ending childhood hunger requires more than transforming government programs or systems. That's why we're also looking at how we can address the root causes of hunger and investing in family economic mobility for single moms.

Thank you for joining us in advancing our work to achieve the promise of No Kid Hungry and for your continued efforts to ensure all children in this country can thrive and reach their full potential. **Please consider us in your end-of-year giving.** Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Anne Filipic

ANNE FILIPIC

Chief Executive Officer
Share Our Strength

OUR IMPACT

From July 2023 to June 2024, we granted nearly

\$18 million

to school districts, community groups, and other organizations working to help kids. More than

\$4.4 million

of those funds helped families feed their children during summer when school was closed. This included funding summer feeding programs in rural communities and helping states launch a new summer grocery benefit program.

In partnership with the **American Public Human Services Association**, we continued to support the critical work of state agencies—dismantling barriers that prevent families from enrolling in important benefit programs that children rely on like SNAP and WIC. **To date, nearly**

\$240 million

in annual benefits have been unlocked in the 10 states and communities engaged in these efforts.

During the school year, from September 2023 to May 2024, No Kid Hungry grantees served more than

374 million

meals to kids and families.

Due to our efforts to **increase Child Tax Credit support**, families across the nation will receive over

\$1.4 billion

in new and expanded state CTC benefits.

**A MESSAGE FROM ZACH BELL,
CHEF AND NO KID HUNGRY SUPPORTER**

As a kid from central Florida, I was raised by a hardworking single mom who was an elementary school teacher. So, having the chance to share my strengths as a chef and leader in the restaurant and hospitality industry was a no brainer.

I learned about No Kid Hungry in 2005 when I was given the opportunity to participate in one of the Tasteful Pursuit dining tours to help raise critical funds. After that, I was hooked. Whether I'm participating in No Kid Hungry Dinners and events like Taste of the Nation or advocating for kids on Capitol Hill, I want to make sure everybody has access to wholesome, nutritious food—especially children.

When No Kid Hungry asked me to work with Palm Beach County schools to create a menu for a district-wide Earth Day celebration in April, I jumped at the chance. Preparing a healthy lunch for a large school district in Florida was a huge undertaking, but the food service staff—from the head executive chef to the school dietician—made the execution seamless. On the big day, I went to Allamanda Elementary School and worked with an amazing kitchen staff to prepare my recipe—veggie grain bowls with quinoa, falafel balls and a special flavorful sauce. The best part was I got to help serve them to the kids. Everybody was jazzed, and it was a lot of fun! Seeing the younger kids, particularly the second graders, dive in was a welcome surprise. I never would've expected that.

As a chef, I have a natural connection with food. But I also recognize I cook for tons of people who get to eat out often, but it's not a universally shared experience. So, it feels like my duty to translate what I do in a way that takes care of my community.

Your generous donations have already made a huge difference for children and families in my community and across the country. Of the nearly \$18 million that No Kid Hungry granted nationally this year, Florida received more than \$465,000. But children across the country are still facing hunger, so I hope you consider making a year-end gift to No Kid Hungry. Please help feed kids this holiday season and beyond, so every child has a full plate today and throughout the new year.

Sincerely,



ZACH BELL

Executive Chef



To all the generous people that donate funds to help feed students,
I want to say, thank you.
You are angels to these children, and you may never hear their story or know the impact that you made, but you are making a tremendous impact in these students' lives."

KIM THOMASSON
PRINCIPAL
BELLE GLADE, FL

We can't do it without our No Kid Hungry champions—parents, teachers, bus drivers, community leaders—and you.

Your support helps No Kid Hungry provide critical funds that help communities and schools implement creative solutions to feed students and expand access to important benefit programs. Millions of children and families continue to face hunger in the U.S. today, but this is a problem we can solve together.

Ways to Give: NoKidHungry.org/Gift PO Box 715475, Philadelphia, PA 19171-5475