

# #189

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Gimbel Foundat...nd Evaluation (Web Link)  
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Page 1

**Q1** Name of your organization.

Food Bank for the Heartland

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**Q2** Grant #

20170899

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**Q3** Grant Period

December 12, 2017 - June 12, 2018

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**Q4** Location of your organization

City	<b>Omaha</b>
State	<b>NE</b>

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**Q5** Name and Title of person completing evaluation.

Susan Ogborn

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**Q6** Phone Number:

402 331 1213

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**Q7** Email address.

sogborn@foodbankheartland.org

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Page 2: Key Outcomes and Results

**Q8** Total number of clients served through this grant funding:

8333 meals

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**Q9** Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives. Use the following format: State the Goal: State Objective 1: Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 1: State Objective 2 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 2: State Objective 3 (if applicable): Describe the Activities, Results and Outcomes for Objective 3:

Objective 1:

To purchase protein (excluding tuna) for rural mobile pantries in Nebraska

Activities, results and outcomes:

Food Bank for the Heartland hosts 48 mobile pantries each month, providing fresh produce, lean protein and low-fat dairy products to food insecure people in rural Nebraska. These "mobiles" serve an average of 125 families each with an average family size of 4. Each pound of food distributed is estimated, by the USDA, to serve .8 of a meal. A count of unique recipients is not kept. The totals are expected to include repeat guests.

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**Q10** Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

Nothing unusual

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**Q11** How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

We just keep driving :)

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**Q12** Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

Because of the Gimbel Foundation's focus on protein, we have been able to demonstrate to other donors and potential donors what a difference that makes in the quality of the food we are able to distribute through our mobile pantry program.

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**Q13** Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

Rural pantries in NE are gradually closing as the volunteers who staff them retire. We are trying to replace that source of support through a mobile pantry program that ultimately will include 60 rural pantries each month.

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Page 3: Budget

**Q14** Please provide a budget expenditure report of the approved line items. Include a brief narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives.

The "Order Confirmation" will be emailed to the above address. All funds were spent to purchase protein for our guests.

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Page 4: Success Stories

**Q15** Please relate a success story:

Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOBILE PANTRY IN HALL COUNTY ON APRIL 14th TO BE HELD  
AT CITY OF GRAND ISLAND'S ENGINEERING DIVISION

OMAHA, Neb. April 4, 2018 -- Food Bank for the Heartland is partnering with Trinity United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island Senior High ROTC and other members of the Grand Island community to host a free mobile food pantry in Grand Island on Saturday, April 14th. The mobile pantry will be held once again in the garage at the Engineering Division, 315 N Jefferson St. Grand Island, NE 68801, which is located on the north end of the Customer Service Center. The food distribution will begin at 9:30 a.m. Numbers will be handed out starting at 8:15 a.m. Clients will be allowed to access the pantry in numerical order beginning at 9:30 a.m. Clients are asked not to arrive on site before 8:00 a.m.

Approximately 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of food (20,800 to 25,000 meals) will be distributed for free to individuals and families who are food insecure. Individuals and families living in Hall County and surrounding communities are welcome to attend. Those who come to the mobile pantry are encouraged to bring boxes or bags to assist in carrying the food they receive. No identification is required to receive food. "Loaves and Fishes" volunteers from Trinity United Methodist Church along with volunteers from First Presbyterian Church, Grand Island Senior High ROTC and the local Grand Island community will be helping pantry clients. The "Loaves and Fishes" group has been volunteering at this mobile pantry for one year.

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food free of charge directly to individuals and families who need assistance for a one-day food distribution. The goal is to provide food where there is a high need but limited resources. Items to be distributed at the mobile pantry in Hall County include spaghetti, tomato sauce, canned pork and beans, cereal, pancake mix and other shelf-stable products along with perishable items, including a variety of fresh produce and bakery items.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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About Food Bank for the Heartland (a member of Feeding America):

Food Bank for the Heartland is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Omaha, Nebraska that acts as a central clearinghouse distributing food to more than 530 network partners across 77 counties in Nebraska and 16 counties in western Iowa. Food Bank for the Heartland has distributed 22 million meals in FY 2017 helping thousands of children, families, seniors, veterans, disabled individuals and others in need. For more information, visit [www.FoodBankHeartland.org](http://www.FoodBankHeartland.org).

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**Q16** Please relate a success story here:

I just had a lovely call from Mrs. Fitch (age 84) thanking us for the mobile pantries in Buffalo County and Lexington. She says the food she gets at the mobile allows her to pay her “daggoned” medical bills each month. She also volunteers at the Lexington pantry and while she loves it, she’s worried that it’s getting so large that the “children” who volunteer at that pantry don’t get to take home any food. Her sister (age 78) is raising 4 grandchildren because “their mother got into those drugs” and she goes to the Buffalo County mobile and is also very grateful. They share recipes with those in line and LOVE the fresh fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Fitch has that “gluten thing” so she can’t get bakery products or pasta, but she thinks the selection is great even excluding “white food.” She’s also worried about the Africans who are too shy to come to the pantry (reminds me of Tyson’s note about how to get Somali women more involved) so she’s reaching out to the pastors in the area to talk to their congregations and tell them that it’s safe.

THAT’s why we do what we do!!! Thank you all.

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**Q17** Please relate a success story here:

It was 5:30 in the morning – abnormally early for me on a Saturday – and I had just let my dog out my front door to do his version of welcoming the new day. As I closed the storm door to keep the frigid -2 degree air out, I pondered my day.

Before my front door clicked closed, it dawned on me that others were lining up their carts, totes, and wagons of all sizes to mark their place in line for our mobile food pantry that was scheduled for five hours later that day.

I knew that in a few short hours I needed to meet one of our clients at that mobile food pantry. I wanted to understand his world, how he got to a place of kicking pride to the side to ask for help, and to get a sense of how Second Harvest is impacting his life.

When I arrived at the mobile pantry at 8 o’clock the temperature had risen to a balmy -1 degrees. I pulled into the parking lot and saw a nice, orderly line of the placeholders the clients use to not only mark who’s next, but also transport the bounty they would receive that day. As I looked for a parking spot, the faces of those who’d come so early that morning to get a little help came into focus.

Line of carts at a Mobile Food Pantry

Young, old, white, Hispanic, skinny, and those who are a little more “robust,” they were all in their cars trying to stay out of the cold. Some cars were running to provide a little warmth, most were not. I would come to find out later that accusations by other clients like, “if you can afford to keep your car running, you can’t be too hard up” have been made in the past.

Sliding out of my toasty vehicle, the stinging hand of the cold air slapped me in the face. But I had come prepared for the cold; warm boots, a 3-in-1 jacket, a stocking cap, and fur-lined gloves were my weapons of choice against the unrelenting cold.

As I approached the line of carts, looking for the black tote with yellow lid I was told to look for, the thought crossed my mind that those who had been here for over two hours might be looking on from their cars thinking I was trying to cut into the line. I wanted so badly to tell them I was not here for food, I was here to help. But I didn’t have the time; I needed to find Joe.

While looking for Joe’s vehicle, a little girl of about 6 or 7 jumped out of a minivan for some unknown reason wearing little more than a spring coat. In my head I hoped she had something warmer to wear in the car. Later, I would see her in line, exposed to the frigid air with just that same thin coat on, teeth chattering, trying to cozy up to mom for some warmth and to block the wind.

I’m not sure if Joe saw me first, or vice versa, but I knocked on the window of his vehicle and introduced myself. I invited him to sit in my running car while we talked so we wouldn’t have to waste any of his gas. Over the next hour and a half he regaled me stories of his family, colorful work history, high aptitude for fixing things, and love of all things fast. At one point I offered to take him somewhere to grab a little breakfast, after looking at the time he declined for fear of losing his place in line. So a cup of hot chocolate from the nearest gas station would have to do.

## S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

### Joe at a Mobile Food Pantry

Somewhere between seeing the piece of paper with a hand-drawn body showing all his injuries, and watching him wince in pain multiple times just sitting in a vehicle, I knew he wasn't lying about not being able to work. He admitted to living life hard and to its fullest, but shook his head at the thought of being 57 and relying on others to survive for the rest of his life.

As Joe and I talked I kept looking at the line of people that was growing. It was around the grand-stand now and, for some reason, the newcomers weren't just putting their cart, tote, or other placeholder in line and heading back to their car, they were standing out in the still -1 degree weather; some with little more than a blanket around them. The food distribution didn't begin for another hour!

When Joe gave the "Let's go" signal we left the comfort of a warm vehicle to join the masses laying siege to the elements. I told Joe that I wanted to go say hi to our driver, the organizers, and some of the volunteers helping that day.

It was a banner day for volunteers – more than 25 students from a local school came to help. The pantry organizer was beaming – as much as one can beam wearing a blaze-orange coat, wool hat and knitted scarf. Talking with the organizers, hearing their stories of why they do what they do, and seeing their face when they talked about helping others was humbling.

The line began to move and I needed to excuse myself to go find Joe. Behind Joe was a senior couple in "matching" snow suits. "Matching" only in the sense that they were both the old-school, one-piece snowsuits of my childhood 40 years ago. The woman was so proud of herself for being able to add some extra fabric along the sides to – according to her – "handle the expansion that happens to your body as you get older."

Following Joe through the line I came across a young mother carrying a baby in one of those front-loading carrying slings that gave mom an extra hand to carry the food she was receiving. Her three year-old daughter was next to her wearing a billowy pink winter coat, a white hat with a puffy tassel on top, and an innocent rosy-cheek smile that warms everyone who sees it. I was silently proud at the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables we were able to give them that day!

I excused myself to go say hi to members of a local church who came to give away tables and racks full of clothes. They didn't have the luxury of being inside and away from the weather, and while the icicles hanging from their noses painted a picture of misery, their smiles and attitudes about the people they were helping certainly did not. I'm amazed at how much good there is in this world!

With Joe's trip through the gauntlet of boxes of food complete, and his heavy-duty black tote filled, it was time to load him up and send him on his way. We'd said all there was that needed to be said, so when he shook my hand, looked me in the eye, and quietly said, "Thank you," that was all I needed.

Driving home I reflected on my time at that mobile food pantry. I was sad that the line was so long, and that the people we served had to stand in such bitter cold, but I was happy that we were able to serve them all. I said to myself, "THAT is why I do what I do!"

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### Page 5: Organizational Information

**Q18** Which category best describes the organization.  
Please choose only one.

**Basic Needs Support**

**Q19** What is the organization's primary program area of interest?

**Food  
Bank**

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

<b>Q20</b> Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100%	African American	<b>12</b>
	Caucasian	<b>68</b>
	Native American	<b>2</b>
	Hispanic Latino	<b>16</b>
	Other	<b>2</b>

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<b>Q21</b> Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.	Children Birth-05 years of age	<b>10</b>
	Children ages 06-12 years of age	<b>20</b>
	Youth ages 13-18	<b>10</b>
	Young Adults (18-24)	<b>10</b>
	Adults	<b>40</b>
	Senior Citizens	<b>10</b>

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<b>Q22</b> Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.	<b>Respondent skipped this question</b>
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<b>Q23</b> Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.	At/Below Poverty Level	<b>65</b>
	Working Poor	<b>35</b>

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<b>Q24</b> Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.	<b>Respondent skipped this question</b>
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