

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation

2023 Report

THE KROGER CO.
ZERO
HUNGER
ZERO
WASTE
FOUNDATION

From the President

In 2022, we advanced the foundation’s work to build a more equitable and sustainable food system for all. We remain focused on our mission to create communities free of hunger and waste for a better future, together.

Despite the challenges and complexities of our food system, we are committed to the task ahead. I’m personally inspired by and grateful for our network of supporters and grantees who work hard every day to bring our shared mission to life. The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation and our ecosystem continues to thrive thanks to so many generous collaborators and innovators.

We are energized by our focus for the Innovation Fund in 2023: the intersection of food and health equity. The past few years highlighted the disparities in food access, security and health in our communities. We believe in the promise of fresh, healthy food to change individual and community health. This year, we aim to direct catalytic funding to innovators with solutions to change health through food interventions. The foundation is pleased to do this work in support of the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health and as part of Kroger’s overall goals to improve food security and health outcomes.

As always, we promise to engage diverse experts and communities along the way to develop solutions that are inclusive, culturally relevant and informed by people with lived experience. We look forward to continuing the journey together.



Denise Osterhues
President, The Kroger Co.
Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation

Senior Director, ESG –
Sustainability & Social Impact, Kroger



Board of Directors

The foundation’s board of directors includes these Kroger leaders:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Vice President: Keith Dailey ,
Group Vice President of Corporate Affairs | Director: Emily Hartmann ,
Senior Director of Brand Marketing |
| Secretary: Milen Mahadevan ,
President & Chief Operating Officer, 84.51° | Director: Victor Smith ,
President, Atlanta Division |
| Interim Treasurer and Executive
Director: Patty Leesemann ,
Head of Philanthropy | Director: Juan De Paoli ,
Vice President, <i>Our Brands</i> |
| Director: Lisa Zwack ,
Head of Sustainability | Director: Ryan Verbecken ,
Vice President and
Chief Sourcing Officer |

Our Mission

Established in 2018, The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation is a non-profit 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 34 million Americans still struggle with hunger.²

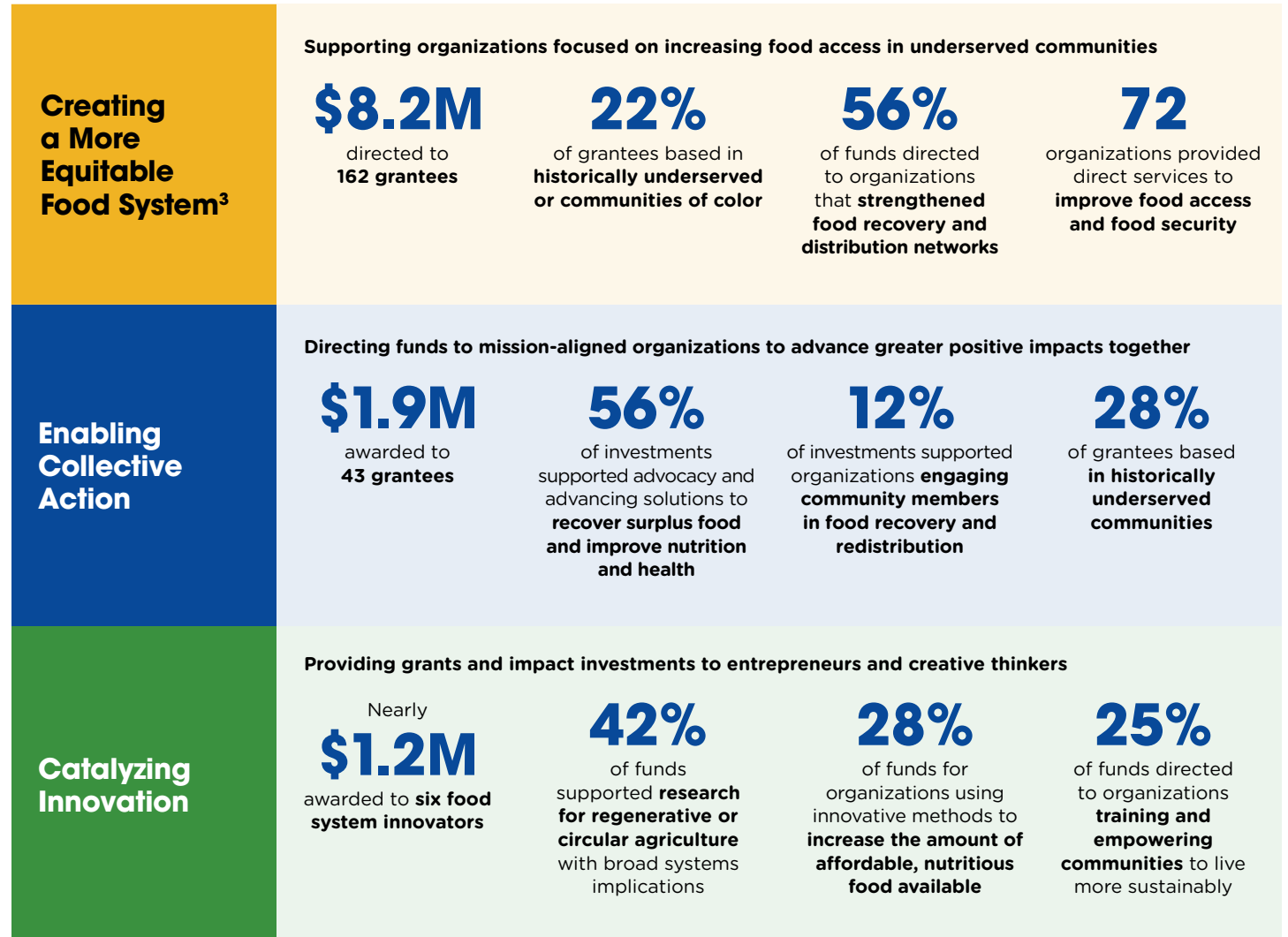
National Collaborations

Special thanks to these valued national non-profit organizations that share our mission:



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 the communities we call home one meal at a time and is guided by three pillars:



M = million

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

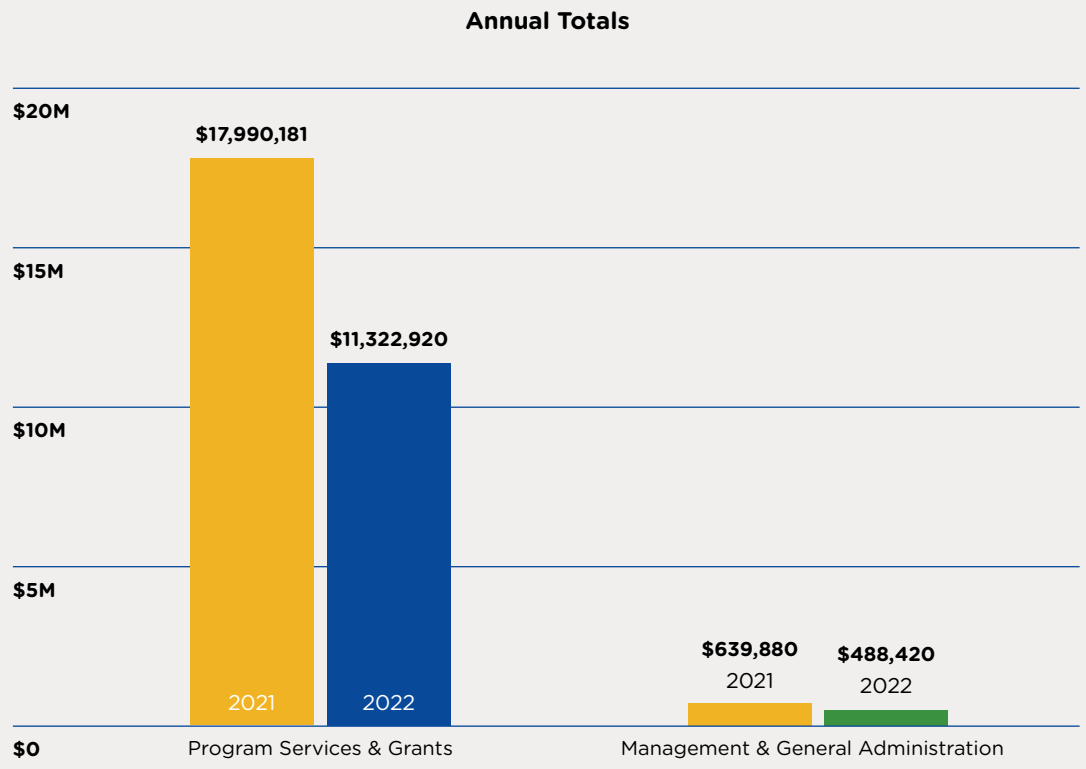
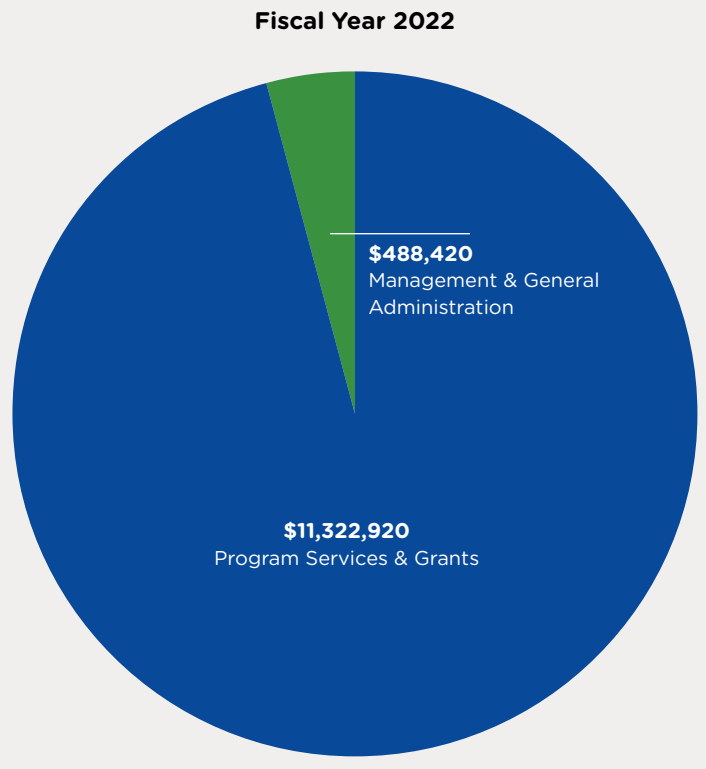
² Feeding America: [Hunger in America](#)

³ The percentages under each pillar are unique to the funding being described within that pillar

Fiscal Year 2022 Financials⁴

Summary of Revenue & Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	Assets, Liabilities & Net Assets	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Revenues	\$15,207,931	\$19,052,230	Total Assets	\$11,444,778	\$18,732,224
Total Expenses & Grants	\$18,630,061	\$11,811,340	Total Liabilities	\$0	\$0
Excess Revenue over Expenses	(\$3,422,130)	\$7,287,446	Net Assets (without donor restrictions)	\$11,444,778	\$18,732,224

Annual Operating Expenses



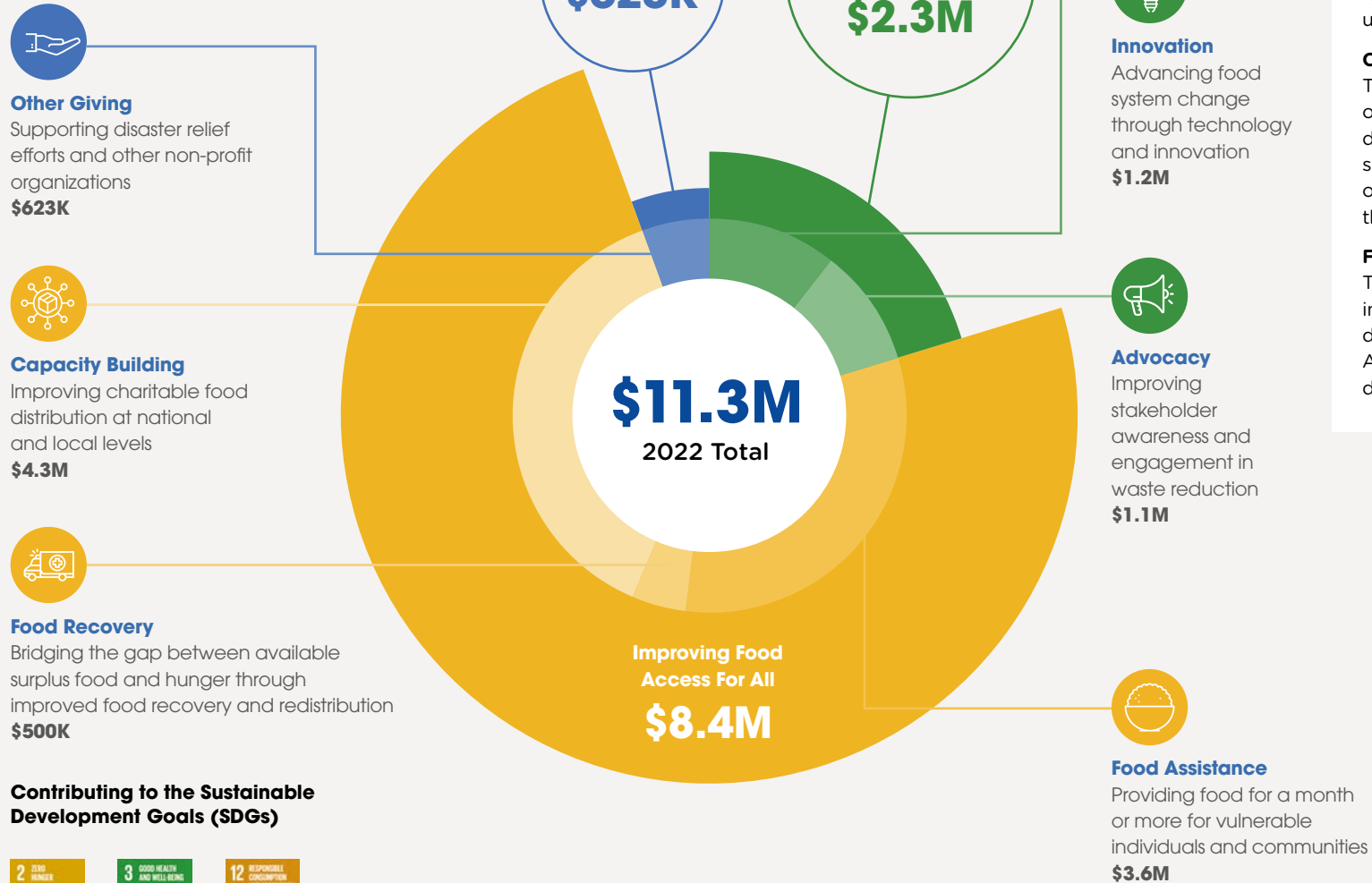
Total Program Services:

96%
mission support

⁴ Financial data reflects Form 990 filings

Community Investments

In 2022, the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation focused on advancing positive impacts for people and our planet through hunger relief, food system support and urgent community response.



Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



M = million | K = thousand

Community Direct Response

In 2022, the foundation provided much-needed assistance to local communities facing unexpected hardships.

Compassion & Healing

The foundation, in partnership with our Dallas and Houston customers, donated more than \$110,000 to support The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country for the Uvalde Strong Fund.

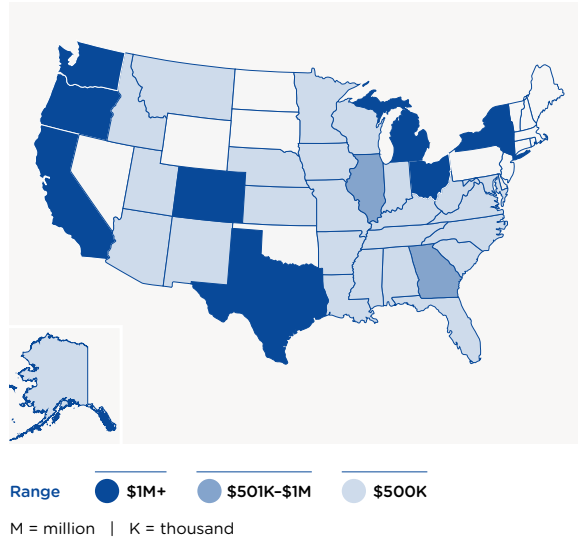
Flooding in Eastern Kentucky

The foundation and customers in Kroger's Louisville Division donated over \$32,000 to the American Red Cross to support disaster relief for flood victims.

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



South Region

Knoxville, TN

University of Tennessee Foundation:

A foundation grant supported the food4VOLS program, which transforms surplus food on campus into ready-to-heat and ready-to-eat meals for the university's Big Orange Pantry and other community organizations.

Macon, GA

Middle Georgia Community Food Bank:

A foundation grant helped serve 250 families in rural communities through the food bank's mobile pantry program, which provides monthly deliveries of fresh produce and proteins as well as shelf-stable items to improve food security.

Hunger Relief

Supporting the Ukraine Crisis

The United Nations World Food Programme provides emergency food and other assistance to victims of conflict, drought, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, crop failures and pandemics.

The foundation directed a \$250,000 grant to the World Food Program USA in 2022, supporting emergency operations to provide food assistance for people affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Funding helped provide food kits and ready-to-eat food rations, primarily in hard-to-reach areas and near the front lines, where commercial supply lines and food access are unreliable. Since its initial response, the U.N. World Food Programme reaches over 3 million people each month in Ukraine and neighboring countries with in-kind food and other support.

Grant Program Highlights

Midwest Region

Columbus, OH

Children's Hunger Alliance (CHA): Our funding to CHA provided nutritious meals in early childcare settings, afterschool programs and summer programs across Ohio.

Madison, WI

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern

Wisconsin: The foundation grant supported the food bank's HungerCare Wellness Program, which provides nutritionally tailored food boxes to individuals who are food insecure and managing chronic heart disease or Type 2 diabetes.

West Region

Tucson, AZ

Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona: Mobile Meals delivers fresh, diet-aligned meals to improve health among low-income adults across Pima and Santa Cruz counties. Our grant supported the expansion of their commercial kitchen, enabling more clients to select and order meals.

Los Angeles

Los Angeles Mission: A foundation grant helped the LA Mission expand its reach through a new Race to Feed initiative, which provides meals and supportive services for vulnerable children and families in the community.



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 2022.



Culinary Director Shanel DeWalt prepares meals at one of Make Food Not Waste's Upcycling Kitchens. Photo Credit: © Chuk Nowak

Upcycling Food Waste in Michigan

Make Food Not Waste, based in Detroit, runs the Upcycling Kitchens. Every week, professional chefs create more than 2,000 high-quality free meals for the community using wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste. In 2022, the organization recovered and redistributed 50,000 pounds of surplus food, providing high-quality, nourishing meals for individuals and families who may not have the time or ability to cook a complete meal.

Increasing Benefits Access & Enrollment

mRelief helps individuals and families easily navigate the application process for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Accessible by mobile phone and text messaging, applicants can see if they qualify for food assistance by texting "FOOD" to 74544. The foundation's \$250,000 grant helped more than 56,000 people in Texas, Kentucky and Georgia connect to SNAP benefits, unlocking about \$53 million in SNAP dollars. The foundation previously directed support to mRelief in 2019.



Brothers M. Wes Stops Jr., Vice President of the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance and Director of Crow Nation's Environmental Office, and Jacob Stops, Crow Nation's Grants and Contracts Administrator, look out for deer and elk on Crow lands. Photo Credit: © Tailyr Irvine/BNGA

Enabling More Sustainable Food Production

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has been a strategic collaborator in our Zero Hunger | Zero Waste journey for many years. In 2022, the foundation aimed to increase grantmaking aligned with sustainability to reflect our zero-waste mission. Two key grants supported WWF, specifically focusing on regenerative agriculture systems and protecting native grasslands.

Project funding for regenerative systems enables WWF to work with three specialty crop and two row crop producers that are transitioning to regenerative agriculture systems to track and measure outcomes over several growing seasons. WWF will help analyze transition patterns and trends to better understand pre- and post-harvest food loss and consider how to include circularity as a key component of regenerative systems.

A grant to WWF's Northern Great Plains Program supports the Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance's (BNGA) efforts to unite Native Nations in protecting biodiversity in the Northern Great Plains. The goal of this work is to help tribal members thrive by restoring and connecting with natural resources, grasslands and native wildlife populations, and supporting fish and game departments to improve conservation at scale. With this funding, WWF provided a grant to BNGA for operational support, including leadership development and capacity building.

Previous foundation grants supported WWF's Food Waste Warriors program, which includes classroom lessons and activities to help young students learn about the planetary impact of what we eat and what we throw away.

Enabling Collective Action

The foundation continues to convene coalitions of action and create new opportunities for collaboration. We know that when we work together, we can create 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.



Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month, an opportunity to come together to take action against hunger in our local communities. Throughout the month, the foundation's End Hunger Here campaign, in collaboration with Feeding America, supported local food bank networks across our communities.

Thanks to our generous customers across Kroger's retail supermarket divisions, the foundation raised over \$460,000 to support local hunger relief in September.



Supporting the Mississippi River Basin

The foundation supports The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi River Basin Program, a coalition of stakeholders working together toward achieving healthier lands, cleaner waters and climate-resilient communities across the basin. The program works with farmers, agribusinesses and policymakers to improve soil health and reduce nutrient run-off. The Nature Conservancy partners with disaster relief agencies, levee districts and landowners to prepare communities for extreme weather and reduce flood risk.

The Future of Food @ SXSW

For the fourth year in a row, The Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation worked alongside several collaborators, including Austin, TX-based Little Herds and The Cook's Nook, to host the Future of Food @ SXSW 2023. With special events focused on the opening weekend of the annual film, music and cultural festival, the foundation brought together food experts, innovators and consumers to engage in thoughtful conversations about our food system.

Specifically, the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation curated discussions with collaborators and thought leaders during Day 2 of the Future of Food series, inviting dialogue about how and where the world's food is produced, and the potential impacts of food production on people and our planet. With headline speakers, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities, the event offered a compelling call to action.

700+

in-person attendees

3.4M+

total Future of Food @ SXSW content views

41%

increase in digital reach vs. prior year

Catalyzing Innovation

The Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation's Innovation Fund helps fill a critical gap in philanthropic funding at national and local levels. Our grants support entrepreneurs and innovators who are tackling the complex problems of food loss and waste. To date, the foundation has distributed over \$5 million to advance innovation and support startups in the food recovery and food waste prevention space.

2022 Highlights

Last year, we directed a select number of grants to continue advancing innovation:



Matriark Foods

The foundation directed a follow-on grant to Matriark, one of our 2021 Innovation Fund cohort members. This second grant supported efforts to pilot the organization's first carbon-neutral, shelf-stable meal-in-a-box product. For this item, Matriark repurposed 75,000 pounds of surplus vegetables and navy beans grown in New York to produce more than 100,000 shelf-stable healthy meal cartons for distribution to hunger relief organizations.



Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR)

An Innovation Fund grant supported FFAR's Household Food Waste Measurement Project, which aims to develop agreed-upon criteria and methodology to assess progress toward reducing household food waste. This work is integral to efforts to set future consumer food waste reduction targets and develop the strategies, interventions and policies to achieve progress.

Plans for 2023

As part of the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, the foundation pledged to focus the next Innovation Fund round of grantmaking on solutions to advance health equity and improve health outcomes through food and nutrition. We'll share more on this work as it develops.

Innovation Fund Portfolio Companies

The following innovators and entrepreneurs are among the Innovation Fund's grantees from 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.

2019 Cohort

Misfits Market



mobius



replate



2021 Cohort

agua bonita
REAL FRUIT. SQUAS. FRECCAS.



husky



JOURNEY
FOODS.IO

SPARE FOOD

matriark
foods





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

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