Recovering food, filling pantries, teaching children about food justice, and easing hunger in our communities
What is Food Bus?

• It’s not an actual Bus. It’s an idea.

Just one week’s worth of food at a local elementary school
Our Mission, Our Work

• Recover unused food from elementary schools & distribute it to pantries, involve kids, connect communities
How Does Food Bus Work?

Food is saved at schools...

Volunteers deliver food to food pantries...

for distribution to hungry families
What kind of food is acceptable?

- Milk in unopened cartons
- Prepackaged sauces (e.g., applesauce, pasta sauce)
- Fruits and vegetables, including prepackaged apple slices
- Prepackaged meats (e.g., Lunchables)
Storing, Collecting and Delivering Food

• **Food Bus provides a refrigerator** free of charge to any school that needs one. The refrigerator must be located away from general food service activities and only contain food designated for distribution.

• **Students usually collect the food** at the end of their lunch period. **Parents**, students, teachers, and school staff deliver the food or the food pantry picks it up.
Food Bus Fridge
Students manage collecting the food, storing in fridge, weighing the amounts and documenting.
The Food Bus Toolkit:

Initial Process for Start Up
1. Consultation with school leadership to assess viability of food recovery program.
2. Educational session(s) with school leadership and students related to food recovery and initiation of program.
3. Assessment of cafeteria and potential school needs for funding (for example, purchase of refrigerator, cart, scale, boxes for weighing food and delivering, table for donation site, etc).

Design of Food Recovery Plan:
1. Work with community outreach coordinator (or other assigned personnel) to create architecture of program in the school cafeteria.
2. Strategize with school physical placement of food donation collection site, refrigerator, scale, bags and other supplies.
3. Implement food recovery:
   * schedule meetings with staff to assess progress and address issues,
   * problem solve areas of concern,
   * assist with coordination of volunteers for distribution of food donations.
4. Purchase materials for school as needed to recover/store/distribute the food.

Discussion with Local Pantry:
1. School will choose local pantry to form relationship with. Suggestions can be provided by Food Bus if the school would like.
2. Coordinate pick up and delivery schedule.
3. Address and solve issues if they arise between school and pantry.

Maintenance:
1. Stay involved as consulting organization as program develops.
2. Provide funding as needed.
3. Reassess and reengineer program as needed.
4. Hold yearly meeting with volunteers across participating schools to share insights, suggestions, and problem-solving.

Kent Gardens Elementary School: Food Recovery/Donation Log
Food Pantry Chair: Rachel Simon (rachel@simon.net)
2014-2015 School Year

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Delivering Unused Elementary School Food to a Local Pantry, In Arizona

This devoted Mom fought and fought to get the program implemented.
Who Receives the Food?

The school makes that decision. Current **Food Bus** options are:

- **Donate to local food pantries.**
- Use to **supplement in-house Power Pack** Program.
- **Donate directly to families** in the school’s population that are in need
- **Create Pop Up Pantry** in your school
- **Partner with a sister school** in need and donate the unused food to their families.
- **Donate to homeless shelter** or other social service organization that feeds hungry people.
• Is transferring food from schools to food banks legal?

Yes: The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed in 1996, protects organizations and individuals who donate unused food to the hungry.

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

The School Food Recovery Act  
(Former Rep. Frank Wolf, 10th District, VA)

From Rep. Wolf's website:

• “... introduced the bipartisan School Food Recovery Act in 2009 to authorize schools to give unused excess food to food banks and to protect them from liability under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act...... signed into law on Nov 18, 2011....”

Legal Summary K-12 School Food Recovery:

PL 112-55 a 2011 federal law amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and saves food from being wasted (42 U.S.C. 175)

ALL schools participating in the NSLP are authorized to DONATE any food not consumed.

Donations Must be made to 501c3s, Food Banks and Charitable Organizations.

Donor Schools are protected from under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act 42 U.S.C. 1791)

More info at:  
Why Does Food Bus Work?

• Providing **supplies**: Refrigerators, baskets, carts for schools to store perishables collected.

• Public **education**: Teach schools, administrators, volunteers and parents about the amount of food wasted in their communities.

• Involving **kids**: our largest impact is with children.
Elementary Schools in CA, AZ, IL, VA, NC, WA, all over the USA participating
Connecting Students, Communities, Pantries and the Hungry
Community Relationships

A policeman, a principal, a PTA/PTO president and a food pantry volunteer

This group decided to stop throwing away good food, they made it happen
Why is this work important?

- According to the USDA, 1 out of 7 Americans (14%) lived in a food insecure household in 2013. At an average school, up to 60% of lunches are discarded.

The work of Food Bus and our Partners helps by:

- Providing unused leftover food to food banks:
  - Helps feed hungry people
  - Reduces dumping fees for school Districts
  - Provides an opportunity to teach Children

- Reducing food waste also reduces greenhouse gas emissions
Generational Shift

• Perhaps the most important work of Food Bus is our work with children in elementary schools.

  – We are showing them how they can **make a difference** in this world, no matter their age.

  – They are learning to **make a choice** about what to do with their unused food, rather than just throw it out.

  – We are **building awareness** in the next generation about the hungry around them, and how to be part of a solution.

  – We are integrating schools, parents, children and pantries into caring communities, **breaking down barriers** that leave our less fortunate neighbors unnoticed and struggling.
How Are Kids Involved?

Through:
Fundraisers
Green teams
Eco Clubs
Student Councils
Service Learning Internships

Food Bus Inc.
Help End World Hunger

Food Bus Inc.
Help Us End World Hunger!
Food Bus works around the country to solve world hunger. Step by step, Food Bus takes unopened perishables from schools and brings them to food pantries for people in need in our community.

www.foodbus.org
www.facebook.com/foodbus
twitter: @foodbus
Students write articles for their school newspapers to publicize the work and educate.
Kids translate signs, visit pantries, become aware of hunger in their communities
School wide photo demonstrating pounds of food donated over the course of one academic year.
Issues with Recovering Food in Elementary Schools

• Hyper-local decision making

• Fear

• Lack of knowledge

• Funding and volunteers
Solutions:

– Develop a web based educational unit

– Craft a national policy

– Publicize the food recovery movement
Solutions:

• Connect with leaders

• Consult with schools

• Partner with the USDA and the EPA

• Create Web based curriculums that professionals can use as a resource for food recovery in schools
How are EPA /USDA involved?

- **EPA Food Recovery Challenge**
  http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc

- **U.S. Food Waste Challenge**
  http://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/
Interested in Food Recovery in Your School?

• Please contact Food Bus, Inc. via our website: [www.foodbus.org](http://www.foodbus.org)

• Like us: [www.facebook.com/foodbus](http://www.facebook.com/foodbus) to hear about inspirational stories of people motivated to create change.

• Follow us on Twitter to check in about our latest work (@foodbus)

• **Pay attention** to what is being thrown out in your child’s cafeteria.
More info regarding Food Bus/School Food Waste:


the USDA revealed that one in six Americans is living in a food insecure household, and one in five of those is a child. Yet a whopping 30-40 percent of our food is wasted.

McLean, VA mom Kathleen Weil decided to do something about it in her community. She started a charity, Food Bus, which helps elementary schools eliminate wasted food and donate the food to the needy. Food Bus goes into a school, works with the PTA, the principal and other staff, along with parent volunteers and the kids themselves, to help end hunger. They provide a dedicated refrigerator and supplies for storing the food during the school week and then take it to various food pantries at the end of the week.

Weil says that 98 percent elementary school, and parent volunteers leave, there are other parents who have been learning the system.

Weil has a background as a nursing instructor and researcher at National Institutes of Health. She is the mother of three daughters, ranging from 7 to 10 years of age, who with her husband have been integral with starting this charity. “My kids love it. They have put Food Bus magnets up on school refrigerators. All have gone to food pantries with me, have seen what they do and how they serve people.”

The reaction from the schools, and especially the children, is overwhelming. Chesterbrook had the 700 plus kids in the school wear color-coded shirts and make a living bar graph of the food donated for their yearly school wide photo. Weil explained, “Kids
Time to Teach

Food Bus Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSQQI7NIN8w
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItjwhuUEFXo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE2hKzRIdf8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqWkv1JwcoQ

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Founder & Executive Director
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