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People are often surprised to hear that **last year, the Feeding America network and our partners [rescued 4.7 billion pounds of perfectly good groceries from going to waste.](#)** Food rescue is actually one of the most common ways we source meals for neighbors facing hunger.

How do we rescue that much food? Honestly, it's a huge operation. But start by picturing this:

At the end of a busy day, the chef at your favorite local restaurant has a bunch of healthy, unexpired ingredients left over. They know all those fresh fruits and veggies will go bad if they don't get used up soon.

Now imagine that a chef could log into an app on their phone, enter the food they have available and where it can be picked up – and instantaneously, your local food bank gets a notification. Before you know it, all of that delicious produce is being distributed to your neighbors.

**[Well, that app is real, and it's called MealConnect](#)** – one of our newest food rescue programs. As Feeding America's MealConnect program manager, it's my job to make food rescue as seamless as possible for food banks so they can focus more of their time and energy on serving their communities.

**[Learn more about how MealConnect has helped rescue 3 billion pounds of food since its launch >>](#)**

Local grocery stores, bodegas, catering companies, and cafes can all use the app to donate food to their local food banks and pantries that might otherwise go to waste. **The MealConnect program is a Feeding America innovation that is**

**only made possible through our collective support – including generous, compassionate people like you.**

As you're reading this, our team is working on a major MealConnect upgrade to make it even easier for more grocery stores to donate their unsold, unexpired food. As Feeding America's CIO Maryann Byrdak says "Making MealConnect bigger and better is a top priority for us. **There is more than enough food in America for everyone, we just need to continually improve upon how we digitally connect healthy food to our neighbors who need it.**"

As someone who knows what it's like when a family doesn't always have enough food, I'm grateful every day that I'm able to help put food on the table for people in my community, and in communities across the country. And I'm grateful for you and your steadfast support.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Johnson".