



Darden Restaurants Celebrates Six Years of Food Truck Donations to Feeding America® Food Banks, Advancing a Shared Mission to End Hunger

Since January 2021, 61 Refrigerated Trucks Have Been Provided to Food Banks Across 26 States

ORLANDO, Fla. (Sept. 25, 2026) – For the sixth year, Darden Restaurants and Feeding America® are putting more wheels on the road to help end hunger. With a \$2 million grant from the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation and support from Penske Truck Leasing, seven additional Feeding America partner food banks will receive 26-foot refrigerated trucks. Each truck — capable of carrying up to 12,000 pounds — will bolster food distribution and mobile pantry programs in communities most impacted.

Food banks receiving a truck this year include:

- FeedMore Western New York, Inc. (Buffalo, N.Y.)
- Food Bank of West Central Texas (Abilene, Texas)
- Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan (Detroit, Mich.)
- God's Pantry Food Bank, Inc. (Lexington, Ky.)
- Ozarks Food Harvest (Springfield, Mo.)
- Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee (Maryville, Tenn.)
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina (Winston-Salem, N.C.)

"A good meal has the power to make a huge difference, and we're honored to support these food banks with refrigerated trucks to make that happen for the people facing hunger in these communities," said Rick Cardenas, President and CEO of Darden Restaurants. "Each mile traveled helps in the movement to end hunger, and we're grateful to enter our sixth year of working with Feeding America and Penske Truck Leasing on this initiative."

The Need

Food insecurity affects nearly [48 million](#) people in the U.S. annually and [exists in every single county](#) across the United States. Eight out of 10 U.S. counties with the highest food insecurity are [located in rural areas](#), illustrating that the issue is amplified by lack of transportation and limited access to resources like grocery stores and food pantries.

"We can end hunger when we all work together. This donation of refrigerated trucks allows food banks to safely and swiftly transport fresh food and resources to communities who need it most," said Linda Nageotte, president and chief operating officer at Feeding America. "We are grateful for the dedicated and effective support of Darden Restaurant Foundation and Penske Truck Leasing for their shared commitment to our mission."

Responding to the Need

For 16 years, Darden and the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation have partnered with Feeding America to reduce food insecurity nationwide. Since 2021, 61 refrigerated trucks have been delivered to food banks across 26 states, enabling them to transport fresh and perishable foods more efficiently and reach families experiencing food insecurity.

In addition, Darden's Harvest program continues to redirect surplus food from restaurants to local nonprofits. Over the years, Darden's contributions have rescued 152 million pounds of wholesome food, ensuring that nutritious food is redistributed and reaches the tables of families across the country.

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About Darden Restaurants and the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation

Darden's family of restaurants features some of the most recognizable and successful brands in full-service dining — Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Yard House, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, The Capital Grille, Chuy's, Seasons 52 and Eddie V's. For more information, visit www.darden.com.

The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation works to bring to life our spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country. Since 1995, the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation has awarded more than \$120 million in grants to non-profit organizations such as Feeding America, National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and American Red Cross.

About Feeding America

Rooted in the voices of neighbors facing hunger, Feeding America® unites the country to ensure everyone has access to food and a thriving future. We support tens of millions of people as part of a nationwide network of 250+ food banks, 20+ statewide food bank associations, 10+ regional co-ops and 60,000+ agency partners, food pantries and meal programs. Powered by leaders and volunteers embedded in local communities, we are one of the nation's most effective food distribution systems to drive immediate impact today—and a catalyst for long-term change through advocating for legislation that improves food security and work to address its factors. We partner with people experiencing food insecurity, policymakers, organizations and supporters, acting united with unwavering commitment to provide nourishing food and work to end hunger at its roots so everyone can live fuller, healthier lives.

Visit FeedingAmerica.org to learn more.

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