Dear Friends:

As a multitude of concerns crowd our national stage, finding common ground can seem impossible. It can be easy to miss the voices of those who need our help the most. Yet our experience this year reminded us again that listening can be the dynamic act that sparks change. Timeless values continue to unite us all.

Ensuring that all children have a life free of hunger is one of those values.

This year we heard from teachers, principals, governors, and kids about how high the stakes are for all of us when our kids go hungry—and how important it is to make No Kid Hungry a reality. The repercussions of childhood hunger are profound and long-lasting, but access to food changes everything. Food not only feeds young minds and bodies, it tells children that we care about them and their futures.

Mary Ann Gibson, a 4th grade teacher from Dallas, told us that since moving breakfast into the classroom, “I have seen a tremendous growth in children being alert, happy, not visiting the clinic as much, and ready to learn since our school has participated in the program. This breakfast ensures my students a good start to the day.”

It takes a combination of strategies to end hunger for kids. Ours includes everything from training school leaders on new ways to serve school breakfast and helping community centers open new summer meals sites to convincing governors to make legislative changes. Change is happening. Today, 1/3 fewer children face hunger.

With your help, we’ve been able to unite Americans around our single, bold vision — that we can make childhood hunger a thing of the past. Thank you for lending your voice and your strengths to making life better for hungry children. With your continued support we are that much closer to making No Kid Hungry a reality for all.
NO CHILD DESERVES TO GROW UP HUNGRY

1 in 6
CHILDREN STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER.

Nearly Half
OF LOW-INCOME PARENTS SAY THEY CAN’T AFFORD ENOUGH FOOD EACH MONTH TO MEET THEIR FAMILY’S NEEDS.

3 out of 4
EDUCATORS SEE STUDENTS WHO REGULARLY COME TO SCHOOL HUNGRY BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT AT HOME.

2 Months
KIDS STRUGGLING WITH SUMMER HUNGER RETURN TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL A FULL ACADEMICALLY BEHIND OTHER STUDENTS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5 NO CHILD DESERVES TO GROW UP HUNGRY
6 HUNGER IN THE HEADLINES
8 WE ARE TEAM NO KID HUNGRY
10 WE’RE ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER
11 TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: MEET PRINCIPAL PAM DAVIS
12 OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS
14 SCHOOLS ARE THE ANSWER
16 FOOD IS JUST A TEXT MESSAGE AWAY
18 COOKING MATTERS
20 LUNCH SHOULD NEVER BE A CHILD’S LAST MEAL
22 A VOICE FOR KIDS
24 NO KID HUNGRY CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES IS A CONDUIT FOR CHANGE
25 TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: MEET MARIO
26 TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: MEET NADIA
27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
28 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
29 TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: MEET TARA OLSON
30 OUR CORE PARTNERS
31 NO KID HUNGRY PARTNERS
32 DONOR LIST
32 FINANCIALS
43 WHAT’S NEXT
“Growing up in a poor household is linked with long-term consequences in educational outcomes, physical health and brain development that can follow a child well into adulthood.”

“Kids who experienced food insecurity in their first five years of life are more likely to be lagging behind in social, emotional and to some degree, cognitive skills when they begin kindergarten.”

“Millions of children in this country depend on schools for a hot meal. During the summer, that’s not always an option.”

“Who are SNAP recipients? Kids.”

“Missing meals and experiencing hunger impede a child’s ability to learn and achieve.”

“The number of public schools in Virginia now offering universal free breakfast and lunch has increased 297 percent in three years.”

“Hunger doesn’t take a summer vacation.”

“Kids who experienced food insecurity in their first five years of life are more likely to be lagging behind in social, emotional and to some degree, cognitive skills when they begin kindergarten.”

“The summer holiday can actually be a scary one for the children who depend on free school lunches for sustenance.”
ENDING HUNGER SINCE 2010

- **928** Community Partners
- **161** Corporate Partners
- **$300 Million** Invested in the fight to end childhood hunger
- **1.4 Million** Supporters
- **2.9 Million** More kids eating school breakfast
- **338,825** Donors
- **50 States** and the District of Columbia where we’re ending childhood hunger
- **1/3 Fewer Kids** struggling with hunger since No Kid Hungry started
- **2 Billion** Annual media impressions
- **775 Million Meals** (and counting) provided to hungry kids

5 Offices: Boston | DC | Denver | New York | Los Angeles

We are the team NO KID HUNGRY
WE'RE ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER.
YOUR SUPPORT TRANSFORMS A CHILD’S FUTURE.

SUMMER MEALS SITES are now open in neighborhoods where summer was once a season of hunger for kids.

Parents learned how to purchase and prepare HEALTHY FOOD ON A BUDGET.

Schools launched AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMS to make sure no child suffers in a home with empty cupboards.

Kids eat BREAKFAST DURING THE SCHOOL DAY so they are ready to learn.

TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: PRINCIPAL PAM DAVIS

Bristol, Virginia is a community facing hard times. The economy used to rely on textiles, manufacturing, steel, coal and tobacco. It’s been losing jobs in those industries to global competition. It was once the hub for transporting Appalachia’s coal to every corner of the country, and the coal industry’s decline has hit the city hard.

Principal Pam Davis has turned her school, Highland View Elementary, into a beacon of hope for the Bristol community. Working with No Kid Hungry, her school surrounds kids with food. Students eat breakfast, lunch and have a meal before they head home for the day. On Fridays, students leave school with food for the weekend. Pam knows that she can’t educate her kids until they have the nourishment they need.

“THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO INSIDE THE FOUR WALLS OF OUR SCHOOL UNTIL THESE CHILDREN’S BASIC NEEDS ARE MET.”

“There is nothing we can do inside the four walls of our school until these children’s basic needs are met,” she explains. “The brain will purge everything. As educators, we have to ask ourselves, what can we do to help our families support and lift up their children? These families are struggling and the children need to know their basic needs are a top priority for all of us. The meals at school provide stability, comfort, reduce anxiety and stress, and get them ready to learn. We hug them, we welcome them and we feed them. Only then can we really teach them.”
600 GRANTS TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER
IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ALL 50 STATES.

WHERE WE GRANTED MOST:
- Arkansas $65,000
- Virginia $60,000
- Texas $60,000
- Illinois $52,000
- D.C. $54,000
- California $35,000
- Montana $345,000
- Michigan $317,000
- Florida $311,000
- Washington $311,000

MORE KIDS EAT BREAKFAST
OUR BEST PROGRESS IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST PARTICIPATION IN 2017

NEW YORK +33,642

FLORIDA +32,302
kids added statewide in 2017, and 117,790 added since 2013.

VIRGINIA +12,493
kids added statewide in 2017, and 45,694 added since 2013.

NEVADA +11,344
kids added statewide in 2017, and 34,297 added since 2013.

SUMMER MEALS TEXTS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
Our “text to find summer meals” service helps families find free meals for their kids.

CITIES WITH THE MOST TEXTS:
- Chicago, IL 4,482
- Houston, TX 4,015
- San Antonio, TX 3,490
- Las Vegas, NV 3,489
- Philadelphia, PA 3,243
- Dallas, TX 3,197
- Detroit, MI 2,824
- Louisville, KY 2,297
- Fort Worth, TX 2,250
- Atlanta, GA 2,094
- San Jose, CA 2,038
- St. Louis, MO 2,019
- Phoenix, AZ 1,929
- Minneapolis, MN 1,892
- Orlando, FL 1,872

FOOD SKILLS EDUCATION
Our food skills courses and grocery store tours have taught more than 100,000 families to purchase and prepare healthy foods.

- 87% of our food skills education graduates reported an increase in better food budgeting and healthy eating.
- 84% of in-person course graduates reported increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains or low-fat dairy.
- 89% of course graduates reported increased confidence in healthy food preparation.

OUR IMPACT
2017 by the Numbers
WHERE DO KIDS SPEND MOST OF THEIR DAY?

AT SCHOOL.

Schools are trusted by parents as safe and nurturing environments for educating their children. For low-income families, schools are so much more. They play a vital role in supporting community life by hosting food pantries and mobile libraries, providing job training for teens and parents and serving as social and cultural sites long after the school day ends. That’s why we work with schools as our closest allies to reach all kids with the nutritious meals they need.

There are four federal food programs that schools can offer: breakfast, lunch, afterschool and summer meals. Most schools already reach every hungry kid with a free or reduced-price lunch, but they can do much more. No Kid Hungry helps them serve breakfast during the school day, instead of in the cafeteria before school begins. Making breakfast a regular part of the school day, just like lunch, helps kids stay focused and ready to learn.

We help schools launch afterschool meals programs that feed kids before they head home for the day, eliminating the possibility that lunch will be a child’s last meal until school breakfast the next day. And finally, we help them start summer meals programs. They offer summer meals in cafeterias, at summer camps and through food truck programs that reach kids in their own neighborhoods during the summer.

We’re working with schools to surround children with food and end childhood hunger once and for all.
FOOD IS JUST A TEXT MESSAGE AWAY

SUMMER SHOULD BE A CAREFREE TIME FOR CHILDREN, but kids who rely on school meals struggle to get enough to eat during the summer months. Free meals served at schools and community centers in low-income neighborhoods are a lifeline for these children and their families.

Only 15% of kids who qualify for free school meals are getting free summer meals. One critical way to reach more kids with summer meals is by growing awareness of the program in low-income communities. No Kid Hungry helps families find free meals for their kids through a simple but effective “text to find summer meals” service. When people text ‘FOOD’ or ‘COMIDA’ to 877-877, the service is activated and prompts them to provide their address. Upon doing so, they are given information for the nearest summer meals sites in their area. Since launching the program, we’ve helped more than 574,000 families find free summer meals for kids, at a time when they’re most vulnerable to hunger.

This past summer, news of this important service went viral, spreading far and wide online. Thanks to this interest, we generated more than 100 local and national news stories about the service, and hundreds of thousands of inquiries came from families who needed meals for their kids. We received more texts in a single week than we received in all of 2016.

With your support, we’ll keep the momentum going next summer. We will:

• Hold another nationwide campaign to ensure families know where to find food for their kids.
• Help summer meals sites grow and serve even more children.
• Open new summer meals sites in communities.
• Advocate improvements to the national summer meals program.

Together, we’ll make sure every kid has the happy, healthy summer they deserve.
COOKING MATTERS REACHES 500,000 PARTICIPANT MILESTONE

MORE THAN HALF A MILLION FAMILIES NOW HAVE THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES THEY NEED to make healthy meals at home, thanks to you. Our Cooking Matters hands-on courses and grocery store tours are delivered at thousands of sites nationwide through our network of community partners. The participants in Cooking Matters are moms, dads, grandparents, and caregivers who want to make healthy meals on a budget. They learn to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices, and cook delicious, affordable meals. We’re proud that more than 500,000 families have been impacted since the start of Cooking Matters and that every year that number grows exponentially.

We can build a world where every person has the skills they need to make healthy, affordable meals. But to get there, we need creative approaches that reach families where they are. This year, we launched a new mobile app to provide low-income parents grocery shopping tools and recipe ideas ready at their fingertips. Using social media, videos and digital products, we can reach busy parents with these critical food skills. Half a million families adopting healthier eating habits is just the beginning, with your support, we are building the bridges to help hundreds of millions of families develop healthy eating habits that last a lifetime.

Through this course, I learned so much more than just ‘how to.’

COOKING MATTERS GAVE ME MY CONFIDENCE BACK when I was at the lowest point in my life. It encouraged me to go back to work in the food industry. And it gave me a whole new outlook on healthy eating.

TODAY, I CAN BE THERE FOR MY FAMILY, mentally and physically. And hopefully, I have taught them a thing or two.

HEIDI ALPHEN
COOKING MATTERS GRADUATE, NEWTON, MA
HOMEWORK AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CAN STRETCH ON INTO THE EARLY EVENING, AND IT CAN BE HARD TO STAY ENERGIZED AND FOCUSED WHEN YOU HAVEN’T EATEN SINCE SCHOOL LUNCH. It’s even harder if you’re a kid who is going home to an empty fridge.

The afterschool meals program provides schools and community groups with the opportunity to pair healthy free meals with activities that enrich a child’s body and mind. But as the newest of the nutrition programs, it has a long way to go to meet the need of every hungry kid.

No Kid Hungry has been working with schools to test new approaches that can reach more kids with a healthy afterschool meal. And we’ve hit on a winner. When an afterschool meal is provided to all students alongside a range of activities like homework, band practice or student clubs – more kids eat. When it’s made part of the end-of-day routine alongside these clubs, it removes the stigma associated with free meals and get kids fueled up for the rest of their day.
RALLIED SUPPORTERS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY to call and write their lawmakers and encourage them to protect and strengthen programs that help kids and low-income families.

ENGAGED MORE THAN 40 GOVERNORS in partnership with the National Governor’s Association, and hosted by No Kid Hungry spokesperson Jeff Bridges, we showed our nation’s leaders how our strategies to end childhood hunger could work in their states.

BUILT FOUNDATIONS to support new and expanded school breakfast programs in California, Maryland, New York and Washington, where legislation supporting school breakfast will contribute to hundreds of thousands more students starting their days powered by breakfast.

INSPIRED INNOVATION when state leaders took part in our learning sessions — and went home to put our strategies into action. Leadership from Virginia’s First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe and Nevada’s Governor Brian Sandoval during the summer spurred action across the country. Governor John Bel Edwards launched No Kid Hungry Louisiana in September, Governor Asa Hutchinson issued a proclamation in Arkansas that same month and Governor Gina Raimondo issued a statewide Breakfast Challenge for Rhode Island in November.
THE NO KID HUNGRY CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices equips schools, advocates and state agencies with the research, resources and peer-to-peer coaching they need to feed more kids. Our web tools, webinars and events are nationally recognized as the preeminent resources for people who want to end childhood hunger in their communities.

335 NATIONAL, STATE AND NON-PROFIT PARTNERS attended our conferences to coordinate strategy, troubleshoot common challenges and unite the anti-hunger community.

179,000 CHANGE MAKERS VISITED OUR WEBSITE to access our publicly available resources and research to aid schools, lawmakers and activists to end hunger locally.

16 FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS conducted over the year to test solutions for common challenges, including rural summer hunger, breakfast marketing techniques, and how to reach hungry kids in mixed income communities.

TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT: MEET MARIO

Kids who are hungry can’t focus and do well in school. No Kid Hungry’s new “Hunger in Our Schools” report shines a light on the toll hunger takes on children and its pervasiveness in our communities. During our research, we sat down with kids who have faced hunger in their lives to talk about the experience. That’s how we met Mario.

Mario’s parents split up, and for a time, it was hard for his mom to provide for the family. While she looked for work, Mario didn’t always get the food he needed. He would eat a free lunch at school, but his school didn’t offer students a free school breakfast. Mario is honest about what it’s like to go hungry at school.

“IT’S LIKE THE PAIN OF THE HUNGER IS EATING AT YOU”

“It’s like the pain of the hunger is eating at you,” he said. “It’s painful because you have to go through this school work, and you have to wait like three other periods to actually go to lunch and eat, when you didn’t actually eat in the first place.”

Mario’s story is heartbreaking, but it is not unique. 1 in 6 children knows what it’s like to open their textbook on an empty stomach. But we have the solution. No Kid Hungry makes sure every kid starts their day with a healthy breakfast at school.
TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT:

NADIA

We’re building the next generation of anti-hunger advocates by engaging young people in the fight to end childhood hunger. This year, we expanded our No Kid Hungry Youth Ambassador program. With the generous support of Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation, we placed college students at more than 25 No Kid Hungry partner organizations across the country. These young leaders are making amazing things happen.

In Michigan, Nadia helped at summer meals sites across Detroit, encouraging kids to visit meal sites in parks, apartment complexes and other community spaces.

“I think solving hunger could kind of level the playing field for anything from academics to work to sports, anything that a child might want to do,” she explains. “How are you supposed to study, live or get a job when you’re hungry?”

Growing up in Detroit, Nadia has seen her city face many hard times. That’s why giving back to her community is so important to her. She’s focused on feeding kids, but she also does her best to make sure kids feel no shame, because hunger is a situation outside of their control.

“I THINK HUNGER IS SOMETHING THAT ISN’T TALKED ABOUT ENOUGH. IT’S SOMETHING THAT HAS A HUGE STIGMA FOR KIDS. WE HAVE TO FRAME FREE FOOD IN A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IT’S SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT’S NOT JUST THEM. IT’S NOT SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. HUNGER IS SOMETHING THAT IS PREVALENT AND ISN’T FAIR.”

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TEAM NO KID HUNGRY SPOTLIGHT:
TARA OLSON

Tara Olson is a longtime supporter and member of our Leadership Council. (Tara pictured left with her daughter)

How did you become involved with No Kid Hungry?
I was moved and inspired by the wisdom and lessons in Billy Shore’s “The Cathedral Within.” I saw how I could apply my own life and work to the notion that we all have cathedrals within ourselves to share our gifts with our fellow man.

Years before, I had been introduced to the organization through its support of our local soup kitchen’s service programs. Over and over, I have witnessed No Kid Hungry’s comprehensive work to fulfill its consistent, singular focus on ending childhood hunger.

If someone asked you why they should get involved, what would you tell them?
I’d probably ask them to reflect on their own childhood. What memories rise up in your thoughts? Can you imagine what it’s like to go hungry? What if your kids or grandkids had to hide their hunger for fear of being bullied? I’d ask them to keep these thoughts in mind and consider supporting the group that is changing outcomes for hungry children. I’d remind them that the answer is not merely handing out food. It’s about changing policy, providing comprehensive support and education to affect real change.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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YOUR COMMITMENT TO NO KID HUNGRY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF KIDS. Thank you. In every part of America kids are healthier, stronger and more secure because you shared your strengths.

Here’s what you can expect for the road ahead:

• A dramatic acceleration of our impact. There are still three million kids who are not accessing breakfast. Our goal is to cut that gap in half over the next five years.

• Investing in partnerships with schools, community groups, business leaders and more to ensure that children get the healthy meals they need every day.

• We are demanding improvements to the national summer meals program, making sure it meets the needs of our most vulnerable children.

• Working with governors across the country, we’ll collaborate on statewide school breakfast initiatives and more.

• We’re following hunger wherever it persists — in urban neighborhoods, the suburbs and isolated rural areas — and creating ways to feed more kids faster, so they don’t have to wait for the food they need and deserve.

CHILDHOOD HUNGER IS A SOLVABLE PROBLEM — and an urgent one. Kids can’t wait to eat. They need to have food to grow, play, learn and achieve today. Together with our community and corporate partners, we’re working with schools, state and local governments, libraries and community sites to keep the momentum growing.

WHAT’S NEXT

FINANCIALS

In the 2017 fiscal year, our total revenues were $56.18 million and our operating expenses were $51.06 million (excluding in-kind donations). We’re focused on maximizing every dollar so that your investment is not only feeding kids today, but also ending childhood hunger once and for all. We know that earning and keeping your trust is critical, so we want to show you exactly where your donations go. Here’s how we spent that money:
NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY IN AMERICA.
But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty.