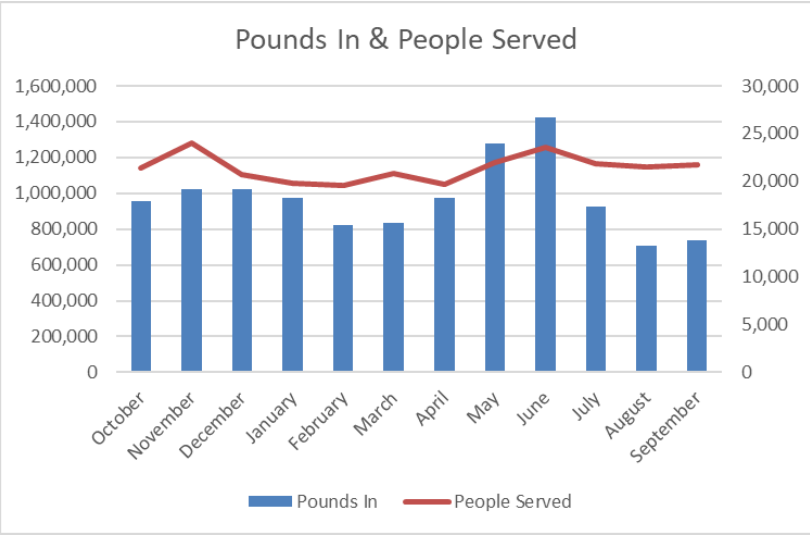
The Almost Monthly Epic-Cure® Newsletter

October 2025

The Report Card

The Epic-Cure ***Report Card*** as of September 30,2025		
Life to Date *(since May 24, 2019)*		
Pounds In/Out	38,565,537	
Wholesale Value of Food Distributed	$78,404,955	
Pounds of Food per Family:	86.79	*Average pounds per family per visit*
Equivalent Meals Served:	32,137,948	*Assumes 1.2 pounds per meal*
Families Served		
Number of Families Served this month:	7,416	*in Month of September 2025*
Number of Distributions this month:	71	*in Month of September 2025*
Pounds of Food/Household Goods		
Total Pounds In / Out:	740,148	*in Month of September 2025*
Total Pounds In / Out:	1,018,954	*Average of 3 prior months*
Operating Efficiency		
Wholesale value of food distributed for each $1.00 spent on Operations since inception:		***$46.50***
Wholesale value of food distributed for each $1.00 spent on Operations in September:		***$65.51***

Here is our PIPS (Pounds In & People Served) Graph



Notes on the graph:

We are seeing a slight uptick in bulk donations. See more in the Operation section below.

In the face of uncertainty, we are reminded that making a difference is not about having everything — it is about doing something. Arthur Ashe captured that truth beautifully:

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Upcoming Fundraiser

Shine A Light on Epic-Cure 5K Run: Saturday, October 11th

Registration is open for the 4th Annual 2025 Shine a Light 5K run.

This year's event will take place on **October 11th**.

Family friendly, scenic 3.1 mile Anastasia State Park certified course and surrounding quiet, shaded neighborhoods.

Start/Finish Line: Anastasia Church located at 1650 A1A South.

Whether you are an experienced runner or just starting out, this is the perfect opportunity to challenge yourself, meet new people, and have fun. We canot wait to see you at the starting line.

Click here for Shine A Light Event Tickets

Operations

Trying to get to the bottom of why bulk donations slowed so much over the last few months has been challenging. They are slowly increasing, but we have a long way to go to get back to where we were. The infrastructure and team are ready to get back to high volume.

We have had many conversations with regional and national partners to see what they are hearing. There is a lot of speculation that does not hold up to fact checking, but the sentiment across the board is the same – we are resourceful and determined to not let families down in this time of still increasing food insecurity.

Hard to say if we have felt it yet, but one piece of good news:

In a proactive move to the $1 billion USDA federal funding cuts, Florida's 2025-2026 state budget ($117.4 billion, signed June 30, 2025) allocates $38 million to the new Farmers Feeding Florida program. This initiative aims to cushion the impact of federal LFPA cuts by strengthening partnerships between local farmers and food recovery organizations. Key details:

- $28 million: Direct funding to Feeding Florida for purchasing and distributing locally grown produce to food banks and meal programs.
- $10 million: Allocated to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for food hub administration, logistics, and program expansion.

While this fully offsets the $34 million LFPA loss for food banks—and adds $4 million for infrastructure—no equivalent state funding replaces the $42 million LFS cut for schools.

Is Florida Better Off?

Florida's swift action makes it better positioned than many states, but gaps remain. The state's $38 million investment ensures food banks can maintain ~90% of their prior local purchasing power, supporting farmers and low-income communities. However, the absence of school-focused funding leaves a $42 million hole, potentially reducing meal diversity and farmer revenues. Overall, Florida is $38 million worse off compared to pre-cut federal support but has prevented a total collapse of local food programs.

Partnerships are Vital to Resiliency

We mentioned our new partnership with Convoy of Hope that donated the two semi trucks of medical supplies. These loads were transported by the generous support of our donors.

Medical Supplies from Convoy of Hope

They also donated 42,000 pounds of Trader Joe's OJ which we were able to share around 6 counties. This load was transported from Atlanta by our partner Move for Hunger. How fortunate we are to have such an amazing network.

We had to pass on the 6 semi loads of Arm & Hammer Clorine Tablets. We cannot store chemicals in our food warehouse and we could not find a non-profit that could store and use that volume.

We have great partners and we are a good partner to many organizations. In September, these are the ones we have shared resources with:

Agency	September Total
American Legion	136
AmVets	1,097
Bread of Life	968
Calvary Life Center	1,634
City Rescue Mission	10,181
Feed the Need	1,859
His Compassion	47,644
Home Again	1,384
Homeless Coalition	503
Homes for Heroes	1,595
Hugs	1,285
Rodeheaver Boys Ranch	1,120
San Sebastian Catholic Church	234
SAYS	413
SAYS - Community Outreach	884
Sea Community	9,758
Sharing Putnam's Bounty	6,855
South Putnam Christian Center	334
Southwoods	1,023
St. Johns Food Pantry	18,082
St. Johns River State College	1,750
St. Monica's Catholic Church	2,593
Starke Community	552
The Arc of St. Johns	589
United Against Poverty	60,820
Women's Refuge	463
TOSS	1,164
St. Gerard House	583
Keystone Heights High School CPS	1,581
Deputy Jones' Outreach Program	390
	177,474

It takes about 600,000 pounds of food for us to supply our direct to the public distributions. At 740,148 pounds in September, we found a good balance of sharing resources that month.

As promised, here are more videos since a picture is worth a thousand words.

Intake from Mr. Greens Produce and Friday Palatka Truck Route – sometimes that truck makes 3 trips to Jacksonville in a day.

San Sebastian Catholic Church Distribution

Moose Lodge Pomona Park Distribution

Summer Breeze Apartments Distribution

Tabernacle Baptist Church Distribution

If you look at these videos of distributions, what you do not see, because we do not film our patrons out of respect for their privacy, is that in line are people from every walk of life, age and ethnicity being served with kindness. Epic-Cure is proud to partner with a wide variety of community locations—including schools, churches of many denominations, Section 8 housing complexes, and local organizations—to ensure that food reaches those who need it most across a four-county area. By meeting people where they are, we re able to remove barriers to access and make nutritious food more readily available.

"Oh, the holidays."

For most people, those words bring images of warm meals, family gatherings, and traditions that make the season feel special. But for food banks, those same words come with an immense amount of pressure. It is not enough to simply provide food—families facing food insecurity want to experience the dignity and joy of a holiday meal. And that takes extra planning, extra resources, and extra help from the community.

Every year, food banks like Epic-Cure brace themselves for the heightened demand. The need for food always grows around the holidays, but so does the hopefulness: families want to serve stuffing, pie, or a holiday ham, and not just the basics. Meeting that expectation requires creative partnerships and the generosity of people who understand that a meal can mean much more than calories—it is tradition, it is belonging, it is comfort.

That is why we are especially grateful when local partners step up in thoughtful ways. Colonial Church in St. Augustine recently reached out with a proactive, generous offer. They wrote:

"As we prepare for our Thanksgiving collection, we wanted to run our initial list of items by you to see if it looks helpful or if there are other things your team finds especially needed during this time of year."

Their proposed collection list was not just practical—it was carefully curated to reflect the spirit of the holidays. From stuffing mix and mac & cheese to pumpkin pie filling and a gift card for a turkey or ham, their list shows a deep understanding of what makes a holiday meal feel whole.

This is the kind of partnership that makes the season brighter for families who might otherwise go without. It is a reminder that while food banks carry the responsibility, it is the community that makes the holidays possible.

So this year, if you are wondering how to give back, consider taking a page from Colonial Church's book. Ask your local food bank what is needed most. Build holiday boxes with dignity in mind. And remember: behind every donated can or box is a family hoping to feel the warmth of the season.

Beginning November 1st we will start to ask for donated frozen turkeys and hams. Goal is 3,000. Yes, that is more than the 2,200 we need to supply our distributions, but we get asked by many other organization to help if we can. For example, last year we provided 60 turkeys to the employees at The Arc. If you have never done a tour of their facilities, it is an eye opening experience. The place is immaculate and the severely disabled people they serve are treated with kindess and compassion. So, the answer is yes when asked to show them kindness and appreciation.

Update from Brightly

Thank you for your continued collaboration as we work to generate carbon credits that reflect the environmental impact of food rescue, and secure funding for your operations!

We wanted to share the second issue of our quarterly newsletter, which highlights where we are in the project now, what is ahead, and how your efforts are helping shape one of the highest-quality carbon credit projects in the world.

Here is what you will find inside this edition:

Project status & timeline — Our project is in the final stage of verification with SCS Global Services and Verra, which includes site visits and data sampling.

2024 data request — We will share a detailed email separately about data required in order to generate the next cohort of credits for your organization.

Carbon credit rating — Brightly's project has received an A ex ante rating (meaning rated prior to being fully verified) from BeZero Carbon, placing it among the top projects globally.

We are very excited for the next phase of this process, getting closer every day to credit issuance!

Full newletter:

FRO Newsletter #2 - Sep 2025.pdf

Last, but certainly not least, Cooking Classes

We just wrapped up a 4 week session with one class for kids and another for single moms. It is nearly impossible to take pictures of the kids since it requires 100% of the instructors' attention to supervise. But, we were able to take some pictures and videos of the moms class to share.

Cooking Class

If you know of anyone in the Jacksonville area that would like to join our cooking class volunteer team, we could use help teaching classes at the Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic (7011 AC Skinner Pkwy) on Monday nights from 5 to 7. Just email us at support@epic-cure.org if interested. It is a very rewarding way to spend time.

How You Can Help

- ***Make a Donation***: Every dollar goes toward fuel, electricity, insurance, and keeping our trucks running. Link to Donate

  Interested in a behind-the-scenes look at what we do? Email support@epic-cure.org and one of our Board Members will be happy to schedule a warehouse tour or food rescue ride a long for you.

- ***Share Ideas***: Have a suggestion or potential resource? We would love to hear it.

- ***Hold a Fundraiser***: Do you like games of chance? Why not hold a Bingo night benefitting Epic-Cure®? Do you like cookies and cakes? How about a bake sale? These are easy and fun ways to bring friends together, meet new people, and directly benefit our neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Epic-Cure – we could not do this without you.

Awareness:

An easy, impactful way that you can help us is to please …

Save And Drop Off Your Grocery Store Plastic Bags.

You will help reduce waste by allowing us to re-use them. You will save us money by reducing the number we have to purchase.

Transparency:

Anyone who wishes to see ***Epic-Cure's financial statements*** need only ask**.**

Our CPA-Audited financial statements and tax returns for fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 have been released and are available upon request.

- Also available on our website. (The 2024 Audit and Tax Return will be posted there soon.)
- Click here to view: Epic-Cure's Financial Statements

Please email your requests to Sunny Mulford: sunny.mulford@epic-cure.org