

VFW and Humana Provide 36 Tons of Food

In its sixth year, the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign has provided more than 5.6 million meals to food-insecure families nationwide

Nov 20, 2024

Volunteers at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, participated in a Uniting to Combat Hunger seed-packing event aimed at helping families affected by food insecurity. Those seeds were sent across the country to distributors that provide healthy and fresh produce to those in need.

As part of the initiative to address the issue, volunteers on July 27 packed 4,000 seed packets that were distributed to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as community gardens. A partnership with the Society of Saint Andrew, a Virginia-based nonprofit that provides hunger relief to communities in the U.S., has yielded about 72,000 pounds, or nearly 2.9 million servings of fresh produce, for communities in need.

VFW's partnership with Humana has garnered more than 5.6 million meals for families in the United States. In 2024, 158 VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in 41 states participated. VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse said that the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign exhibits VFW's commitment to serving veterans and their communities, as well as addressing one of the most pressing issues facing many veterans.

"The core goals of the Uniting to Combat Hunger program are to alleviate food insecurity in communities around the country and engage with VFW members participating in meaningful service projects," Freiburghouse said. "By leveraging our networks and resources, VFW Posts can make a significant impact, often involving veterans and their families in these efforts."

VETERANS AT 'SERIOUS RISK'

For 2025's Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign, VFW and Humana will partner with Volunteers of America. The program will focus on helping homeless veterans overcome food

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Tracy Nolan, senior vice president of Humana MarketPoint, said the health care insurance company and VFW have a long-standing commitment to veterans, service members and their families.

“Food insecurity and homelessness are both serious risks for suicide and other health issues,” said Nolan, a guest speaker at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville. “We continue our collaboration with the VFW on the Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign to ensure our nation’s veterans have access to healthy foods and resources that can help decrease the risk of common health problems — both physical and mental.”

1-IN-9 VETERANS AFFECTED

According to Feeding America, 1-in-9 working-age veterans are food insecure. The organization also claims that about 1-in-4 active-duty service members were food insecure in 2020, and about 1.2 million low-income veterans use the government’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

As of 2021, 12.8 percent of U.S. households were considered food insecure, according to the Department of Agriculture.

For more information about the Uniting to Combat Hunger initiative, visit [vfw.org/UTCH](https://www.vfw.org/UTCH).