



Growing Together: Life Science Cares & Food for Free

Our partnership with [Food For Free](#) is a perfect example of how Life Science Cares has supported an organization's growth with **creative solutions to challenging problems**. One of our first grantees, Food For Free improves access to healthy food within our community by rescuing food that would otherwise go to waste and creating new distribution channels to reach under-served populations. Food For Free places an emphasis on utilizing community partnerships and school systems to reach those in need.

Food For Free is chosen as one of Life Science Cares' inaugural partners.

2016

LSC funds work to scale and formalize the Family Meals program, which transforms surplus food from institutional cafeterias into pre-packed meals for our neighbors facing food insecurity. The goal was to deliver 21,000 meals in 2017. As the program grows, LSC convenes corporate cafeteria managers to coordinate food donations to Food For Free, growing the program. LSC recruits volunteer teams to help package rescued food.

2017

Food For Free completes a strategic plan, which recommends growing Family Meals, bringing on new distribution partners, and more effectively targeting college students. LSC funds another year of growth, with a new goal of 30,000 meals delivered in 2018. Facing an expiring lease at their meal preparation site, Food For Free leverages their LSC relationship to work pro-bono with T3 Advisors to design and plan a new kitchen facility. Based on this design, Biogen makes a multi-year commitment to host Food For Free's meal preparation programs, including construction of a state-of-the-art kitchen at Biogen's Cambridge headquarters.

2018

The ribbon is cut on the new kitchen and with added space comes the opportunity to take in and distribute even more food. LSC funds a new refrigerated truck and driver in order to facilitate further growth.

2019

The pandemic hits, and that truck becomes critical to Food For Free's response as they pivot to provide groceries at school-based food sites and via home delivery in the Greater Cambridge area. From May-October of 2020, Food for Free distributed USDA-organized boxes of fresh produce (the Farmers to Families Food Box Program), to low-income households directly and through partnerships with food pantries in Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Somerville.

2020

With the USDA program scaled back in MA but food insecurity at record-high levels, Food for Free designs the Just Eats Grocery Box program to meet community needs. Using funds from our COVID-19 Response Fund, LSC signs on as a lead sponsor for Just Eats, which is up and running delivering fresh food items like potatoes, onions, carrots, apples, and oranges as well as staples like rice and dried beans to 3,000+ households each week. The program will run through 2021.

2021

