



GREAT PLAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
CASE STUDY



Welcome!

Being able to count on reliability from the Great Plains Communications service we receive is critical in the mission work we do at the Food Bank — distributing food across our 93-county service area.

BRIAN BARKS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
FOOD BANK FOR THE HEARTLAND

COMPANY

Food Bank for the Heartland

LOCATION

Omaha, NE

INDUSTRY

Non-Profit

SERVICES

Food Bank for the Heartland is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Omaha. It distributes nutritious food to 555 network partners across 77 counties in Nebraska and 16 counties in western Iowa.

Since 1981, Food Bank for the Heartland has been connecting communities with food, resources, and hope. Food insecurity is a real problem in its region, which covers a total of 93 counties in Nebraska and western Iowa, and the effects are devastating when people struggle to find the nutritious food they need.

Through community support, the Food Bank helps break the vicious cycle of food insecurity across the Heartland. It works with 555 network partners — including pantries, schools, churches, emergency shelters, and other nonprofit organizations — to supply emergency and supplemental food to children, families, seniors, and veterans in need.

President and CEO Brian Barks said, “We have about 80 employees at the Food Bank, and a number of them work remotely. Great Plains Communications provides our internet service and acts with urgency if there’s an issue. This is important because we do time-sensitive work, so any downtime makes it difficult for us to get food in the hands of people who need it.”



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"The internet service we receive from Great Plains Communications has certainly increased our bandwidth. The Food Bank is now able to utilize cloud-based software systems and platforms that can be accessed by staff, volunteers, network partners, and other stakeholders. These resources help us do our mission work more effectively and more efficiently," Barks said.

He added, "During the height of the pandemic, we needed a lot of flexibility in order to serve our neighbors in need, and we were seeing more food insecurity than we'd ever seen before. The quality of internet service from Great Plains Communications allowed us to help protect our employees' safety and continue our mission."

Volunteers work to keep the Food Bank's 76,000 square-foot warehouse running quickly and efficiently, and donors contribute to the success of the programs and mission. For every dollar it receives, the Food Bank is able to provide more than three meals to a neighbor in need.

As new needs arise, the Food Bank will be ready, continuing to focus on its mission "to eliminate hunger in the Heartland by ensuring consistent access to healthy foods through community partnerships."

We not only value our partnership with Great Plains Communications because of the service they provide, but also because they're a partner in our mission work through financial giving. They support Food Bank for the Heartland and believe in the work we do.

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