Over the past 24 years, ever since its establishment, the Food Bank, an institution created to confront hunger and waste, has gained a vast amount of knowledge and experience. It all started with Gerasimos Vassilopoulos, during a period of time when food waste was not even considered an issue. During all these years the effort has been ceaseless and has been based exclusively on private initiative, supported primarily by volunteers and private institutions.

This statistical analysis of donations, presents a brief summary of our activities in the region of Attica during 2018, showing the total distribution of all products and the multitude of donating companies, whom we sincerely thank. Mention is also made of certain activities, which are of special interest to us and are often connected with the achievement of certain targeted needs.

The most important event during 2018 was the establishment of the Food Bank of Thessaly. Taking into consideration the experience of other European Countries, we believe in the necessity of creating more food banks throughout Greece. All our efforts are now focused in that direction.

Before closing I would like to thank all those who have contributed to our functioning and helped to cover our operational costs. Amongst them are the Welfare Foundations A.G. Leventis, John S. Latsis, Bodossakis, Kathimerini SA, OTE SA, A.B. Vassilopoulos SA and General Mills SA. The European Food Banks Foundation (FEBA) has provided continuous training and support for our programs. The Association of Hellenic Food Manufacturers (SEVT), has promoted the necessity of food conservation and waste reduction among their members. Deloitte SA, chartered accountants, who, over the past 5 years, have offered their financial auditing services to the food bank at no charge. Finally to all our faithful and hardworking personnel and volunteers.

Panagis Vourloumis
President
So, what are “Food Banks”?

- Organizations of community welfare
- Who collect food from production surplus and other donations
- They administer this appropriately
- They offer it to charitable institutions for free
- In the area in which they are located

For every Food Donation:
- The donating companies are excluded from VAT on their donations.
- Our fellow citizens, who are in need, benefit from these donations.
- The environment suffers no detrimental burden.

Are there many Food Banks?
- In 28 European Countries
- A total of 388 food banks
- And in Greece there are 3!
- Attica, Thessaloniki, Thessaly.

Production Surplus is edible food, safe for consumption, which is destroyed. These edibles can be found at all stages of the food chain, from production to final disposition, and the destruction of which has an important impact on the environment, the economy and society, all of which are negative.

A study by the Boston Consulting Group, estimates the total value of food waste at $1.2 Trillion worldwide with an increasing tendency. At the same time the organization for food and agriculture (F.A.O.) estimates the environmental cost (hot house gas emission, draught and saturation (corrosion – rotting) at $700 Billion.
**Tons of products**

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* The Thessaloniki branch operated from 1998 till 2014. As of 2015 it is the Food Bank Thessaloniki, an independent and self-governing body.
MEALS EQUIVALENT TO 1,660,690 portions of 500 g*

MILK 175,150 glasses

DRINKS 686,031 glasses

CLEANERS 47 tons

Mainly cleaners that have been returned in damaged packing. These are checked and repackaged to be provided for free, with the help of volunteers from the "RETO" Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

89 COMPANIES DONATED FOOD IN 2018 WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE HELLENIC FOOD INDUSTRIES (SEVT)

20,000 tons of food since 1995

A member of the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) participation in the educational seminar programs.

* The European Food Bank consider each portion of food at 500 grams.
Project "Collect"

Concerns food drive activities from supermarkets, customers, employees and schools in order to find the kind of food that is needed, but not donated before Christmas and Easter holidays, and other special occasions.
In co-operation with the following supermarket chains:

A.B. Vassilopoulos  
Sklavenitis  
My Market

300 Volunteers
26 Volunteer Drivers with their vehicles for
1740 Hours of volunteer work
50 Tons of food collected in 2018

This is a United Way Worldwide grant on behalf of the generosity of General Mills and the General Mills Foundation.
Beneficiaries
Statistical representation 2018

39,378

BENEFICIARIES

CHILDREN
10,377

ELDERLY
7,436

DISABLED
9%
A structured network of charities

- Checking / Monitoring
- Targeted food programmes
- Voluntary actions
- Covering emergencies
- Work on the level of “neighbourhood”
- No transport costs
- Immediate response
- Reaching a large number of beneficiaries
Added value

148 charities

- 18 Child Care Institutions
- 11 Nursing Homes
- 90 Soup Kitchens
- 15 Support Bodies for Disabled Persons & Mental Health Centres
- 6 Structures for the Support of Vulnerable Social Groups & 6 Drug Rehabilitation Centres
«... In the eyes of the ancient Greeks, the fertile plain of Thessaly, was the 'bank of the gods'. Today we are creating another bank, The Food Bank of Thessaly, for the management of food waste and to confront the worst form of hardship for the poor. For poverty is not a phenomenon where a human esoteric factor is displayed externally, but an external (exoteric) factor which imposes itself on the human. By changing this condition man is fed and can develop his creativity.

We are here to relate and present another narrative, that which requires the support of the economy and the people’s compassion and respect. Extending a hand to one another, in a cyclic dance, makes us aware of the sanctity of our feelings and the surroundings, till we actually become that change which we are seeking.

The Thessaly Food Bank will utilize all the surplus from food production and distribution in order to satisfy the needs of our fellow man in the entire area of Thessaly, by providing free meals and supporting institutions...»

Fotini Bliatsou, President
Thessaly Food Bank
From the speech at the inaugural reception
Support for the fire victims

- Provision of immediate necessities, with the co-operation of local organizations.
- Collecting food donated by companies with the assistance of Hellenic Food Industries (SEVT).
- Safe storage of the products and the staggered distribution of it, in accordance with the needs.
- Complete utilization of all donations.

Program for the provision of food to the fire victims with the support of Hellenic Petroleum SA

- 9,000 Portions
- For more than 200 fellow humans.
- in co-operation with “Panmakaristos Foundation” in Marathon, and The Church in Rafina.
- The selection of food was made so as to be complimentary to other donations.

«Among the beneficiaries are families (about 20), Elderly couples, Solitary people (both men and women predominantly of advanced years), but also people with special needs, who have little or no income at all. These people do not have the ability to relocate to other regions or houses (self-owned or rented), mainly due to economic reasons and are still living in the burned out area. The program, unfortunately, brought to the surface the plight of many of our fellow citizens who are in dire desperation, but for various reasons their predicament was not made public» - The Panmakaristos Foundation

«The beneficiaries (not only those who were fed) of this program in our parish, have diversified economic backgrounds, 25 Solitary people, 80 small families, 40 large families (4 persons or more) amongst whom 2 with special needs........The need to be fed at home shows a gradual increase. All the victims have strived in a variety of ways to re-establish their households. - The Church in Rafina.»
For a better world...

17 Goals to Transform Our World
The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The responsibility that Member States bear as regards food waste is equally important. Member States can favour or hinder food waste prevention and food donation depending on the way they enact EU provisions. Their responsibility is arguably even more important as they can also launch their own initiatives (outside the EU framework) to tackle food waste.

Special Report
Combating Food Waste: an opportunity for the EU to improve the resource-efficiency of the food supply chain
EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

SDG 2.1
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

SDG 12.3
By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.
HACCP System
A pro bono support of PRIORITY - business intelligence company

BRAVO sustainability award for the food drive activities “Collect”

Paul & Alexandra Canellopoulos Foundation
Emergency Food assistance program
Thank you

The layout design of the report is a courtesy of OTE Group