



brighterbites®

STORIES OF CHANGE

Brighter Bites
Fiscal Year Transition Report
January - June 2026





This year marks an important transition for Brighter Bites. To better align our financial reporting with our program calendars, we transitioned to a July-June fiscal year, which aligns with school calendars.

As a result, this report covers a six-month transition period, from January 2026 through June 2026. While shorter than a typical annual report, this period represents an important step forward in aligning our operations, reporting, and impact with the rhythm of our work.



12
cities served across
eight states



12,137
nutrition education
lessons and PE
activities executed



131,967
students, teachers, &
families impacted



\$9,109,395
retail value of fresh
produce distributed

*Based on USDA average retail prices for
fruits and vegetables

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from our Founder	3
Note from our CEO	4
Programming Numbers	5
Produce Supporters	6
Donors	7
Financials	8
Board of Directors	9
Greater Philadelphia Update	10



LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Brighter Bites Community,

When I founded Brighter Bites, I believed in something simple but powerful: every child deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy, nourished, and equipped to thrive. What began with a vision to help children develop a positive relationship with food has grown into a community of educators, families, partners, supporters, and advocates who share that belief.

This year, we continued to bring that vision to life through our programs, partnerships, and work in communities. Every lesson taught, every healthy meal shared, every family reached, and every child who discovered a new food or healthy habit represents meaningful progress. These moments all come together to create lasting change.

I am especially grateful to the people who make this work possible. Our dedicated team brings compassion and creativity to everything they do. Our community partners help us reach more children and families. And our generous supporters make it possible for us to continue expanding our impact and imagining what is possible for the future.

Most importantly, I am grateful for the children at the heart of this work. They remind us why this mission matters. We are investing not only in their health today, but in the healthier futures they can create for themselves, their families, and their communities.

There is still much work ahead. Too many children face health disparities and barriers to accessing nutritious food as well as learning about healthy choices. But I remain optimistic because I have seen what can happen when people come together around a shared belief in the potential of every child.

Thank you for believing in this mission, for standing alongside us, and for helping make a healthier future possible. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I look forward to all that we will continue to achieve in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Lisa Helfman
Founder

NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy, strong, and nourished. It is a privilege to lead an organization dedicated to making that vision a reality.

This past year, we continued our work to make healthy eating more accessible, engaging, and achievable for children and the families who support them. Through our programs, partnerships, and community efforts, we are helping kids build healthy habits that can last a lifetime.

None of this work happens alone. I am deeply grateful to our supporters, partners, families, and dedicated team who continue to believe in the importance of giving every child a healthy start. Together, we are creating brighter, healthier futures for children and strengthening the communities they call home.

Thank you for being part of this work and for believing in what's possible when we invest in the health and well-being of our children.

With deep gratitude and optimism,

Rich Dachman
CEO

"I enjoy being able to create delicious and healthier meals for my family with the items we receive. The lessons about healthy eating make trying fruits and vegetables that we've never had before exciting."

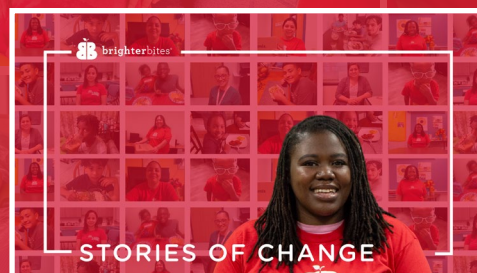
-BRIGHTER BITES PARENT

This year, we brought our mission to life through the voices of the families we serve. You heard firsthand from parents who participated in our program how access to fresh produce and nutrition education has made a meaningful difference in their homes, health, and daily habits.

These stories highlight more than impact—they celebrate resilience, growth, and the power of community. We're honored to share these personal journeys and hope they inspire you as much as they inspire us.

Thank you for being part of the change. We invite you to watch, listen, and celebrate the families at the heart of our work.

See the full library of stories [here](#).



STORIES OF CHANGE



PROGRAMMING NUMBERS

250
schools &
summer sites

216,076
bags & boxes
distributed

350
unique produce
varietals distributed

3,764,213
pounds of fresh
produce distributed

271
culinary
demonstrations

12,137
nutrition education
lessons & p.e. activities
executed

10,509
total students &
adults participating
in culinary demos

290,111
students taught

3,843
unique volunteers

4,489
teachers trained

19,595
volunteer hours

PRODUCE & LOGISTICS PARTNERS

B&W Quality Growers	Gills Onions	Sharing Excess
Blue Henry	Go Green Agriculture	Smiths Farm
Braga Fresh	Golden Door Farm	Southern Specialities
Cal-Organics	Grimmway Farms	St. Marys Food Bank
Capital Area Food Bank	Harry Chapin Food Bank	Sunkist
Casa de Peregrinos	Houston Food Bank	Sunset
Church Brothers	Hukama Produce	Sunview Marketing International
City Harvest	J&C Tropicals	Tanimura & Antle
Coastal Roots Farm	Mann Packing	Taylor Farms Retail
Coastal Sunbelt	Misfits Market	Taylor Farms Texas
Collaborative for Fresh Produce	North Texas Food Bank	Texstar Produce
Community Action Partnership of Kern Food Bank	Planet Harvest	The Garlic Company
D'Arrigo New York	Produce Good	Westpak Avocados
Dole	Prosource	Windset Farms
Feeding San Diego	Red Rabbit	Wonderful Citrus
Freshpoint Dallas	Roadrunner Food Bank	Yasukochi Farms
Freshpoint South Florida	Savor the Local	Zespri
Freshpoint South Texas	Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County	

DONORS

\$50,000+

Arizona Diamondbacks	Naples Children Foundation
CareFirst	New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Chobani	Pennsylvania SNAP-Ed
City of New York	Prince George's County Public Schools
Commonspirit Health	Scarlet Feather Fund
Crum & Forster Insurance	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Dohmen Company Foundation	Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Elevance Health Foundation	United States Department of Agriculture
Houston Food Bank	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
JV Smith Companies	Whalley Family Foundation

\$25,000 - 49,999

Richard Dachman	Olson Family Fund
Giumarra Companies	St. Mary's Food Bank
Guru Krupa Foundation	Sunset Grown (Mastronardi)

\$10,000 - 24,999

American Heart Association - Houston	The McCune Charitable Foundation
Centene Charitable Foundation	Oceanside Community Foundation
Center for Supportive Schools	Pebble Beach Company Foundation
Florida Blue Foundation	The Rachael Ray Foundation
Food Properties Group	Smith's Farm
Gunde & Ernie Posey Family Foundation	Southeastern Grocers, Inc
Labcorp Charitable Foundation	Spindletop Community Impact Partners
Lipman Family Farms	Linh Tu

\$1,000 - 9,999

Adventist Healthcare Inc	National Institutes of Health
Arizona Community Foundation	NatureSweet
Marianne Baldrice	Erika Niedernhofer
Check Point Software Technologies	OMG Charitable Foundation
Chevron North America Exploration and Production	P. Terry's Burger Stand
Community Foundation for Monterey County	Ready Work
Deacons of Deadwood	Robert Rosenfeld
Marti and Steve Diamond	Salinas Valley Health
Dignity Health Mercy & Memorial Hospitals	Siete Foods
Driscoll's	Sysco
Enverus	WeHero
Helen Frost	Weil Foundation
Goldman Sachs	Kristina Wilson
Jimbo's	Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.
Andrew Johnson	Wonderful Citrus
Hemmal Kothary	The Wonderful Company

\$500 - 999

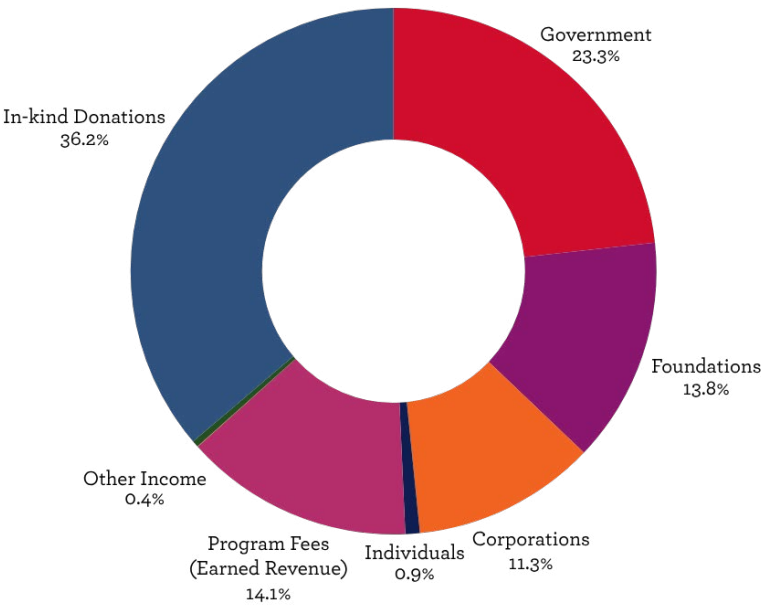
Debra Aitchison	Catherine and Matt Matthews
Robert Brenner	Marion and Judith Pomeroy
Todd Doyle	Vitamix Management Corporation
First United Methodist Church	Nicholas Williams



FINANCIALS

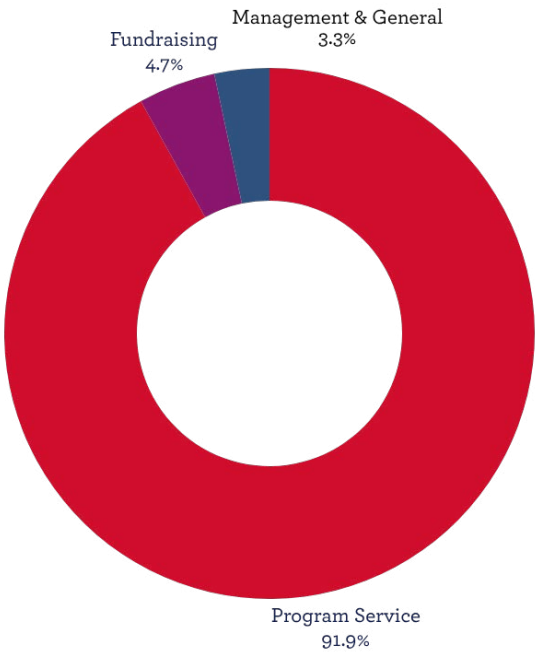
REVENUE

TOTAL:	\$8,093,484
Government:	\$1,883,944
Foundations:	\$1,119,819
Corporations:	\$913,384
Individuals:	\$71,683
Program Fees (Earned Revenue):	\$1,140,345
Misc Fundraising:	\$1,400
Other Income:	\$33,266
In-kind Donations:	\$2,929,643



EXPENSES

TOTAL:	\$7,447,807
Program Service:	\$6,847,797
Fundraising:	\$351,231
Management & General:	\$248,779



92¢
OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES
TOWARDS PROGRAMMING
INCLUDING IN-KIND
EXPENSES

IN-KIND DONATIONS:
\$2,929,643
PRODUCE FROM FOOD BANKS
AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Financials are unaudited.



THANK YOU, GREATER PHILADELPHIA!

After one and a half years, the Brighter Bites Greater Philadelphia program closed in September 2026 after the elimination of SNAP-Ed funding. We are deeply grateful to the families, schools, partners, volunteers, and staff in Bensalem who made this program so special. The memories, relationships, and moments of joy we shared will always be part of the Brighter Bites story.

Thank you, Greater Philadelphia, for your dedication to building healthier communities.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LISA HELFMAN

Founder & Board Chair of Brighter Bites and
Managing Director
H-E-B Public Affairs

DR. SHREELA SHARMA, PHD, RDN, LD

Co-Founder of Brighter Bites and Professor & Vice Chair
of Epidemiology and Director
Center for Healthy Communities at the University of
Texas School of Public Health in Houston

MELISSA ACKERMAN

Co-Founder and CEO
Planet Harvest

GREGG BURT

Board Member

GABRIELA D'ARRIGO

VP of Marketing &
Communications
D'Arrigo New York

ELTON EVANS

Founder, Executive Chairman
and Chief Executive Officer
TruSource

MARC ISAACS

Retired Executive
Sun Orchard Juicery

JENNY JOHNSON

Senior VP &
Chief Accounting Officer
Sysco

SCOTT MCCLELLAND

Board Member Emeritus
Brighter Bites

BENJAMIN SAMUELS

Director
Samuels Family
Foundation

VIC SMITH

CEO
JV Smith Companies