

Annual REPORT 2023



DIE TAFEL
ÖSTERREICH



About our WORK

What Die Tafel Österreich means
to our charities ...



* 100 charities took part in our Q1/2026 survey. Quotes are unprompted responses; survey data anonymised for analysis.

Working Together to Combat Poverty and Food Waste

With the support of all our donors of goods, money, and time, we are already providing assistance to more than 85,000 people affected by poverty at 170 charities throughout Austria. In an annual survey, we examine needs, impact, and satisfaction in depth*.

- More than half (57%) of our charities report an increase in demand compared to 2024 – an average increase of +39%
- The need for food assistance has not decreased at a single charity
- Fruits and vegetables are particularly important for 84%
- Our food aid contributes to a positive counseling and care environment (7.8 out of a possible 10 points)
- Satisfaction with our services is very high (grade: 1.4)

ALEXANDRA GRUBER
Managing Director



ELMAR FURTENBACH
Chairman



Dear Friends & SUPPORTERS of DIE TAFEL ÖSTERREICH,

On behalf of our organization, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your support over the past year – we are very grateful and happy to have you by our side!

The past 12 months have been intense and challenging, but also inspiring and encouraging: At the beginning of last year, we were able to launch our “Tafel-Drehscheibe” (Virtual Food Bank) in Austria, a project we had been working on for two years. It connects food donors and recipients even faster and more directly than before – digitally and via the shortest possible route – across all of Austria.

Saving prepared meals from institutional catering has long been a major priority for us. In this area – as well as in saving fresh meat from retailers – we made progress in 2025 with concrete solutions and initial pilot projects, both on a small scale and on a larger scale, for the future-oriented field that is so important to us: food rescue from **agriculture**.

In addition to redistribution, we have continued to advocate strongly for the prevention of food waste and, last year, were able to inspire thousands of students and (young) people with our “GewissensBISS” exhibition, developed in collaboration with BOKU.

Furthermore, we are working tirelessly to improve the framework conditions for charitable food distribution. Since the EU set binding food waste reduction targets last late fall, it is now more urgent than ever to bring about the **much-needed reversal of trends** in Austria – both in terms of **food insecurity** and **food waste**.

To achieve this, we need you by our side more than ever. Thank you very much for your support!

#WIRSINDTAFEL

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Fighting Poverty. Saving FOOD.

For many people, a full shopping cart has become a luxury – and eating a healthy diet a daily challenge. This is because food has become significantly more expensive, and many people no longer know how to provide adequate nutrition for themselves and their families. About 1.5 million people in Austria are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. A good fifth of them are children and adolescents. 420,000 people suffer from severe food insecurity.

It's particularly absurd: While so many people don't know how they're going to feed themselves, over a million metric tons of food are thrown away every year in this country alone. This is exactly where Die Tafel Österreich comes in: The social and environmental organization provides people affected by poverty with rescued food free of charge through social service agencies. This gives those in need one less essential worry and allows them to find ways out of their hardship with professional help. This aligns with the international food bank model, under which we operate as the country's only food bank – and have thus been bridging the gap between abundance and need since 1999.

In 2025, more than 85,000 people at approximately 170 charities throughout Austria were supported with 1,522,000 kg of edible food. About 20% of them were children and adolescents. These are impressive figures, but there is still plenty of room for growth in charitable food rescue. This is also shown by an annual survey we conduct: In more than half of the charities we supply, demand has risen compared to the previous year (see page 2).

"We are doing everything we can to meet the sharply increased demand for free food aid. However, we can no longer accept all charities that request our help. This is because the higher demand is accompanied by higher costs, greater effort, a significantly more difficult landscape for donations and funding, and very challenging operating conditions," said Alexandra Gruber.

New Approaches to Food Rescue

Our work is based on food donations throughout the entire value chain. Companies take responsibility by donating surplus goods instead of discarding them.

ANGELA WIDER



"For many years, Die Tafel Österreich has been picking up fruits and vegetables twice a week directly from our fresh produce hub in Maria Lanzendorf, supplemented by goods from our METRO wholesale markets in the federal states. Despite all our optimization efforts, there are still products that can no longer be sold – for me, there's no question that we should pass these on in a meaningful way," explains Angela Wider of METRO Austria.

Despite the difficult circumstances, Die Tafel Österreich continued to break new ground in 2025 to successfully combat food insecurity and food waste. In addition to successful pilot initiatives to rescue meat from food retail stores and to distribute pre-prepared meals from institutional kitchens – both complex issues in food distribution – for the first time, 300 metric tons (+50% compared to 2024) of surplus fruits and vegetables from agriculture were rescued and redistributed directly to people affected by poverty in charities throughout Austria.

We will continue on this path in the future as well. There is a lot of potential here, and at the same time, these are healthy and fresh foods that are particularly important for people living in poverty. Josef Peck, CEO of LGV Sonnengemüse, emphasizes the added value for farms:

JOSEF PECK



"Our family farms produce vegetables in a way that is as natural and resource-efficient as possible. And if there's some produce we can't sell, we want those vegetables to go to a good cause as well."



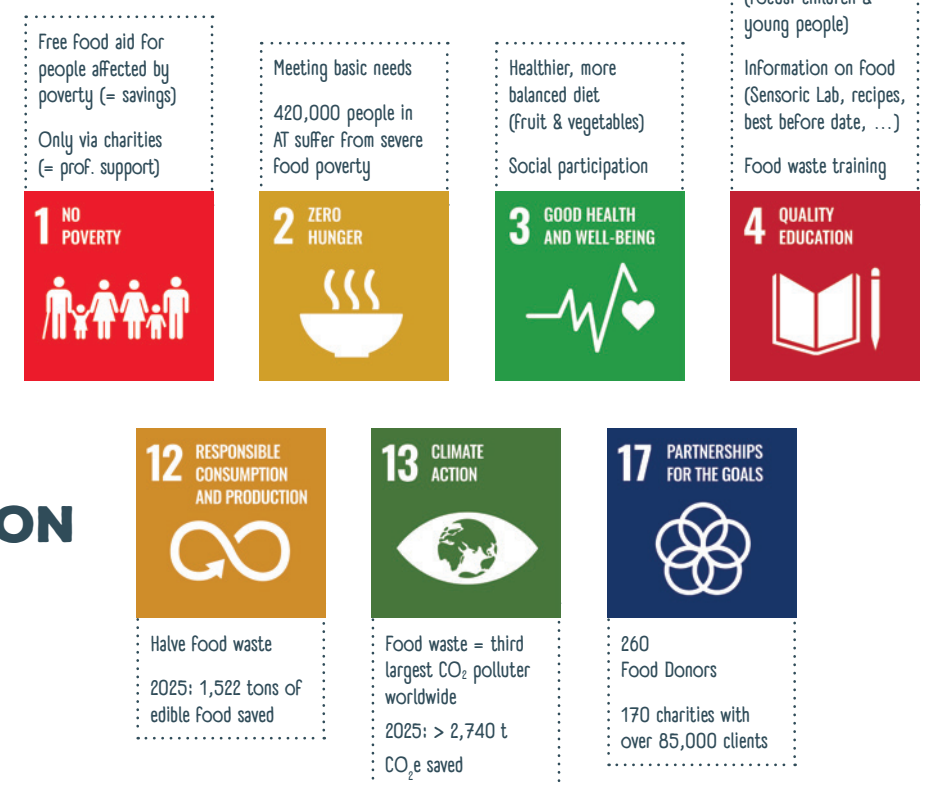
Our Tafel-Drehscheibe plays a central role in this. It connects food donors and charities throughout Austria even more quickly and effectively.

Knowledge Drives Change

In addition to providing concrete assistance, we carry out extensive awareness-raising efforts: for example, through the Sensoric Lab and the traveling exhibition "GewissensBISS" for children and teens (in collaboration with BOKU University Vienna), the best-by-date campaign "Ist das noch gut?" ("Is this still good?"), and the project "Isst das jemand?" (in collaboration with Ökosoziales Forum Österreich & Europa), through lectures and cooking workshops for companies, and in day-to-day conversations with retailers, producers, and private individuals. With our expertise, we raise awareness among policymakers, the business community, and society at large about distributive justice, food security, and resource conservation – thereby making an important contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Die Tafel Österreich demonstrates that social justice and environmental responsibility go hand in hand. Saving food saves resources – and creates opportunities for people. Thanks to the tremendous support of our financial and in-kind donors, pro bono partners, and volunteers, we were able to achieve this again in 2025.

Our CONTRIBUTION to the SDGs



Facts & Figures

85,000
people in need

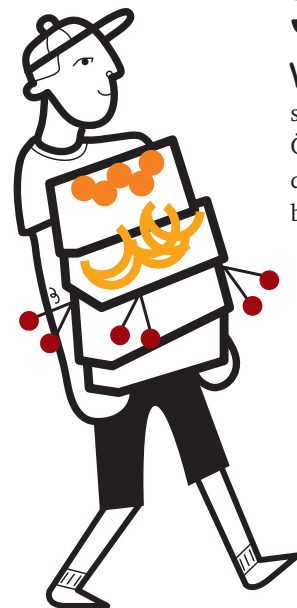
were provided by Die Tafel Österreich with free food and hygiene products. **20%** of them are children and adolescents.

170
Charities

in all nine federal states were supplied free of charge.

260
Food Donors

supported our mission in 2025.



1,522,000 KG
of Perfectly Edible Food

was saved by us from being destroyed – 300,000 kg (+ 50 %) of fruits and vegetables from farms alone.



342
volunteers

spent 19,959 hours working for Die Tafel Österreich – during acquisition, sorting, delivery routes, at markets, information booths, events, and much more.

10,000
visitors

were reached through our awareness-raising programs GewissensBISS and Sensoric Lab – more than 75 % of whom were children and teenagers.

We participated in **>50** events

across Austria in 2025, a fifth of which we organized ourselves.

For example, as part of our **“Isst das jemand?”** dialogue project with Ökosozielles Forum Österreich & Europa (supported by funding from the federal government, the states, and the European Union), we organized two events of our own in Vienna and Innsbruck – featuring high-profile speakers and active audience participation. We were also present at numerous trade shows and events in various federal states.

In June alone, several event highlights happened almost all at once: We were present at the **Austrian World Summit** organized by the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative, as well as exhibiting at the **Vienna concert by megastar Billie Eilish** (wherever we enthusiastically sang along) and at the **COMUN Foundation’s fireside chat** in Salzburg.

And: We welcomed numerous visitors to our **Open House**: partners, supporters, and interested members of the public came to Großmarkt Wien and took the opportunity to participate in the Tafel Driver’s License and Casinos Austria’s “Casino on Tour.” After a summer featuring (among other things) **“Afterwork am Bauernhof”** and Lieferando’s **“Mr. Beast Burger”** event, we immediately got back to business: With a **celebrity-led apple harvest at the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve**, **“Tag des Handels”**, the most important **logistics events** in the domestic industry – and a special highlight: In 2025, Die Tafel Österreich was honored at the **Forum Green Logistics with the Pacemaker Award** (thinkport VIENNA) for its logistics achievements, including those via Tafel-Drehscheibe.

We are very pleased that all these events have given us so much visibility and fostered dialogue throughout Austria!

SOURCES OF FUNDS 2025

[amounts in euros]

I. donations	2,923,556.23
a. non-restricted	2,923,556.23
b. restricted	0.00
II. membership fees	3,458.00
III. operational revenue	47,012.50
a. operational revenue from public funds	0.00
b. operational revenue from other sources	47,012.50
IV. public subsidies and grants	880,744.61
V. other revenue	306,859.47
a. fund management	3,678.64
b. from other sources *	303,180.83
VI. dissolution of liability accounts	90,858.17
sum of sources of funds	4,252,488.98

USE OF FUNDS 2025

[amounts in euros]

I. services for statutory purposes	3,237,041.52
II. fundraising	628,147.03
III. administrative expenses	387,300.43
IV. entries to reserve funds	0.00
V. annual surplus	0.00
sum of user of funds	4,252,488.98

* unless covered under I. – IV.

We would like to thank our public sponsors **BMASGPK | BMLUK | VKS Verpackungs-kordinierungsstelle GmbH | Fonds Soziales Wien | Stadt Wien Umweltschutz MA 22** for supporting Die Tafel Österreich in 2025.



A strong **Network** against **FOOD INSECURITY**

Teenagers are cutting vegetables, laughing, and chatting as they work. A mother and her daughter are delighted with the fresh fruit in a colorful basket. A man is spooning up a warming bowl of soup. Scenes like these play out every day at the approximately 170 charities supported by Die Tafel Österreich with free food aid. This assistance is urgently needed, because poverty is not a marginal phenomenon in Austria.

Rising rents, high energy costs, and expensive food are pushing more and more people to their financial limits: About 1.5 million people were at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion in 2025. Poverty can affect anyone and is often invisible. The Austrian Anti Poverty Network ("Die Armutskonferenz") defines poverty as a "lack of opportunities." It goes hand in hand with low income, poor educational opportunities, a higher risk of illness, and limited social participation. In practice, this can mean that torn clothing cannot be replaced, the home cannot be heated, or a healthy diet cannot be guaranteed. Around 420,000 people in our country are affected by severe food insecurity. In this situation, social services are indispensable. They understand the realities of people's lives and offer



concrete help, advice, and support. But demand is rising, while budgets and resources are tight. Food donations are therefore often a central pillar of their work.

Help That Makes a Difference

Charities have been among Tafel Österreich's most important partners from the very beginning. We supply a wide range of organizations – from homeless shelters and women's and mother-child shelters to refugee housing facilities and counseling centers. In line with the international food bank model, we do not distribute salvaged food directly to people living in poverty, but exclusively through charities. These organizations pass the food on to their clients or prepare meals with it directly on site. In this way, Die Tafel Österreich provides food free of charge to more than 85,000 people living in poverty and makes a sustainable contribution to the fight against poverty.

And this is no longer limited to Vienna, but is carried out in collaboration with partners in all federal states – whether through the delivery of non-perishable foods produced in-house, such as soups, or through the direct distribution of agricultural products.

Elmar Stüttler, chairman of "Tischlein Deck Dich Vorarlberg" emphasizes:



ELMAR STÜTTLER

"For us, it is by no means a given that Die Tafel Österreich consistently supports us so dedicatedly in distributing food, despite the great distance of around 650 kilometers. This makes a tangible difference for our work and for the people we are privileged to serve."

Food as a Door Opener

Scientific findings confirm the social value of our food rescue efforts. In 2025, the sustainable impact of food bank organizations like ours was highlighted for the first time in a recognized scientific journal (*Gemeinwirtschaft und Gemeinwohl* (Z'GuG)). The peer-reviewed publication "Die Bedeutung von Tafeln für soziale Nonprofit Organisationen am Beispiel der Tafel Österreich" clearly demonstrates that food assistance programs have an impact far beyond mere provision and play a central role in combating poverty.



They enable organizations to reach more people and expand the quality of their services. Food often serves as a gateway to further support, as it facilitates the establishment of contact and eases access to counseling. Cooking and eating together also strengthen community and social participation. Fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products contribute to a healthier diet. For many charities, our deliveries are essential for establishing or sustaining a food program in the first place.



ILSE GSTÖTTENBAUER

"Food has now become a very important part of what our organization offers – many people come here solely for that reason. Once a week, we cook together the food we receive from Die Tafel Österreich – which is usually the better and more appealing items," explains Ilse Gstöttenbauer, executive director of LOGIN – Verein zur Gesundheitsförderung und sozialen Integration.

Together with our partners in all federal states, we're demonstrating that to effectively combat poverty, we need to address many different issues – and as long as food insecurity remains a reality, we're firmly committed to fair distribution and full plates.

Sources: Statistics Austria, Die Armutskonferenz, Survey conducted by Die Tafel Österreich among its charities, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH



Our HIGHLIGHTS



WINWIN Donates 20,000 Euros to Die Tafel Österreich

The year 2025 began with tremendous support from WINWIN: The lottery subsidiary donated 20,000 euros to our mission. To mark its 20th anniversary in 2024, WINWIN had further expanded its social engagement across all 20 locations throughout Austria. By donating 20 cents per cup of coffee sold to Die Tafel Österreich, the company raised awareness about poverty and food waste in Austria, as well as their consequences for society and the environment. The company rounded up the total amount collected.



Tafel-Drehscheibe Brings "Virtual Foodbanking" to Austria

The digital Tafel-Drehscheibe, officially launched in early 2025, proved to be an innovative tool. It connects food donors and recipients across Austria, regionally, and even faster than before, while also ensuring comprehensive tracking of all food flows. Tafel-Drehscheibe has succeeded in opening up a new dimension of charitable food rescue and distribution: It is Austria's first digital food platform that is 100% charitable and free of charge. Furthermore, it makes a measurable contribution to reducing food waste, emissions, and resource consumption. It also creates clear added value for the economy – particularly with regard to sustainability reporting.

SDG Round Table: Sustainability with Impact

The 3rd SDG Round Table hosted by Die Tafel Österreich on May 15, 2025, focused on how climate protection and poverty reduction can be effectively combined. Discussions centered on new reporting requirements, strategic partnerships, and measurable impact in the context of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the VSME-Standard. The discussion centered on the interplay between climate protection and poverty reduction – two key issues that, when considered together, can have a particularly powerful impact. Sabine Zhang (Trainconsulting) expertly moderated the event, with experts such as Josef Baumüller (Vienna University of Technology), Leonie Machold (Sustainable AG), Christian Grünhaus (Vienna University of Economics and Business), and Michaela Theurl (Environment Agency Austria) presenting. Using concrete case studies from the work of Die Tafel Österreich, it became clear that sustainable partnerships are effective when they are strategically planned, clearly communicated, and consistently implemented.



World Savings Day with Purpose and Flavor

In collaboration with Erste Bank and Staud's Wien, approximately 2.6 tons of surplus fruit were turned into jams in 2025 – bringing the total since 2018 to nearly 50 tons. The World Savings Day gifts made from rescued food – available in 2025 in three fruity varieties: strawberry-rhubarb, red berries, and Williams Christ pear – combine enjoyment with social impact: For each glass sold, 1 euro was donated to Die Tafel Österreich, providing the equivalent of 117,500 meals for people affected by poverty. This year's partnership was complemented by a three-week guest appearance of our interactive traveling exhibition GewissensBISS at Erste Campus in Vienna. This gave employees and interested visitors the opportunity to learn about food waste and take home valuable tips for their own households.

When Music Fills You Up

Music brings people together: In 2025, we were once again able to collect donations at four renowned music festivals – the International Akkordeon Festival, the Wienerlied Festival "wean hean", the KlezMORE Festival and "Musikalischer Adventskalender". The latter, in collaboration with Die Tafel Österreich, sent a special message of solidarity for the second time with its "Tafeln!" initiative, treating a charity to a musical and culinary Christmas celebration on December 24. In total, an impressive 17,119 euros was raised for people affected by poverty at the four festivals. Donations were also collected diligently at two revival concerts by the band Remasuri – a whopping 3,434 euros. Billie Eilish's concert in Vienna drew additional attention: Die Tafel Österreich was selected as the only NGO in Austria as part of Support+Feed's Change-maker Initiative. The donation and the valuable attention brought to our work against poverty and food waste clearly demonstrated the power that lies in the combination of music and social engagement.

Ottakringer: Donate Instead of Throwing Away!

In 2025, Die Tafel Österreich and the Ottakringer Brewery partnered as part of the "Pfandfinder" initiative to combine environmental and social goals. Against the backdrop of the newly introduced single-use deposit system, Ottakringer collected deposit cans and bottles throughout Austria – including at high-traffic events such as Nova Rock and the Wien Energie Business Run. Thanks to the eye-catching yellow "Pfandherzen" (deposit hearts), visitors were encouraged to donate their empty containers – with great success: By the end of 2025, Ottakringer had collected a total of 10,000 euros in deposit donations and handed them over to Die Tafel Österreich, which uses the funds to support people affected by poverty with rescued food.



Neighborhood Solidarity in Action: A Model Project

Every week, the “Kuchl” employee cafeteria at Wiener Stadtwerke serves around 3,500 employees. Leftovers no longer end up in the trash – instead, they find their way onto the plates of people living in poverty. Thanks to the successful collaboration between Die Tafel Österreich, Sodexo, Rotes Kreuz Wien and immOH!, surplus food from the Kuchl is now donated free of charge to the nearby charity Haus Erdberg. In the pilot phase alone, more than one ton of food was saved and redistributed. To ensure the process runs smoothly, we’ve provided not only our expertise from 26 years of charitable food distribution but also our Tafel-Drehscheibe for tracking leftover food – all free of charge.

MyPlace Brings Christmas Joy

For the 16th time, the self-storage provider MyPlace-SelfStorage focused on social solidarity during the 2025 holiday season and collected in-kind donations for people affected by poverty. The drive yielded over 500 kilograms of non-perishable food and hygiene products (and even two teddy bears!). We were able to deliver the donations to our charities just in time for the holidays, bringing joy to people affected by poverty. Since 2010, MyPlace Self-Storage has supported us by providing storage space and organizing collection drives, which – thanks to so many dedicated donors – have enabled us to collect more than 23 m tons of donations since the initiative began.

Get to know our TEAM!

Always a highlight: the people
behind our mission.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX INTERNATIONAL *Highlights*

Die Tafel Österreich is not only well-connected nationally but also (as a member of the European Food Banks Federation, FEBA) internationally, and keeps a close eye on global developments. This allows us to draw inspiration from success stories in other countries and gain valuable insights – but also to support our European sister organizations when help is urgently needed ...

War in Ukraine: We Stand in Solidarity

War has been raging in Ukraine for four years; thousands upon thousands of people have fled, lost their lives, or are living in fear and under precarious conditions. Our solidarity has been unwavering from the very beginning. In 2025, we once again sent an entire truckload of tomato soup base to the war zone. It was an undertaking that took us more than five weeks and tested our patience (that’s how long it took to obtain an EORI number for customs). But it was worth the effort: “We are very grateful to Die Tafel Österreich for the support. The soup base is an extremely valuable donation for us, because access to nutritious, hot meals in frontline areas and recaptured regions is urgently needed,” wrote Dmytro Shkrabatovskyi, chairman of the Ukrainian Food Banks Federation (UFBF).

And then came the next piece of bad news: The Ukrainian Food Bank’s facility in Kyiv was hit by a bomb and severely damaged. The organization’s work came to a near standstill, leaving more than 60,000 families without food. We decided once again to provide help quickly and without red tape – and we’d like to thank everyone who responded to our call for donations!



Harvard Takes a Closer Look at Austria

What hinders charitable food distribution, and what promotes it? Since 2018, Harvard Law School’s Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) has been addressing these questions as part of the “Global Food Donation Policy Atlas”. Since 2025, the renowned U.S. university has also been taking a closer look at Austria – only the third country in Europe to be included in the study. The goal: to provide concrete recommendations to policymakers for expanding charitable food distribution.

The results are expected in the first half of 2026. The analysis focuses, among other things, on national waste management plans and waste prevention laws, liability protection, tax incentives, and measures to prevent food waste.

There is great interest in the Harvard recommendations, as demonstrated by the kick-off presentation in Vienna – held at the invitation of Die Tafel Österreich: Trevor Findley (Harvard Law School), Ignazio Corrao (FEBA), Felicitas Schneider (Thünen Institute), and Alexandra Gruber (Die Tafel Österreich) delivered keynote speeches and led a discussion before a packed audience.

Success at the EU level is still awaiting implementation

The revised EU Waste Framework Directive has been in effect since October 16, 2025. Combating food waste is a central objective of the directive, in which the European Commission has set binding reduction targets for the individual stages of the value chain: By 2030, member states must reduce food waste by 10 percent in processing and production and by 30 percent per capita in retail and consumption (including restaurants and households). Furthermore, all EU countries are called upon to further expand charitable food donations and the role of food banks as essential partners in their countries.

To monitor progress, the European Commission plans to conduct a comprehensive review by 2027. We are eager to see the results – because compliance with these guidelines could quickly and effectively lead to a significant increase in the amount of food that can be redistributed to people affected by poverty within a very short time.



Personal HIGHLIGHTS

2025 was a year full of challenges for us – but also full of moments of joy, milestones, and fond memories. Tafel employees share their personal highlights:

JULIA SZEWARD
Head of Fundraising



Visibility is incredibly important for an organization like ours that is primarily funded by donations. And that's why the **Wien Energie Business Run 2025** made me feel as if I had crossed the finish line myself (without breaking a sweat): a pagoda in the finish area, our video on the big screens, our volunteers handing out goodie bags ... and all this with 32,000 participants. I'd like to thank Gerhard Wehr and his team for giving us such great visibility. Another personal highlight for me was seeing the charity teams that chose our corporate packages, which were offered for the first time. I'm already looking forward to the 25th Business Run and more charity teams!

PETRA GRUBER
Head of Product Processing & IT



For me, the **“Tomato with a Purpose”** project in 2025 demonstrated that good things multiply when we all pull together – in the truest sense of the word: From our soup base in convenient 500-gram containers, which we were able to distribute to charities, we were able to conjure up 11,000 liters of soup – a total of 44,000 servings. So, surplus vegetable juice was transformed into a tasty and healthy meal (1 kg of concentrate contains 6.8 kg of vegetables), which, thanks to sauce specialist Spak, also comes in cool and practical packaging. After all, as the saying goes, you eat with your eyes first ...



DANIEL SCHLÖGL
Product Sourcing & Partnerships



About 162,000 tons of bread and pastries end up in the trash in Austria every year – while so many people don't have enough to eat. In 2025, Geier. Die Bäckerei demonstrated that sometimes all it takes is the right approach to put surplus food to good use while doing good at the same time. In addition to regular product donations, they're now helping out with the **“Geier-Tafelsackerl”**: Customers can order the daily clearance bag via the Geier app and pick it up before the store closes. This way, they get fresh goods at a low price, and at the same time, 50 cents per bag is donated to Die Tafel Österreich. This, in turn, allows us to provide additional meals for people affected by poverty. We need more ideas like this!



VALERIE WEIDINGER-KEMLE
Volunteer Coordinator



Our **TafelSammeltag** (collection day) reminds me time and again just how easy it can be to help. Through this initiative, we regularly give supermarket customers the opportunity to donate non-perishable food and hygiene products to people affected by poverty. Our volunteers collect the items right after customers check out and pass them on to charities free of charge. In 2025, we collected a total of 17,391 kg over 28 days. This year, Casinos Austria provided us with special support as part of the Our Commitment to Austria initiative – both financially and through the tremendous personal dedication of its employees. This enabled us to expand the campaign to several federal states. We also received significant support from ServiceNow: The company provided all the volunteers needed for a TafelSammeltag and even matched the donations made by passersby. It's wonderful to experience so much solidarity firsthand!

LINA BUXBAUM
Project Manager “Soup with a sense”



For me, “Soup with a sense” was a threefold highlight in 2025: First, even more restaurant owners across Austria decided to get involved in our winter fundraising campaign. Second, Konstanze Breitebner and Thomas Mraz publicly supported “Soup with a sense” and demonstrated that combating poverty through food rescue is a cause close to their hearts. And most importantly: Through this campaign, we were once again able to support people in need. Many thanks to all participating restaurants and soup-eaters!

MONIKA HEIS
Event and Project Management



I'm delighted that our interactive traveling exhibition, GewissensBISS, is generating so much interest. Due to high demand, we launched a second version in 2025, which has been touring Styria, Tyrol, and Salzburg. Our joint project with BOKU highlights where food is lost along the value chain and what each individual can do to prevent it. It's especially important to us to reach young people – through interactive stations, easy-to-understand facts, and audio guides. We also took the exhibition on the road: It opened in Lienz in the presence of our Managing Director, Alexandra Gruber. In Imst, the Tyrolean Chamber of Labor organized a panel discussion to kick off the event, during which I was able to share insights into our day-to-day work.



ROBERT KONCSEK
Head of Logistics



As a “social logistics company,” our work depends on well-organized, efficient logistics – only in this way can we save large quantities of food every day and distribute them to people affected by poverty. The fact that we were part of three major logistics events in 2025 is a wonderful recognition for our organization, but especially for our logistics team: at **ILS 2025** in Leoben, we participated with a keynote presentation and an information booth, among other activities; at the Forum Green Logistics, we were even honored with the Pacemaker Award; and we were also present at the Vienna Logistics Forum. We're delighted by this recognition and the opportunity to connect with industry colleagues!



In the *Political* ARENA

Constant dripping wears away the stone: Guided by this motto, we continue to advocate year after year at the political level for improvements in charitable food distribution. In 2025, we once again had interesting discussions that fuel our optimism ...

Last year, too, we engaged in dialogue with various political decision-makers to advocate for better conditions for charitable food distribution. We did so with even greater urgency – because the disparities in our society (food insecurity on the one hand, food waste on the other) have continued to grow in recent years or have remained at high levels.

Last year, for example, we met with **Korinna Schumann**, Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, as well as with **Norbert Totschnig**, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water and State Secretary **Ulrike Königsberger-Ludwig** (at the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care, and Consumer Protection), to draw attention to our concerns – including the greater redistribution of food surpluses from agriculture to people affected by poverty, better framework conditions for charitable food distribution (e.g., liability relief), and much more.



In addition, we also engaged in dialogue with the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Chamber of Labour, Austrian Farmer's Federation and other political stakeholders. This broad spectrum demonstrates that our issues, as **cross-cutting matters**, involve a wide range of different ministries and interest groups. We were also able to engage in discussions with state councilors from the **federal states** responsible for environmental and/or social affairs.

In these discussions, we are always happy to refer to the numerous passages in the current government program that address measures to combat inflation (keyword: poverty reduction) and food waste (keyword: circular economy). For example, the current federal government's goals in the chapter on sustainability, with regard to the increased redistribution of food still fit for consumption to social institutions, state: *"The federal government pursues the goal of combining market-based action with social and ecological objectives."* In our view, there is nothing more to add to this, as Die Tafel Österreich has been committed to precisely this holistic understanding of sustainability for 27 years ...

Die Tafel Österreich IN THE MEDIA

From print to online, radio, and television: Die Tafel Österreich was featured in the media more than 700 times last year. We also had the opportunity to discuss our mission on numerous podcasts. Every news story helps us raise awareness of our core mission: fighting poverty through food rescue. We'd like to share a few highlights with you here.

For the ORF program "Dok 1", Hanno Settele accompanied us to the Großmarkt Wien during the morning pickup, pitched in with sorting and delivering the donated goods, and had insightful conversations with Managing Director Alexandra Gruber, volunteers, and both donors and recipients of the goods. The segment on waste powerfully demonstrates what can be done to combat food waste (e.g., with our TafelBox) – and how social redistribution reduces food waste and combats food insecurity.

In the ORF III documentary "Armut macht krank", the TV format "treffpunkt medizin" highlighted the close link between poverty and health – including personal insights from our volunteer Hans. Further insights were provided in a Stadt Wien documentary on volunteering, in which, among others, our volunteer Alfred spoke about his motivations for getting involved.

Die Presse journalist Hanna Kordik demonstrated that the distribution of surplus food is taking place under increasingly difficult conditions (*"Leonore Gewessler schafft mit einer Auftragsvergabe noch rasch Fakten"*, February 1, 2025). Drawing on the discussion surrounding the government's call for proposals for a food distribution hub, she highlighted the tension between charitable and commercial food distribution.

Our collaborative projects "Isst das jemand?" (with Öko-soziales Forum Österreich & Europa) and "GewissensBISS" (with BOKU Vienna) received significant media coverage – even beyond the borders of the federal states. For example, Ö1 editor Daniel Kruppa guided a school class in Semmering through the exhibition and spoke with the students about their insights and what they had learned.

Projects such as our soup base for charities and the "Geier-Tafelsackerl", launched in 2025, also generated a great deal of interest. And last but not least, the media once again helped give our 2025 winter fundraising campaign, "Soup with a sense", high visibility.



In addition, we were guests on numerous podcasts, such as "Gaumen hoch", "Ganz offen gesagt", and "Die Schöne und das Biest" – as well as on the podcasts from "Land schafft Leben" and Verein MUT. The topics ranged from food insecurity and practical tips for reducing food waste to the role of politics in supporting food bank work and impact management in NGOs.

Curious? You can listen to these and other podcast episodes here



The Heart of Our Organization— Our Volunteers

Since its founding and for many years, Die Tafel Österreich was an organization run entirely by volunteers. Today, around 30 full-time staff members are active in both of our missions – food redistribution and raising awareness. But we still have a good ten times as many volunteers, without whom our work simply would not be possible.

342 volunteers who contributed a total of 19,959 hours in 2025 – that’s an incredible achievement, and we’d like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who dedicates their time to this worthy cause. Whether it’s fundraising, sorting food, making delivery runs, helping at events, working in the office, or raising awareness (see the right-hand side for more information on ways to get involved): Without our volunteers, we wouldn’t be able to support so many people affected by poverty across so many charities.



Mohamed Errajraji

“The spirit of solidarity and respect that prevails in this organization has brought me great joy and strengthened my willingness to collaborate. It is an honor and an inspiration for me to pay tribute to the kindness of this country, which has welcomed me so warmly.

My experience with Die Tafel Österreich is something truly special. I have met generous and compassionate people who have shown me so much love and appreciation and deepened my understanding of the values of humanity and altruism.”



Monika Zettel-Tomenendal

“Why do I volunteer with Die Tafel Österreich? Saving food and using it to support people in charities: it brings me joy, it’s meaningful, and it helps make the world a little bit better. I’m happy to devote some of my free time to this.”



A sense of community is paramount here – or, as one volunteer so beautifully put it: With us, there’s “social good in two ways.” Our food bank community is made up of people of all ages, all social classes, all skin colors, and all personalities. For us, the only thing that matters is the idea of being together “with a purpose.” What keeps us – and our volunteer coordinators Valerie and Sophie – thriving time and again is not only the tremendous dedication of our volunteers but also the heartfelt feedback we receive from them. We’d like to share a few of these comments with you here.



Isabel Geering

“Since 2013, I’ve been collecting vegetables, fruit, and other treats at the Naschmarkt for Die Tafel Österreich. I always enjoy meeting new people and doing something good together. I also love going to concerts to collect money – it’s a great way to combine good music with filling the donation boxes.”



Peter Seelmann

“I’ve had – and still have – the opportunity to lead a good and healthy life. By volunteering with Die Tafel Österreich, I want to support those who haven’t had these opportunities. I volunteer as a driver and co-driver and help distribute food to various social institutions. It’s always wonderful to see how happy people are when we from Tafel deliver the food.”

How *you* can get involved

There are many ways to actively support Die Tafel Österreich. Whether through donations of goods or money, sponsorships, or your time: Every contribution helps alleviate poverty and save food.

Donations of Goods

Many people rely on food assistance – and we can only help if edible products are available. Whether from (wholesale) retailers, manufacturers, or farmers: Every donation counts and makes a real difference. tafel-oesterreich.at/warenspenden

Monetary Donations

As a donation-funded organization, we rely on financial support. Every euro – from companies, organizations, private individuals, etc. – helps us provide more people affected by poverty with rescued food. Whether it’s a one-time donation, a regular contribution, or part of a fundraising campaign: Your donation goes directly where it’s needed. tafel-oesterreich.at/spenden

Sponsorship

Support Die Tafel Österreich through sponsorship: Whether it’s a ready-made package, vehicle sponsorship, or a customized solution – there are many ways for companies to make a lasting contribution. And through our CSV (Corporate Social Volunteering) activities, your company can demonstrate social responsibility and enable your employees to actively contribute to the fight against poverty and food waste. tafel-oesterreich.at/firmenspende

TafelBox

Our TafelBox is a doubly sustainable solution for taking home leftover food from buffets, events, catering services, and more. By using it, you help prevent good food from ending up in the trash while also supporting the fight against food insecurity in Austria – because 20 cents from each box goes to Die Tafel Österreich. Available online in quantities of 50 or more (60 cents each). For more information, visit tafelbox.at



Give time

Our work is only possible thanks to volunteers. Whether as an individual or on behalf of a company – we’re always looking for people to get involved. There are many tasks to be done: Daily responsibilities include sourcing and preparing food donations, as well as delivering them to charities. We’re also looking for dedicated volunteers for projects such as the regular Tafel-Sammeltag (collection day) or the Sensoric Lab, as well as for information booths, fundraising at events, and much more. Whether it’s a one-time, occasional, or regular commitment – every bit of help counts, and we’ll find the right role for everyone! If you’d like to support us with your time, please email us at ehrenamt@tafel-oesterreich.at

Sharing is caring

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Like, share, and comment on our posts – that way, you’ll help spread the word about our mission!

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