

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LOCAL MISSION STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP

ON THE FRONT LINES TO END HUNGER



 **HUNGER TASK FORCE**
FREE & LOCAL

HUNGER TASK FORCE IS MILWAUKEE'S ONLY FREE & LOCAL FOOD BANK AND WISCONSIN'S ANTI-HUNGER LEADER.

MISSION STATEMENT

Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to healthy food obtained with dignity. We work to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger-free community tomorrow.

CORE VALUES

Dignity • Justice • Equity • Compassion • Stewardship



A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Hunger Task Force continues to innovate to meet the needs of hungry people. Driven by a strong mission statement and guiding values, our staff and volunteers have continued the tradition of responsive service and key advocacy.

We are hard working people. When we see challenging times ahead, or a person who just plain needs some help, we dig in. This annual report shows many of the ways we made a difference in 2023. Shifting out of the pandemic, our emergency food organizations got back inside and set their pantries to support household choices for food. Simultaneously, federal funding for helpful programs was withdrawn – including the Badger Box and FoodShare emergency benefits. Our commitment to managing through these difficulties remained true.

There are great numbers throughout this report. It shows a healthy nonprofit organization strongly supported by donors and backed by a great many partners. Together we have helped schools serve meals to all children, delivered food boxes to the doors of seniors in need, farmed our way straight through last Spring's drought and delivered food to communities in need across Wisconsin.

Remember, it's not just about the big picture, but also about the individual actions that make it all possible. Consider how you are part of our mission and will continue to support us into the future!

Sincerely,

Sherrie Tussler
Chief Executive Officer



THIS ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS MANY OF THE WAYS WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2023. SHIFTING OUT OF THE PANDEMIC, OUR EMERGENCY FOOD ORGANIZATIONS GOT BACK INSIDE AND SET THEIR PANTRIES TO SUPPORT HOUSEHOLD CHOICES FOR FOOD. SIMULTANEOUSLY, FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HELPFUL PROGRAMS WAS WITHDRAWN — INCLUDING THE BADGER BOX AND FOODSHARE EMERGENCY BENEFITS. OUR COMMITMENT TO MANAGING THROUGH THESE DIFFICULTIES REMAINED TRUE.

- SHERRIE TUSSLER
HUNGER TASK FORCE CEO

CLOSING THE LID ON HUNGER

ENDING HUNGER, ONE BOX AT A TIME



HUNGER TASK FORCE'S MISSION PROVES THAT FIGHTING HUNGER ISN'T ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL. WE BELIEVE EVERY PERSON HAS A RIGHT TO HEALTHY FOOD OBTAINED WITH DIGNITY—AND IT ALL STARTS WITH THE RIGHT BOX.

BADGER BOX

The Hunger Task Force Badger Box was a uniquely Wisconsin solution to hunger and a win-win for our state's agriculture and low-income families living in remote regions, rural areas and Tribal Nations. Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Hunger Task Force purchased foods from small- and medium-sized Wisconsin farmers and producers and delivered over 216,000 Badger Boxes across the state in 2023.



HALAL BOX

With generous support from Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's Heart of Canal Street program, Hunger Task Force customized and distributed culturally appropriate boxes for families who eat Halal foods. These "Halal boxes" – supported by Potawatomi's \$100,000 gift – were strategically provided to partners across the Hunger Task Force emergency food network who directly serve a diverse population of refugee immigrant families from all over the world.



WE BELIEVE PEOPLE HAVING A CHOICE IN THE FOOD THEY RECEIVE PROVIDES DIGNITY, IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF TASTE, BUT OF RELIGION AND CULTURE. EVERYONE WANTS TO MAKE PERSONAL CHOICES."

- SHERRIE TUSSLER
HUNGER TASK FORCE CEO



StockBox DoorDash

Hunger Task Force delivers nearly 10,000 Stockboxes each month to low-income seniors across 29 Milwaukee zip codes. In 2023, Stockbox DoorDash—a pandemic-era innovation—continued to deliver to the front doors of local seniors with total deliveries reaching nearly 15,000 boxes this year!

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

STRENGTHENING OUR NETWORK OF FOOD PANTRIES



HUNGER TASK FORCE'S FOOD BANK OPERATIONS ARE A CRITICAL PART OF THE MISSION TO END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY. AS MILWAUKEE'S ONLY FREE & LOCAL FOOD BANK, WE WORK ALONGSIDE OUR NETWORK OF FOOD PANTRIES, MEAL SITES AND SHELTERS TO SERVE FAMILIES FACING HUNGER.

In 2023, constrained by declining FoodShare benefits and a rise in grocery prices across the nation, Milwaukee County witnessed a significant rise in hunger for families, children and seniors, especially at local pantries. As the anti-hunger leader, Hunger Task Force doubled down on its mission, vowing to feed everyone with dignity and build a community where empty plates are a thing of the past.

- Delivered 9,396,106 pounds of food—valued at \$15M—absolutely free of charge.
- Provided a safety net for over 30,000 people visiting local pantries each month, as well as food resources for soup kitchens and shelters to serve over 457,000 meals.
- Invested \$694,935 in grants to purchase equipment, vans, coolers and freezers for local pantries to increase their capacity, offer the “choice model” of service and provide more healthy and culturally appropriate foods.
- Grew the network with the return of Metropolitan Baptist Church and the addition of a new shelter program at Sojourner Family Peace Center.



FOSTERING DIGNITY AND COMPASSION

CONNECTING THROUGH FOODSHARE OUTREACH



Long-awaited moment: Carmen and Ivette, connected only by phone since July 2020, share a heartfelt in-person meeting for the first time.



HUNGER TASK FORCE EMPOWERED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DIVERSE FAMILIES AND SENIORS ACROSS MILWAUKEE TO CONNECT WITH THE FOODSHARE PROGRAM, ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHY GROCERIES AND BUILDING PATHWAYS TO A HUNGER-FREE FUTURE COMMUNITY.

Ivette Rivera Soto, a 64-year-old retired teacher's assistant living in Greenfield, knows the delicate dance of managing her budget, health and family. Cooking traditional sofrito and keeping her diabetes in check are daily priorities, but access to healthy food isn't always a given and the pandemic's economic impact made food security a precarious balancing act.

Since connecting in July of 2020, Carmen Delvalle, FoodShare Supervisor at Hunger Task Force, has helped Ivette navigate the FoodShare program and helped her receive, at the height of the pandemic, up to \$204 a month in FoodShare benefits to spend on groceries to shop with dignity.

Life took another turn when the pandemic's temporary boost in FoodShare benefits ended in March 2023. Ivette's monthly benefits dropped to a mere \$23 per month. Knowing Carmen is just a phone call away provides a sense of security and the two talk on the phone at least once a month.

Ivette's story is a testament not just to her own resilience, but to the invaluable work of the FoodShare Outreach team at Hunger Task Force. Our Advocates empower individuals like Ivette to secure the resources they need to thrive.

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS:

1,009

COLLEGE STUDENTS

1,058

UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS

568

MEMBERS OF TRIBAL NATIONS

190

U.S. VETERANS

1,787

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) /IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE

6,139

SENIORS/ELDERLY, BLIND OR DISABLED (EBD)

1,950

PANTRY AND MEAL SITE ATTENDEES

THINKING OUTSIDE THE PANTRY

REIMAGINING FOODSHARE, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



IN 2023, HUNGER TASK FORCE'S FOODSHARE OUTREACH EFFORTS BROKE THROUGH BARRIERS AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER. BY LEADING INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES AND DEPLOYING A NETWORK OF DEDICATED, MULTILINGUAL ADVOCATES, HUNGER TASK FORCE PROVIDED ACCESS TO CRITICAL RESOURCES FOR THOUSANDS FACING HUNGER.

Through the work of the FoodShare Outreach team, thousands of individuals from under-served populations received help. FoodShare Advocates provide vital nutritional support to veterans transitioning back to civilian life, immigrants seeking cultural familiarity amidst resettlement, college students balancing education and basic need and individuals experiencing homelessness who just need a bit of help. Their compassionate approach fostered not only food access but also dignity and hope for a food-secure future.

- Hunger Task Force's FoodShare Outreach Team—that speaks over a dozen languages including English, Spanish, Hmong, Lao, Thai, Burmese, Dari, Pashto, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, French, Italian, Czech, Russian and French—served 30,874 people across Milwaukee County in 2023.
- Hunger Task Force's FoodShare Advocates sprang into action when the downtown welfare office was unexpectedly moved, setting up a mobile outreach unit to directly assist those impacted.



ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

ENSURING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT



ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER IS ONE OF HUNGER TASK FORCE'S CORE GOALS. IN 2023, HUNGER TASK FORCE PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE STATE, FOCUSING ON NOURISHING CHILDREN THROUGH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, ADDRESSING NUTRITIONAL DISPARITIES AND FOSTERING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ACCESSIBLE MEALS AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.

SUMMER MEALS

Over 445,000 free meals were served to children at 149 sites during the summer months in Milwaukee County. Hunger Task Force brought partners together through the "Milwaukee Model" to make sure kids stayed healthy while school was out. This year's program featured the debut of "Meal Mates," a healthy to-go option, made possible through support from Kohl's, that offers kids a boost of nutrition while they play and learn.

SCHOOL MEALS

Hunger Task Force continued its statewide advocacy to make school meal programs as strong as they can be. These efforts included awareness of and enrollment work in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which gives schools the opportunity to feed all their kids for free. A big win included the Kenosha Unified School District opting into CEP to provide over 20,000 students with access to free school meals.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Hunger Task Force is committed to nurturing young minds throughout the year with nutrition lessons and resources provided by the Child Nutrition Educator. Hunger Task Force's Nutrition Education Program welcomed 1,450 students from K3 to 8th grade to experience the Hunger Task Force Farm and McCarty Education Kitchen for hands-on experiences. From baking healthy recipes to exploring The Farm's greenhouses, apple orchards and School Garden, Hunger Task Force made learning fun and nutritious.

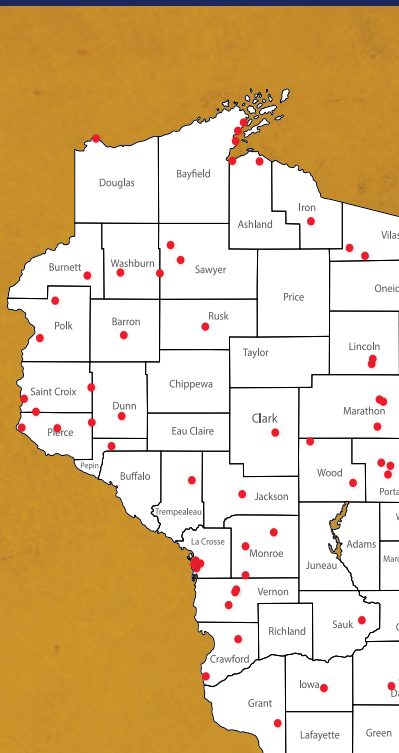
COOKING WITH CULTURE

Hunger Task Force's "Cooking with Culture" pilot program fostered cultural appreciation and healthy food choices among young learners. This multi-grade initiative, piloted in summer 2023, engaged students from the Hmong American Peace Academy. Through hands-on learning experiences at the Hunger Task Force Farm, students explored traditional Hmong dishes, cultivated cultural awareness and gained valuable knowledge about healthy eating habits.



HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION

EXPANDING OUR STATEWIDE COLLABORATION



THE HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN IS A COALITION OF 131 FREE, LOCAL AND INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND TRIBAL NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP WISCONSIN HUNGER-FREE. IN 2023, HUNGER TASK FORCE ADMINISTERED ARPA AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE FUNDS TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVER BADGER BOXES TO STRATEGIC REGIONAL HUBS ACROSS THE STATE.

Nestled in the heart of Pepin County, the Durand Area Food Pantry has been a beacon of hope for families facing hunger since the 1980s. Led by dedicated administrator Marcia Bauer, the pantry has not only weathered the pandemic storm but also emerged stronger thanks to its membership in the Hunger Relief Federation and the transformative power of funds made possible by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Food Security Initiative.

“The funds were a game-changer,” says Bauer. “Thanks to Hunger Task Force and support from the State, we were able to acquire a new cooler and freezer. They allow us to accept more perishable donations than ever before.” Funds also purchased a refrigerated van, which enabled the pantry to transport 50 Badger Boxes monthly from the local hub in Hudson.

The pantry’s success is further fueled by its collaboration with the Hunger Relief Federation. Bauer emphasizes, “Joining the Hunger Relief Federation in 2019 was invaluable. Their expertise and knowledge, particularly during the pandemic, were instrumental in helping us navigate challenges and serve our community effectively. They also provided a vital connection to government and policymakers, ensuring the needs of rural organizations like ours are heard.”

As the Durand Area Food Pantry looks ahead, it remains steadfast in its commitment to providing food assistance with dignity and respect. With the continued collaboration of the Hunger Relief Federation and the Hunger Task Force, coupled with the impact of DATCP investments, it will undoubtedly continue to serve families in need.



JOINING THE HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION IN 2019 WAS INVALUABLE. THEIR EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING US NAVIGATE CHALLENGES AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY EFFECTIVELY.”

- MARCIA BAUER, DURAND AREA FOOD PANTRY



SIGNATURE PARTNERS & EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Johnson Controls led the charge during the storied Food For Families campaign featuring a unique hybrid of traditional and virtual food drives.



WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

Wells Fargo \$5 Day kicked off the 2023 Wisconsin State Fair with a food drive at all fair gates and an interactive Central Mall exhibit of Hunger Task Force's statewide partners.



TOUCHDOWNS FOR HUNGER

We celebrated 20 years of Touchdowns for Hunger with a tailgate in our food bank with special guest Donald Driver!



WISN 12 FOOD FOR FAMILIES PHONE BANK

WISN 12 and community partners worked the phones and collected donations during this special Thanksgiving week fundraising tradition.



KOHL'S HOMETOWN PARTNERSHIP

Kohl's continued their steadfast leadership by providing funds to purchase healthy and culturally appropriate foods for kids as well as hundreds of dedicated volunteers.



CBS 58 THANKSGIVING DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE

During this annual food drive at American Family Field, CBS 58, the Brewers Community Foundation and local donors came together to collect turkeys and healthy foods for the holiday.



EASTER BASKETS FOR THE HUNGRY

Palermo's Pizza marked 15 years of "Easter Baskets for the Hungry" by packing and distributing special holiday foods for families in need.



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

The Boss himself asked concertgoers to support Free & Local during his March concert, resulting in thousands of fans donating to Hunger Task Force on their way out of the show.



STOP! SUMMER HUNGER

Thanks to WaterStone Bank and TMJ4, Milwaukee children experiencing summer hunger received healthy meals throughout the summer months.



MATCH MADNESS MKE

Local donors went mad for matching gifts during the 8th annual Match Madness MKE campaign and doubled their support for Hunger Task Force.



BLOCK OUT HUNGER

For the 7th consecutive season, Cousins Subs donated \$50 for every blocked shot by the Bucks to fight hunger across the state through the Block Out Hunger campaign.



HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS

The original Virtual Food Drive led by Raymond James and TMJ4 gave the community an opportunity to donate holiday meals from the comfort of their home.



TURKEY TICKER

Gobble, gobble! All November long, Zurn Elkay Water Solutions matched turkey donations to Hunger Task Force and put birds on holiday tables.



DOUBLE HELPING FOR HUNGER

Our friends at Sargento donated \$200 for every double hit by the Milwaukee Brewers through the Double Helping for Hunger program.



DRIVEN BY ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD

Anthem continued its staunch support of Hunger Task Force's senior outreach and Mobile Market, a grocery store on wheels bringing healthy food from Piggly Wiggly to local food deserts.



THE FARM POWERED BY HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Thanks to support from Harley-Davidson, community partners and thousands of volunteers, over 600,400 pounds of farm-fresh produce was infused into our local network.



MAXIE'S ANNUAL DERBY DAY PARTY

We were off to the races the first Saturday in May at Maxie's Annual Derby Day Party for another incredible event helping raise funds for Hunger Task Force.



FREE & LOCAL AMERICAN WHEAT

Cheers to local hunger relief! In partnership with MobCraft Beer, Hunger Task Force brewed Free & Local American Wheat with a portion of sales helping feed families.



MITTEN FEST

Burnhearts and the local community partied in the snow and cold in Bay View to raise money for our hungry neighbors.



OUTPOST NATURAL FOODS

Outpost Natural Foods supported Hunger Task Force through a bevy of in-store programs, as well as Produce to the People, providing a 50% discount on fresh produce to FoodShare participants.



NO KID HUNGRY

We're on a mission to end childhood hunger, and No Kid Hungry again supported Hunger Task Force's child nutrition advocacy work in Milwaukee and across the state.



EDI FOOD FIGHT

EDI continued its company's competitive tradition of hosting a food drive to benefit Hunger Task Force.



MILWAUKEE TOOL

Our friends in red at Milwaukee Tool supported Free & Local with a corporate virtual food drive, matching gifts, volunteerism and, of course, power tools for The Farm.



LEND A HELPING HAM

Our partners at 102.9 The HOG and Meijer continued the tradition of "ham-plinging" ham donations throughout December to make sure families had this festive centerpiece on their holiday tables.



THE HUNGER TASK FORCE FARM

INNOVATIVE HUNGER RELIEF



PIONEERING FARM-TO-FOOD BANK SOLUTIONS, THE HUNGER TASK FORCE FARM GREW OVER 400,000 POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE IN 2023. THE FARM NOT ONLY NOURISHED HUNGRY FAMILIES IN MILWAUKEE BUT ALSO FURTHER ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A STATE LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE HUNGER RELIEF.

The 2023 growing season at the Hunger Task Force Farm brought both successes and challenges, highlighting the resilience and determination of the farm team and the generosity of the community.

A spring drought hit Wisconsin at the planting stage when crops need substantial water to establish roots. To combat the drought, our farmers worked around the clock and ran irrigation seven days a week, sometimes for up to 16 hours a day.

Despite Mother Nature's setbacks, the Hunger Task Force Farm harvested 411,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for hungry families in Milwaukee.

Throughout the season, The Farm welcomed nearly 6,000 volunteers who played a vital role in seeding, planting, weeding, harvesting and washing produce for the community in need. The 2023 growing season was a testament to The Farm's resilience and the unwavering support Hunger Task Force receives from volunteers and donors.



DESPITE THE DROUGHT CONDITIONS, THE FARM YIELDED A RECORD AMOUNT OF GREEN BEANS



PRODUCING A TOTAL OF
23,369 POUNDS



70

VARIETIES OF

28

DIFFERENT CROPS GROWN

411,000 POUNDS

OF HEALTHY PRODUCE HARVESTED



12,198

VOLUNTEER HOURS

ABOVE PROJECTED CROP YIELDS

110,765

CORN

20,791

COLLARDS



85,012

CABBAGE

15,021

LETTUCE

25,625

TOMATOES

SENIOR SERVICES

FOSTERING HEALTH, DIGNITY AND COMMUNITY



AS WISCONSIN'S LEADING CHAMPION FOR SENIOR FOOD ACCESS, HUNGER TASK FORCE DELIVERED THOUSANDS OF BOXES OF GROCERIES AND FRESH PRODUCE TO THOUSANDS OF OLDER ADULTS ACROSS THE STATE IN 2023, FOSTERING HEALTH, DIGNITY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THROUGH ITS STOCKBOX, MOBILE MARKET AND FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAMS.

Hunger Task Force's Stockbox program provided over 118,000 boxes of healthy foods to income-eligible seniors in 2023.

Empowering healthy choices and community connections, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program distributed nearly \$200,000 in vouchers and fresh produce to nourish 5,575 low-income seniors with fresh, local produce while supporting Wisconsin's vibrant agricultural landscape.

Bridging the gap to healthy food access, Hunger Task Force's Mobile Market crisscrossed Milwaukee County in 2023 to bring fresh produce, dairy and meat to residents in food desert communities while promoting dignity and choice through grocery store-style shopping at discounted prices. Doubling access to fresh food and dignity, the Mobile Market's 50% discount empowered communities, stretched budgets and provided the ultimate convenience for shoppers.

- Total Mobile Market shoppers: 11,402.
- 35 stops per month offering 50+ fresh and healthy foods.
- Nearly 10,000 Stockboxes distributed each month.
- Serving 32 Wisconsin counties at 162 distribution sites.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HUNGER TASK FORCE WAS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 12,300 VOLUNTEERS IN 2023. FROM FOOD SORTING AND BUILDING HEALTHY FOOD BOXES FOR SENIORS TO HELPING INDIVIDUALS SHOP AT THE MOBILE MARKET AND HARVESTING AT THE FARM, INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS, SERVICE GROUPS AND EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR MANY CORPORATE PARTNERS HELPED US FIGHT HUNGER HERE IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY.



LARRY HALTER

OCTOBER 2022



HARLEY-DAVIDSON

NOVEMBER 2022



MARY BURGOON

DECEMBER 2022



MARGO FORD

JANUARY 2023



MICHAEL RAYMOND

FEBRUARY 2023



BARB HOLT

MARCH 2023



MILWAUKEE TOOL

APRIL 2023



JARROD BARBER

MAY 2023



BAIRD

JUNE 2023



LINDA KOLLATZ

JULY 2023



NED GOEDE

AUGUST 2023



DINA KARIM

SEPTEMBER 2023



FINANCIALS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$4,522,547	10.79%
Foundations	\$3,323,329	7.93%
Corporations	\$3,305,432	7.89%
Hunger Relief Fund of Wisconsin	\$179,147	.43%
Organizations	\$201,204	.48%
Bequests	\$659,110	1.57%

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \$12,190,770 29.08%

EMERGENCY FOOD \$10,009,365 23.88%

GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$18,842,758 44.95%

OTHER \$876,649 2.09%

TOTAL: \$41,919,542 100.00%

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS

Food Programs	\$34,315,961	93.01%
Advocacy Program	\$1,095,285	2.97%

TOTAL PROGRAMS: \$35,411,246 95.98%

Fund Development \$1,481,997 4.02%

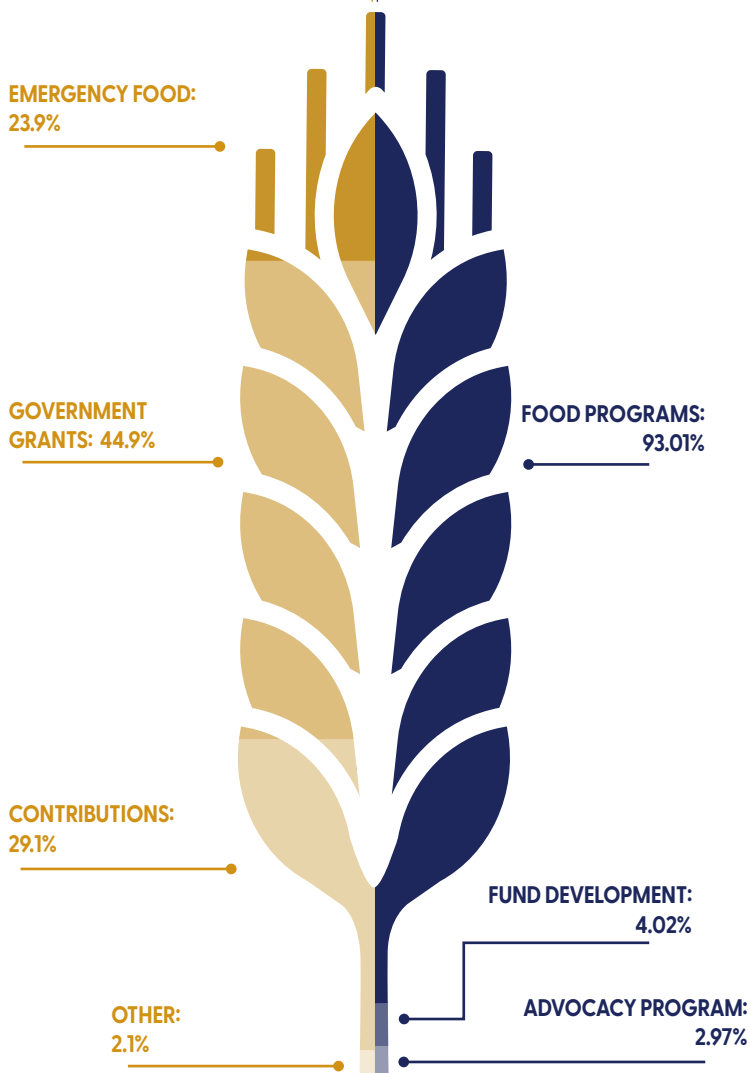
TOTAL: \$36,893,243 100.00%

END OF YEAR

NET ASSETS: \$38,127,810

REVENUE BY SOURCE

OPERATING EXPENSES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Zeka

President
Quarles & Brady

Jennifer Jones

Vice President
Prevent Child Abuse
America

Patrick J. Byrne

Treasurer
Erica P. John Fund

Mary Burgoon

Secretary
Rockwell Automation

Todd Adams

Zurn-Elkay Water Solutions

Miranda Banks

Kohl's Department Stores

Jason Gottlieb

Wolters Kluwer Health

Amy Mutziger

Johnson Controls, Inc.

S. Edward Sarskas

Michael Best & Friedrich
LLP

Joe Yamat

Wells Fargo Advisors



Hunger Task Force is 100% community supported.

Learn more about how you can donate, volunteer or advocate to end hunger:



DONATE

Make a monetary gift to support
Free & Local hunger relief.



VOLUNTEER

Sign up to build Stockboxes,
sort food or dig in at The Farm.



ADVOCATE

Make your voice heard
as an advocate!



www.HungerTaskForce.org

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