



# HUNGER CONNECTION

## Badger State Box

Wisconsin Proud



Meet Up And Eat Up for Summer Meals



Planting & Harvesting Culturally Appropriate Foods



Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Program



# Meet Up And Eat Up for Summer Meals



With half of the children in Milwaukee living in poverty, the community needs to work together to make sure they stay fed when school is out. Hunger Task Force and our summer meals partners are excited to announce the return of free and healthy summer meals for kids and teens (18 and under) across our community this year - all summer long! Kids and teens can *Meet Up* on-site for summer fun and activities and *Eat Up* free and healthy meals in their local community.

Communities throughout Wisconsin are creating and improving access to summer meals by replicating the “Milwaukee Model,” which brings key partners together to collaborate and organize local summer meal programs. To ensure kids have nutritious meals and a place to learn and play, *Meet Up And Eat Up* meal sites throughout Milwaukee provide structured, educational and recreational programs. All locations with bright green “Kids Eat Free Summer Meals Here” and “Meet Up And Eat Up” signs are safe, supervised places for children to receive up to three meals per day!

Many meal sites include fun activities for kids and the whole family. All meals served are healthy and meet USDA guidelines. Families can text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304 or visit our interactive map on [www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals) to find their nearest summer meals site.

**MEET UP AND**  
  
**EAT UP!**  
**SUMMER MEALS MILWAUKEE**



Text **FOOD** or **COMIDA** to 304-304 or visit our interactive map on [www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals) to find the nearest summer meals site.

# Building Partnerships, Equity and Infrastructure Across the State



## The Wisconsin Badger State Box is Here!

Thanks to a generous grant directed by Governor Tony Evers through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Hunger Task Force has begun distributing the Wisconsin State Badger Box.

The Badger Box is a box of Wisconsin grown and produced foods intended for hungry families and seniors. The Badger Box's ingredients are sourced from small and medium sized Wisconsin farmers and food producers because we know they need our help, and local food systems are the best sources for fresh and unique foods.

The Badger Box contains Wisconsin grass-fed beef, Nueske's bacon, Chalet Swiss Cheese, Sassy Cow milk and Penzeys Spices, as well as many other treats!

The Badger Box is uniquely “Wisconsin Proud,” and has received resounding feedback from the people who appreciate the food quality and variety. One senior commented that opening the box was like, “taking a vacation Up North.”

As a state, Wisconsin produces enough food to feed everyone. The Badger State Box meets two objectives: supporting local farmers and food producers, and making fresh, wholesome foods available to communities in need.

Thanks to the American Recovery Plan Act, Badger Boxes will be supplied through the end of this calendar year. Badger Boxes are delivered to hubs across Wisconsin and distributed to food pantries throughout the Hunger Relief Federation network. More information about the Badger Box can be found at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org).



**MORE THAN 14,500  
BADGER STATE BOXES  
ARE DISTRIBUTED ACROSS  
54 WISCONSIN  
COUNTIES  
EVERY MONTH**

# Meet Our New Staff

The principal strength of Hunger Task Force is our compassionate and committed staff, and we are proud to announce the addition of three new faces to our team. Please help us in welcoming T.R., Tammy and Nick to Hunger Task Force.



T.R. Edwards  
Advocacy Director

Hunger Task Force is excited to welcome T.R. Edwards as Advocacy Director. T.R. joins us from the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC), where he previously held the role of Legislative Liaison and Government Relations Specialist. T.R. is a trained attorney, Marquette University Law School graduate, and has a background as a policy advocate and union organizer. In his new role, T.R. will lead our team's advocacy initiatives to strengthen nutrition programs that feed children, families and seniors.

Responsible for advancing the anti-hunger public policy agenda of the Advocacy Department, Tammy Bockhorst joins Hunger Task Force as the FoodShare Program Manager. Bringing over 15 years of experience in government, project management, public relations and advocacy, Tammy will lead our diverse and passionate FoodShare Outreach Team to assist low-income households in accessing and maintaining FoodShare benefits.



Tammy Bockhorst  
FoodShare Program  
Manager



Nick Labinski  
Policy Analyst

Transitioning from a career in higher education, Nick Labinski joins Hunger Task Force as the Policy Analyst. Previously an assistant professor of Public Speaking and Rhetoric at the University of Wisconsin–Stout, Nick will assist with grant applications; utilize technology to map and highlight geographic trends in nutrition programs; summarize current, pending and proposed legislation; and creatively find the most clear and concise way to present multi-dimensional data.

## What's Buzzing at the Farm?



The Hunger Task Force Farm manages eight honeybee hives to boost crop production. These honeybees play an essential role in pollinating the 24 different crops that we grow to feed the hungry in Milwaukee. There are roughly 40,000 bees per hive that can travel up to 5 miles away to pollinate while collecting pollen and nectar. In addition to the hives, we also have an observation hive in the creamery used to educate students in the Nutrition Education program at The Farm. The Pests & Pollinators and Beekeeping lessons are often class favorites.

This year, The Farm is excited to announce its partnership with the Milwaukee Waukesha Beekeepers Association (MWBA). This partnership will add 15 more hives to the Farm! That's about 600,000 more honeybees to assist with pollinating our orchards and field crops.



# Planting & Harvesting Culturally Appropriate Foods

All the produce grown at The Farm enables the populations that we serve access to fresh, nutritious, diverse and culturally acceptable food. This year, our goal is to harvest more than 500,000 pounds of locally-grown fruits and vegetables for distribution to Milwaukee’s hungry.

The Farm team works directly with pantry staff and site coordinators to receive feedback on the fruits and vegetables needed to serve our diverse community. “We take input during the season, as well as at the end of the season, to plan out our succession schedule, harvest sequence and allow people to stay excited about produce available at pantries across the network,” says Sarah Bressler, Farm Manager.

Hunger Task Force is committed to supplying a reliable source of healthy, nutritious, locally grown produce to families, children and seniors in our



community, and we need your help at The Farm to make this happen! Come and take meaningful action in supporting your community through volunteerism at the Hunger Task Force Farm! Contact Jordan Leitner, Farm Volunteer Coordinator, for more information about volunteering at [jordan.leitner@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:jordan.leitner@hungertaskforce.org).



MORE THAN  
**15 BILLION**  
**U.S. CROPS**

ARE POLLINATED BY BEES EACH YEAR

A COLONY CONTAINS  
**1 QUEEN**  
**500-1,000 DRONES**  
**30,000-60,000 worker bees**



**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
**WITH A SMART PHONE TO**  
**WATCH OUR BEES IN ACTION!**



# Choice Model Serves Hope and Dignity to Families in Need

A member of the Hunger Task Force network since 2018, the One God Ministry food pantry is a beacon of hope and dignity for the clients it serves. One God Ministry assists a wide variety of clients, serving nearly 700 individuals each month. Since returning to indoor service in March 2022, One God Ministry has embraced food choice – a service model they had initiated before the pandemic.

The choice model allows pantry guests to select culturally appropriate foods, meet individual health and dietary needs and select foods that are familiar and enjoyed just as they would in a grocery store. “If you receive a pre-packed bag, you may receive items you already have, items you are unfamiliar with, or foods you may be unable to eat for health reasons,” shares Crystal Custalow, Hunger Task Force Site Developer. “If you can choose your foods, you can select foods that align with your existing diet and pick foods that you feel confident cooking and enjoying.”

The food pantry at One God Ministry is one of many sites that has adopted this dignified approach to serving Milwaukee’s most vulnerable. “I hope our site can serve as a model as to what can happen when you follow the program as prescribed,” shares Dr. Demetrius



**“I hope our site can serve as a model as to what can happen when you follow the program as prescribed,” shares Dr. Demetrius Robinson, Senior Pastor and Food Pantry Program Director.**



Robinson, Senior Pastor and Food Pantry Program Director. “Our clients truly appreciate actually choosing the things they want. It gives them more of a shopping feel, rather than a handout feel.”



## New Food Bank Efficiencies!

One of Hunger Task Force’s biggest goals for moving to a single, larger headquarters in West Milwaukee was to make our food bank more efficient and improve our stewardship of community support. It’s been just under a year since our food bank made the move, and some of the early returns—and savings—are in!

- ▶ **Since July 2021, Hunger Task Force has distributed 8.9 million pounds of food**
- ▶ **Eliminating food shuttles between two warehouses has saved 11,440 miles of driving, 1,343 gallons of fuel and nearly \$40,000 in transportation costs**
- ▶ **Utilizing the 9,000 square feet of new freezer and cooler space has saved more than \$100,000 in off-site storage fees this past year**



# Senior Farmers' Market Vouchers

The Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Program provides low-income seniors with \$25 in vouchers that can be used to purchase eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands and community-supported agriculture programs. Seniors aged 60 and older (55 years or older for American Indians) who are Milwaukee County residents and meet the income eligibility requirements can complete the application and return it to Hunger Task Force for their vouchers. Vouchers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. Only \$25 worth of vouchers can be issued per household per season, regardless of the number of seniors living at the address.

## Join us in person at one of our drive-thru distributions!

Print out the online application at [www.HungerTaskForce.org/seniors](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/seniors) and bring a government-issued ID to one of the following locations.

| DATE              | TIME             | LOCATION                                  | ADDRESS                 |
|-------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Friday, June 24   | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | Hunger Task Force                         | 5000 W. Electric Avenue |
| Thursday, July 14 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | Abundant Faith Church of Integrity (ACFI) | 7830 W. Good Hope Road  |
| Tuesday, July 19  | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | Wilson Park Senior Center                 | 2601 W. Howard Avenue   |
| Tuesday, August 2 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | Washington Park Senior Center             | 4420 W. Vliet Street    |

Visit [www.HungerTaskForce.org/seniors](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/seniors) or call 414.909.9101 for more information on the online or mail-in voucher options and income eligibility requirements for the Senior Farmers' Market Voucher Program.

## STOP! Summer Hunger

Hunger Task Force, TMJ 4 and WaterStone Bank are once again teaming up to feed kids and families this summer through the annual STOP! Summer Hunger campaign. This campaign comes at a crucial time when childhood hunger is at its peak after kids lose access to school meal programs.



From June 13 through July 31, you can support this special campaign at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) or tune in to TMJ 4 on July 26 for a special "Hype Day" to raise funds!



5000 W. Electric Avenue  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219  
Phone 414.777.0483

Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to adequate 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.

### OUR CORE VALUES

DIGNITY | JUSTICE  
COMPASSION | STEWARDSHIP

Hunger Task Force, Inc. is a charitable, 501(c)3 organization. Our Tax ID is 39-1345847.

Thanks to Burton & Mayer who donated printing to offset the cost of creating this newsletter.

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## Donate and Save at Summer Festivals

### Milwaukee Summer Festival Season is BACK!

Check out these great admission promotions and join in on summer fun while supporting hungry families in our community. Save the date and join Hunger Task Force at summer festivals and fairs this summer. For a complete, up-to-date list of all summer festival promotions, visit [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org).



#### Summerfest

**Thursday, June 23**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Donate 2 jars of peanut butter for free admission

**Thursday, July 7**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

The first 2,000 attendees to donate 3 cans of healthy fruits or vegetables receive free admission

#### State Fair

**Digital promotion**  
**July 17 – 31**

Make an online donation and receive a digital coupon for a \$2 ticket to Opening Day

**Thursday, August 4**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Donate 1 jar of peanut butter and receive admission for \$5

#### United Ethnic Festivals

**Polish Fest**  
**Sunday, June 12**  
**2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Donate 1 jar of peanut butter and receive free admission

**Irish Fest**  
**Sunday, August 21**  
**8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Donate 1 jar of peanut butter and receive free admission

**German Fest**  
**Sunday, July 31**  
**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Donate 1 jar of peanut butter and receive free admission

