



HUNGER CONNECTION

Food is a Human Right

Hunger Persists in Wisconsin



Food Drives are Back
Register Yours Today!



Making Fresh Produce
Affordable for Everyone



Join the Hunger Task
Force Legacy Society



Food Drives = Fun!

What's fun? Food drives are fun! It's much more than just filling a box with food.

Get the competitive juices flowing at the office to see which department can raise the most breakfast cereal. We've seen schools fill entire school buses and service groups build amazing food sculptures. Or incentivize your team with something as simple as a Jeans Day or an opportunity to duct-tape the school principal to the wall.

If you've got lots of staff working remotely or it's just plain tough to get people together, don't worry—all food drive registrations will include a custom Virtual Food Drive link to enhance your drive and give everyone an opportunity to contribute.

Hunger Task Force really needs the extra food support right now. We can hook you up with boxes, posters and ideas to make your food drive a smashing success.



Meet Megan!

Megan Sinclair Schwanke recently joined Hunger Task Force as Community Relations Manager. She embraces the food drive fun and looks forward to working with YOU for all your food drive needs. You can contact her at megan@hungertaskforce.org or 414.616.3423.

Register your in-person or virtual food drive today at www.HungerTaskForce.org!

What Should I Donate?

What to Donate

- ✓ Canned low sodium vegetables
- ✓ Canned fruit in 100% juice
- ✓ Healthy breakfast cereal
- ✓ Lean proteins like canned tuna or chicken
- ✓ Peanut butter
- ✓ Low-fat dairy



What NOT to Donate

- ✗ Ramen noodles
- ✗ Boxed starches
- ✗ Soda
- ✗ Chips
- ✗ Cake mixes or sweets
- ✗ Damaged, dented or expired foods

HUNGER TASK FORCE
DONATE HERE

Feeding People Today • Ending Future Hunger

www.HungerTaskForce.org



Nutrition Education

Hunger Task Force is all about healthy eating. Our one-of-a-kind MyPlate food bank model and Nutrition Education Program ensure that families receive nutritious and culturally appropriate foods as well as know why these foods are important to sustain healthy lifestyles.

Nutrition Education is central to all programming throughout Hunger Task Force, from the McCarty Education Kitchen to The Farm, or on the front lines in the local pantry network. Erin Breggeman, our Community Network Dietitian, leads the nutrition charge by providing expert direction on healthy eating and strategies for implementing the MyPlate foods in local pantries, meal sites and shelters. She hosts monthly MyPlate learning sessions and food sampling, and she develops and teaches recipes to accompany the USDA commodities, food donations and farm produce Hunger Task Force distributes.

Supporting the Nutrition Education Program is Pasua Chang. Pasua supports local school districts by offering more culturally relevant school meals. This summer, she will manage a multi-week program with students from the Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA). Pasua will teach nutrition education, promote physical activity and lead cooking classes using culturally appropriate recipes with the students.



Spring into Action!

Badger Box Program Needs Your Support



Spring is here, and so is the 2023–25 Wisconsin State Budget Session, where all the priorities for the Badger State are being identified. Hunger Task Force’s priority for this budget is the Badger State Box! We’ve been working hard all winter to advocate for this unique program—that feeds families and supports our local farmers and food producers—a program to become a permanent part of our state’s budget. Members of the Hunger Relief Federation, food producers and families served have all voiced their praises for this outstandingly successful pilot and the need to continue Badger Box into the future.

Hunger Task Force needs your voice, too! Contact your state representatives and let them know what Badger Box has meant to you and your community.

To learn more about Badger Box and how you can help, email our team at badgerbox@hungertaskforce.org.



FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT

FoodShare is Wisconsin’s first line of defense against hunger. This program is 100% federally funded and gives families buying power for food in the grocery store. Throughout the pandemic, extra FoodShare benefits helped families stay afloat.

But as of March 2023, these extra benefits have ended. The timing couldn't be worse, because families are falling off this benefits “cliff” when food prices and inflation are at all-time highs. Many seniors will see their benefits reduced from \$281/month to only \$23/month. How far does \$23 go at the grocery store these days? Over 718,000 people in Wisconsin are going to feel this loss. In total, Wisconsin is going to lose \$1 billion in FoodShare benefits this year, which is also really going to hurt our grocery stores, farmers and food economy.

With this massive loss of benefits, families and seniors already facing hard times will likely turn to food pantries. Hunger Task Force is bracing for increased need, but at the end of the day, all the food



\$258/MONTH
DOLLAR AMOUNT
SENIORS WILL LOSE
EACH MONTH
FOR FOOD

pantries in Wisconsin can't make up for this billion dollar loss.

More than ever, Hunger Task Force will focus our efforts on the true end to hunger—nutrition programs that feed families. In addition to FoodShare outreach for families,



\$1 BILLION
TOTAL AMOUNT
OF LOST FOODSHARE
BENEFITS FOR
WISCONSIN

we're working hard to make sure that kids are connected to school and summer meal programs, mothers with infants have access to the Women Infants and Children program, and that seniors can stay healthy through Stockbox and senior nutrition programs.



718,000
NUMBER OF FAMILIES,
CHILDREN & ELDERLY
AFFECTED

Visit www.HungerTaskForce.org for the latest FoodShare news and updates.

Making Fresh Produce Affordable for Everyone



Grocery store prices are tough these days, especially for families who are struggling to make ends meet. But Hunger Task Force has developed some unique partnerships to help families get more bang for their buck while they shop, thanks to a federal grant through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP for short).

The Mobile Market continues to increase its footprint in Milwaukee County, now making more than 30 monthly stops at locations in food deserts and neighborhoods lacking grocery stores. This grocery store on wheels—in partnership with Piggly Wiggly—offers over 50 varieties of fresh and healthy food at a 50% discount and pulls up right to senior centers and community organizations.

Hunger Task Force has also directed GusNIP funds to Outpost Natural Foods' "Produce to the People" program, offering that stellar 50% discount to shoppers using FoodShare at all four co-op locations, as well as Chequamegon Food Co-op's "Produce Double Dollars" program in Ashland.

All three of these healthy food incentive programs are a win-win for kids, families, seniors—and for the local grocer and co-op!



Hunger Task Force is Excited to Celebrate Allen Castillo as the FoodShare Program Manager

Now, as the FoodShare Program Manager, Allen will lead a diverse team to ensure that local families have access to this crucial program, including college students, veterans, the elderly, disabled and blind, immigrants, refugees, and Tribal Nations.

"Growing up, my family directly benefited from FoodShare," said Allen. "I was able to learn how important and essential the program is to fighting hunger not just in Wisconsin, but nationwide."

The FoodShare Outreach Team is comprised of 14 advocates who provide dignified one-on-one support in peoples' native language. The team speaks nearly a dozen languages—English, Spanish, Hmong, Lao, Thai, Burmese, Pashtu, Dari and Farsi—and serves nearly 20,000 people annually.

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Planting Seeds for a Healthy Community

The growing season is off and running at the Hunger Task Force Farm!

Part of our farmers' off-season work included conversations with our pantry network and families served. We always want to know what types of healthy and culturally appropriate foods are wanted for our diverse neighborhoods.

Using their direct feedback, The Farm has started seeding and planting napa and red cabbage, jalapeño and green peppers, and bok choy in addition to 26 other varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. Our goal is to grow and harvest over 500,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables for distribution to Milwaukee's hungry.

The Farm season gets busy really quick, and we need your help to make it a success. Volunteers from local businesses and individuals are needed to plant, grow and harvest this bounty of produce. Come get your hands dirty to grow local produce for local families in need.



To register your volunteer group, contact Jordan Leitner, Farm Volunteer Coordinator, at jordan.leitner@hungertaskforce.org

Join the Hunger Task Force Legacy Society!

Membership in the Hunger Task Force Legacy Society is open to anyone who makes a future investment in the mission of Hunger Task Force through an estate gift. Estate gifts include naming Hunger Task Force as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, retirement plan or other financial account.



The Legacy Society helps Hunger Task Force thank, steward and celebrate those generous and thoughtful folks who have taken the profound step of including Hunger Task Force in their estate plans.

Membership is also a wonderful way to become more engaged with Hunger Task Force through member benefits such as: enjoying a shared connection with others who value the Hunger Task Force mission, annual events with other Legacy Society members, and Coffee with the Executive Director—a one-on-one visit with Sherrie Tussler to learn the insights and initiatives employed to address hunger and food insecurity in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Most importantly, becoming a member creates a legacy of hunger relief for many years to come. For information on making an estate gift and Legacy Society membership, contact Herb Reichelt at herb.reichelt@hungertaskforce.org or call 414.238.6483.



Visit the Official Hunger Task Force Legacy Society Webpage to Join!

Free & Local American Wheat on Tap!



MobCraft Beer is a local Milwaukee brewery that sources ideas for its craft beer from the community. Last winter, Hunger Task Force entered MobCraft's Nonprofit Crowdsourced Beer contest. It was a no-brainer for us to submit an idea for a unique wheat beer and the community voted for "Free & Local American Wheat" as the landslide winner. Our team even got the chance to help brew it!

Not only will this beer be a crowd-pleaser for craft beer fanatics—it's got Citra hops for a bright, fresh flavor—but proceeds from each pint served at MobCraft benefits Hunger Task Force and Milwaukee's hungry.

It's on tap right now at MobCraft, so grab your friends and head over to raise a toast to end hunger!



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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.

OUR CORE VALUES

DIGNITY | JUSTICE | EQUITY
COMPASSION | STEWARDSHIP

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Mission *Possible*: A Note from Sherrie

The staff and board at Hunger Task Force held our 3-year strategic planning session last fall. This meeting culminated in much internal work to re-visit our mission and core values. For the first time in my 26 years of working here, we resolved to change just two things. (Trust me, our founders had it right from the beginning!)

We changed a descriptive word in our mission statement. We once said that we believed that everyone had the right to adequate food obtained with dignity. We now say everyone has the right to healthy food obtained with dignity. Food is health, so this change speaks to the need for healthy foods for all.

Our core values of Dignity, Justice, Compassion and Stewardship were also updated! We added “Equity.” This means that we must focus on access to foods that respect the diet, religion, culture and personal preferences of the people who need food or other help from us. This inclusion means speaking many languages, listening and responding carefully and redoubling efforts to be a community institution that appreciates and values everyone.

- Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director



DIGNITY · JUSTICE · EQUITY · COMPASSION · STEWARDSHIP