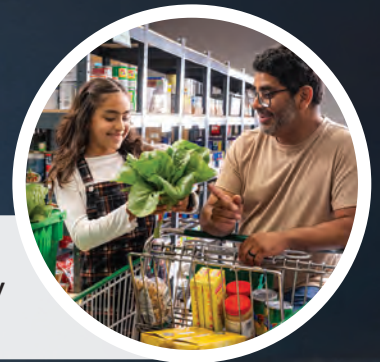




# HUNGER CONNECTION

## Food For Families Returns!

Help Hunger Task Force Raise Funds and Food For Families



South Milwaukee Pantry Provides Safety Net for Families



Food Drives Amplify Impact During the Holidays



Explore Ways to Support Free & Local This Season



# A Letter from the CEO



**“Feeding people today and ending future hunger takes our whole community finding ways to get involved, leveraging unique skills or connections and being generous.”**

**- Matt King, CEO**

Fall is in full swing, school is back in session and right now more children and families are turning to our pantry network for food assistance. Our network of food pantries and meal sites has seen a nearly 40% increase in children, families and seniors seeking help compared to last year. The feedback from staff on the frontline is clear – the high costs of living, in particular high housing costs and increasing food prices, are putting a significant strain on local family budgets and driving tough decisions around nutrition.

Feeding people today and ending future hunger takes our whole community finding ways to get involved, leveraging unique skills or connections and being generous. In this newsletter you will find many ways for you to take a simple action that makes a big difference in the life of a neighbor in need including one of our most storied traditions – Food For Families. You’ll also learn about the amazing work network partner South Milwaukee Human Concerns is doing in the community, fall events to look forward to and our nutrition education classes for local youth.

Thank you for your support and belief in our mission. Because of you, families can receive the help they urgently need with dignity.

With gratitude,

Matt King, CEO

## Fall Events **This fall, Hunger Task Force and our partners are offering a full slate of events to support hungry families!**

### November 26-27: WISN 12 Food For Families Phone Bank



Just before Thanksgiving, WISN 12 will partner with Hunger Task Force for the annual Food For Families fundraising drive.

**Stay tuned for details on how you’ll be able to support local families!**



### November: Zurn Elkay Turkey Ticker Challenge



The Turkey Ticker Challenge is back! Throughout November, Zurn Elkay will be matching all online turkey AND frozen turkey donations. It’s never been easier to put a gobbler on a family’s Thanksgiving dinner table.

### Packers Season: Touchdowns for Hunger



Sargento and the Green Bay Packers are taking to the Frozen Tundra to raise funds for the hungry. Every Packers touchdown this season means a \$1,300 donation to Hunger Task Force from Sargento.

### November 22: CBS 58 Drive Thru Food Drive



CBS 58 and the Milwaukee Brewers™ are once again teaming up to host our community’s largest single-day food drive at American Family Field. Drive thru with your boxes of cereal, canned fruit and frozen turkey donations and receive prizes and giveaways.

### November 28: Turkey Trot



On Thanksgiving Day, take a jog in support of hunger relief before you sit down for your dinner. The annual Turkey Trot 5K/8K Run & Walk returns to Milwaukee’s lakefront. Donate to Hunger Task Force on your registration form!



# Network Partner Highlight



## South Milwaukee Human Concerns

**“We are not just a partner with Hunger Task Force, our relationship has evolved and grown into a lifeline for our clients as they navigate food insecurity.”**

- Deb DeBoer, director of South Milwaukee Human Concerns



Now in its 51st year of essential service to the community that bears its name, South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) is a decades long and steadfast partner of Hunger Task Force. Serving nearly one-third of South Milwaukee residents each year, SMHC offers healthy and hearty food options through the support of Hunger Task Force.

“What we can offer our clients through our work with Hunger Task Force is the critical link to sustaining efforts with our thousands of clients,” said Deb DeBoer, SMHC director. “We are not just a partner with Hunger Task Force, our relationship has evolved and grown into a lifeline for our clients as they navigate food insecurity.”

Through ups and downs in the economy, personal difficulties and the volatile costs of groceries, SMHC is that safety net in times of need. SMHC’s holistic

approach to addressing hunger is essential to building a more resilient and equitable community.

SMHC operates an emergency food pantry that serves more than 275 families monthly and 8,500 unique clients annually. It also offers men’s, women’s and children’s clothing, basic household items, school supplies and modest holiday gifts for children of clients. SMHC’s holistic approach to addressing the multiple facets of poverty is essential for building a more resilient and equitable community.



“Despite the increasing demand for our services, we manage to provide that critical help and hope to all who access us,” adds DeBoer. “It’s an ongoing challenge. Our partnership with Hunger Task Force helps us consistently meet the needs of those we serve.”

# Teaming Up to Combat Food Insecurity



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For over 40 years, and especially during tough times, our hometown has united through Food For Families to support our neighbors in need. Hear from Matt King, CEO of Hunger Task Force and Brenna Holly, Senior Director of Corporate Philanthropy at Johnson Controls about this vital partnership and how you can get involved.



**Q: Why has Johnson Controls been a proud sponsor of Food For Families since 2006?**

**Brenna:** Johnson Controls has been part of the Milwaukee community for 140 years and addressing food insecurity in our communities has been an important priority for both Johnson Controls and the Johnson Controls Foundation.



For the last 18 years now, we have had the privilege of joining forces with Hunger Task Force to call on local businesses, individuals and groups in our community to help support Milwaukee families during the holiday season. We really feel that Food for Families is an integral part of addressing the persistent issue of food insecurity in our community so we're proud to support the program.

Each year, we make a financial commitment to Hunger Task Force, host an onsite food collection and giving campaign for Johnson Controls employees and volunteer at Hunger Task Force.

**Q: For those who may not yet know, what is Food For Families?**

**Matt:** Food For Families is a tradition in the Milwaukee community. People from across the area step up to give – food or funds – and become a part of the solution to end hunger. As Milwaukee's Free & Local food bank, Hunger Task Force delivers all food donations free of charge to our network of food pantries, meal sites, homeless shelters and low-income senior centers.

**Q: How can the Milwaukee community join Johnson Controls in supporting Food For Families this holiday season?**

**Matt:** Through Food For Families, people can participate in food drives, whether they are in-person collections or virtual fundraisers, to help us provide nutritious holiday meals. When people donate, we use the dollars to purchase healthy and culturally relevant items – in bulk – to maximize our buying power and provide even more pantry staples and holiday foods.

**Brenna:** We'd love to see other companies and organizations join us by hosting their own online giving campaign and/or in-person food drive this season. In honor of Hunger Task Force's 50th anniversary, it would be great to have the most successful Food For Families season in history! Together, we can make a significant impact for families in our community.

Hunger Task Force takes the guess work out of supporting Food For Families by providing donation boxes and setting up your virtual food drive page and sending you a link. Each year, we do both an onsite food drive as well as a virtual giving campaign. That way, our in-office employees can give directly when they're on-site and our staff who might be working remotely can also participate virtually.

**Q: How does Food For Families positively impact the lives of children, families and seniors during the holiday season?**

**Matt:** Right now, in our community, we're seeing a 40% increase in visits to local food pantries within our network compared to last year. We have relied on Food For Families to feed those in need in Milwaukee for 18 years, and it really takes involvement from our neighbors to make sure that local children, families and seniors get the nutritious foods they need and deserve. The holidays are a time when we reflect on the blessings that we have in our life and make sure that others have some of the same experiences – like a family meal.

## Three easy steps to make your Food For Families Drive a success:

**>> Register Your Virtual or Traditional Food Drive**

Register online at [www.HungerTaskForce.org/Food-For-Families](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/Food-For-Families)

**>> Get the Word Out!**

Bring your community together—virtually or in-person!

**>> See Results!**

Set a goal and we'll help you reach it!

For questions or assistance registering your drive, contact Mardi Smirl, Community Relations Manager, at [mardi.smirl@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:mardi.smirl@hungertaskforce.org).



Register your Food For Families Drive today by scanning the QR code, or visiting us online to make a secure donation at: [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org)

# More 4 Ways to Give

As Milwaukee's only Free & Local food bank, Hunger Task Force relies on the community's generosity to ensure that every family has access to nutritious food – especially during the holiday season. There are a variety of easy and personalized ways to support our mission and make a difference for families in need this year. Learn more: [www.HungerTaskForce.org/give](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/give)

1.



## Cash Gift

Consider making a cash gift to Hunger Task Force to help feed the community today and support our Free & Local mission to end future hunger in Milwaukee. It's easy to give online, over the phone or by check. Your generosity makes a real impact!

Scan to  
Donate Now!



2.



## Gift of Stock

You can make a transformative impact by donating gifts of stock, mutual funds, IRAs and other securities or property to Hunger Task Force. These contributions not only offer potential tax benefits but also empower Hunger Task Force to purchase healthy, nutritious food for low-income families.

Scan to  
Learn More!



3.



## Legacy Society

Including Hunger Task Force in your estate plans is a deep and meaningful commitment of support. Not only is it a demonstration of support now, but it also supports Hunger Task Force's ability to fulfill its mission of ending hunger well into the future.

Scan to  
Learn More!



## 4. Adopt-a-Crop



The Adopt-a-Crop program is an opportunity to take your support of the Hunger Task Force Farm to the next level through an online donation. With 70 varieties of 28 different crops, our farmers work hard to cultivate a diverse and nutritious selection for those in need. The Farm relies on the generosity of the community to continue providing healthy, fresh produce to Milwaukee families.

Scan to  
Learn More!



# Event Highlights & Memorable Moments



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

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

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.



1. This past summer, the “Cooking with Culture” program immersed Milwaukee kids in hands-on learning at The Farm. Over six weeks, students harvested fresh produce from the School Garden, learned from our farmers and developed culinary skills in the demonstration kitchen.
2. Thanks to Piggly Wiggly, our generous donors and over 200 volunteers, the Piggly Wiggly \$5 Day raised nearly 40,000 lbs. of healthy food and thousands in cash donations to help feed our neighbors in need during Opening Day at the Wisconsin State Fair.
3. The Hunger Task Force Farm was honored with the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award and Wells Fargo People’s Choice Award at the 25th Annual MAND! Awards dinner held on August 15 at the Baird Center.
4. Hunger Task Force teamed up with Sargento and the Milwaukee Brewers™ to combat summer hunger at our Summer Sizzle event. Brewers stars Blake Perkins and Sal Frelick joined the fun, handing out free meals and baseball gloves to local kids.
5. At the 24th Annual Brew City Fishing Tournament, thanks to our partnership with Milwaukee Great Lakes Sport Fishermen, over 1,800 lbs of fresh salmon and trout were donated—a new event record!

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FREE & LOCAL

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## Holiday Cards are Here!



With Hunger Task Force's holiday cards, there's no better way to say "season's greetings" while simultaneously supporting hunger relief!

The annual Hunger Task Force Holiday Card program is a special tradition for thousands of local individuals and businesses. These cards – featuring art from local artists – can be customized with your own special greeting and 100% of the proceeds benefit hungry families.



Scan the code to order your  
Holiday Cards thru Dec. 31st!

Special thanks to our 2024 Presenting Sponsors:

