



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



LEADERS AND INNOVATORS IN THE FIELD



DIGNITY • JUSTICE • COMPASSION • STEWARDSHIP



DIGNITY



COMPASSION

In the wake of the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic lockdown, from around the country came images of lines blocks and miles long showing people desperate for emergency food assistance. This didn't happen in Milwaukee or southeast Wisconsin. Hunger Task Force is one of the main reasons why. Their hard work, effective planning, and commitment to the common good helped ensure that anyone who needed help to feed their family could find it. We see Hunger Task Force's good works week in and week out, and we continue to depend on and give thanks for their support.

- Brother Robert Wotypka, Director, Capuchin Community Services



STEWARDSHIP



JUSTICE



The Year of Innovation and Leadership



“
This year defined our core values of dignity, justice, compassion and stewardship like no other.
”

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hunger Task Force is on a mission. We feed people today and we end hunger tomorrow. In the middle of a pandemic, this work proved all-important in Milwaukee and Wisconsin as we were called upon to end hunger in new and different ways. This annual report covers one of the toughest periods in our history, October 2020 - September 2021. The pandemic was raging in the fall and winter of 2020, and the government was responding in new ways to old problems. Hunger Task Force was called upon to manage millions of dollars in public funding to ease the pain of hunger experienced in both rural and urban places across Wisconsin. Our recently formed Hunger Relief Federation developed the infrastructure needed to receive and transport foods to local communities. We expanded our role as the state's anti-hunger leader.

Out of necessity, our workforce was reorganized and, as a result, we innovated and excelled in service under most difficult conditions. With great excitement, we purchased and rehabilitated a building for our new headquarters, satisfying one of our long-term strategic goals—to increase our capacity and efficiency. Throughout this report are stories from the frontline that define how our core values of Dignity, Justice, Compassion and Stewardship informed our work. This has been a long, hard year and I want to especially thank the staff and board members of Hunger Task Force for their commitment, flexibility and talent.

This year defined our core values of Dignity, Justice, Compassion and Stewardship like no other. Locally in Milwaukee, Hunger Task Force bolstered our pantry network with emergency food, equipment and capacity to ensure our hometown was sustained. Across Wisconsin, volunteer groups and small nonprofits organized to help during the pandemic but had little money, food or needed equipment. Hunger Task Force was chosen to lead anti-hunger initiatives with these groups and directed \$10.2 million dollars in CARES Act funding to supply food, trucks and refrigeration to food pantries, food banks, Tribal Nations and advocacy groups across Wisconsin. We built the capacity of these organizations to serve their community need in a sustainable way. Today, groups as far North as Red Cliff, West to La Crosse, East to Green Bay and South to Kenosha are operating in service to their communities. We intentionally targeted the purchase of Wisconsin-produced foods including meat, dairy, fruit, and vegetables during those difficult months of Safer at Home, school closures and mask mandates. We were proud to ensure a safety net for the unemployed as well as farm families.

SHERRIE TUSSLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keeping Milwaukee Safe and Strong



Throughout 2021, Hunger Task Force's local pantry network was fully stocked with healthy and culturally appropriate food, assuring a strong safety net for Milwaukee. Families received help when they needed it most. No-contact distribution and outdoor service remained the norm in 2021. The local pantry network operated at 89% capacity and the soup kitchen network operated at 79% capacity due to pandemic closures or resulting limited services.

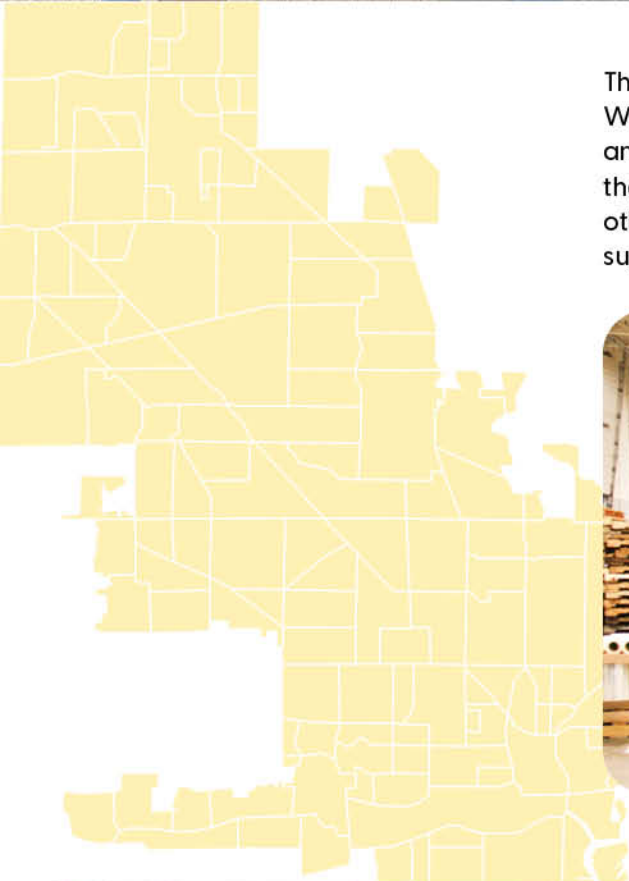
12,341,108
POUNDS OF FOOD
DELIVERED FREE OF CHARGE



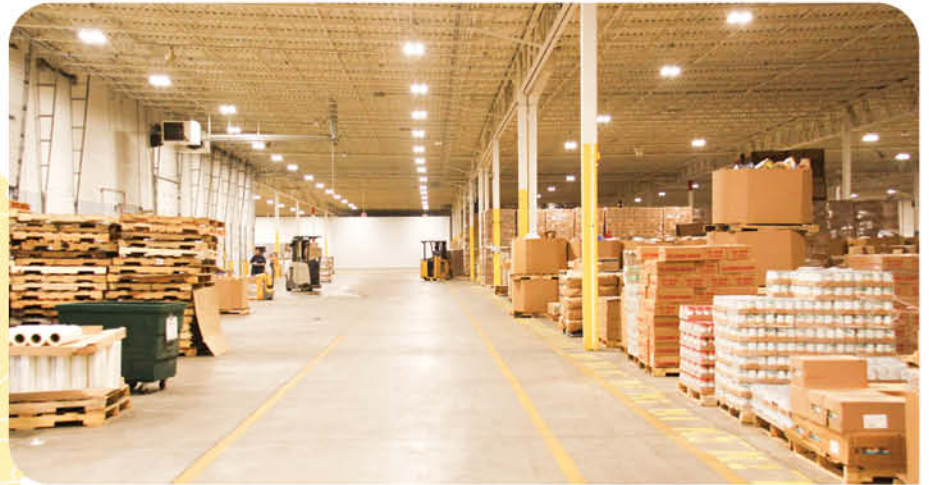
4,425
DELIVERIES



78,637
MILES DRIVEN



Thanks to funds from The Emergency Food Assistance Program; the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; and Milwaukee County; Hunger Task Force was able to invest more than a million dollars into freezers, coolers, vans, pallet jacks, and other equipment allowing Hunger Task Force to serve food and support programs for families in need.



Hunger Task Force moved our entire food bank operations to our new West Milwaukee headquarters in the middle of a global pandemic, without any disruption of service to our network of 347 pantries, meal programs and Stockbox sites.





GET HELP HERE!

NEED HELP WITH FOODSHARE?

We can help:

- Apply
- Renew
- Submit Verification
- Answer Questions

Stop in and see us!



Ending Future Hunger Through Advocacy

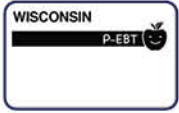
Government oversight of the pandemic forced shifts in our strategy to end future hunger. Prior to COVID-19, monthly FoodShare benefits were at such low levels that many eligible folks didn't apply for the food aid they needed because it wasn't worth it—consider, for example, seniors who received \$16/month in benefits. After a dual federal and state emergency order was put in place, these base benefits rose to provide the needed relief to the unemployed, families and seniors. Our Advocacy team re-doubled efforts to connect families to this food aid. On average, \$50-\$70M of federal food buying power found its way into Wisconsin's food economy when people received "Emergency Allotments" of benefits.



Our FoodShare Outreach team remained vigilant helping people sign up for FoodShare benefits at the Robles Self Service Center, and in June of 2021 we opened a second site called Alicia's Place in the Midtown Center. Our staff speak English, Español, Hmoob, ລາວ, ไทย and မြန်မာစကား.

\$50-70 MILLION
DOLLARS OF FOOD BUYING POWER
 FOUND ITS WAY FOR WISCONSIN FAMILIES



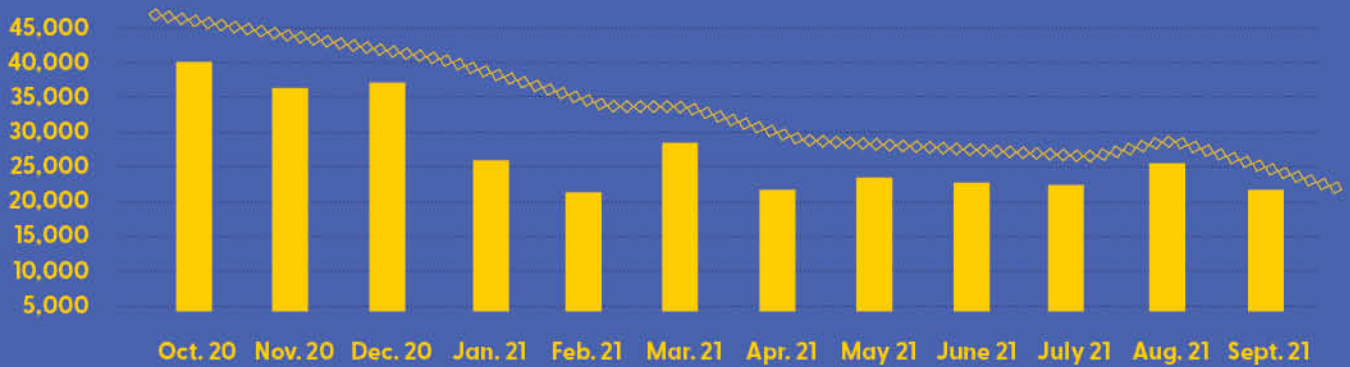


A new government program was also created during this time. Pandemic EBT was established to provide food buying power for families with children who were learning virtually. These children were eligible for free school breakfast and lunch but were learning from home. The federal government responded by providing resources for buying food on a debit card. While this sounds simple enough, it wasn't easy to inform parents about their eligibility, help them figure out how to apply or report their eligibility, or tell them when to expect help. Hunger Task Force created a web-based benefits calculator and conducted significant outreach both in Milwaukee County and across the State of Wisconsin. In the end, \$430M in federal food aid was received by parents and 800,000 children were fed.

The combined food buying power of FoodShare with Emergency Allotments and Pandemic EBT had an impact on food pantries in Milwaukee. Demand for their services dipped to record lows.

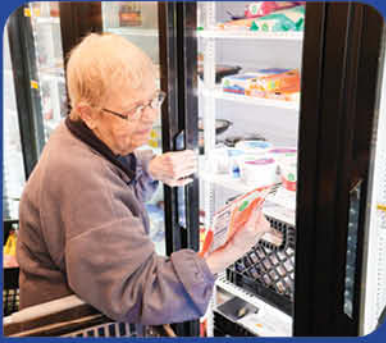
The pandemic has taught us that FoodShare, PEBT and federal nutrition programs work to reduce demand for emergency food.

Pantry Numbers Decreased from 40,000 to 20,000 per Month



\$430 MILLION
IN FEDERAL FOOD AID
800,000
CHILDREN WERE FED





Delivering with Dignity

Seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations that Hunger Task Force served during the pandemic. With all senior centers remaining closed in 2021, serving seniors through the Stockbox program was more vital than ever and required compassionate care.

In late summer, we initiated a partnership with the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, and Door Dash. We began “dashing” Stockboxes to homebound seniors in need of delivery. These elders may not drive or have a friend who can give them a ride to a senior center, but they still needed and wanted the healthy foods Hunger Task Force provided through Stockbox. More than 700 seniors are now getting a monthly “dash” which brings dignified access to nutritious food for folks who just need a bit of extra help.





9,400
STOCKBOXES
ARE DELIVERED TO SENIORS
EACH MONTH

At the heart of our direct service were 200+ drive-thru distributions led by Hunger Task Force staff in all conditions—rain, snow and sweltering heat. Our team provided Stockboxes, fresh milk, Farm produce, turkeys and hams at the holidays, and a full array of nutritious foods at each distribution so seniors stayed healthy and safe. Stockbox distribution events continued across Milwaukee County at Senior Dining Sites. Hunger Task Force became the main event at these locations.

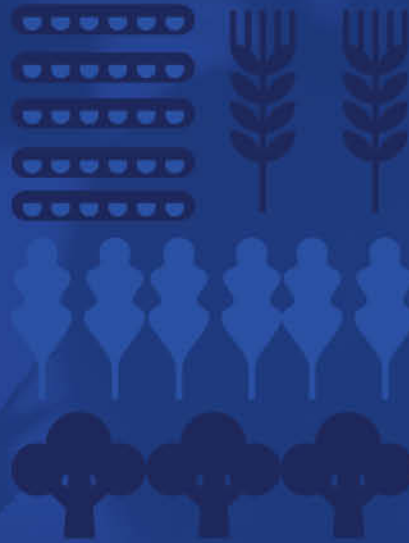

DOORDASH
700+ SENIORS
NOW RECEIVE
HEALTHY MEALS
THROUGH DOOR DASH



Playing classic rock on full volume while loading the trunks of seniors patiently waiting in line, we learned that they looked forward to seeing us and in many cases, we were their only social gathering for the month. Good wishes, smiles, tears and laughter were, and are, the theme at these locations. Hunger Task Force became a trusted source of help they came to count on.



DIGNITY · JUSTICE · COMPASSION · STEWARDSHIP



Farming for a Healthy Community

2021 marked our 10th year of operations at The Farm, sponsored by Harley-Davidson. As the season opened, we began inviting post-lockdown volunteers back to The Farm. We hosted 2,500 volunteers from local groups and organizations. Their return was a huge part of our success. These volunteers dug in to help transplant, grow and harvest fruits and vegetables all season long—we were so thrilled to have them back!

2021 was also one of the hottest and driest years in the last century. Battling drought required dedication from The Farm staff. Most weeks, the team worked from sun-up to sun-down. Irrigation systems built over the last few years, with support from generous donors, made all the difference in our success.





In 2021 The Farm produced half a million pounds of fruit and vegetables, exceeding expectations of the tough drought conditions and lower levels of volunteers. We also set records for total pounds of butternut squash, collard greens and pumpkins, as well as the highest per acre yield for cabbage on record.

HUNGER TASK FORCE
WELCOMED BACK
2,500
VOLUNTEERS

THE FARM PRODUCED OVER
500,000
POUNDS OF
FRESH FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES



This year, Hunger Task Force welcomed back nearly 300 students to our Nutrition Education Program, including 80 in-person at The Farm. As stewards of The Farm's natural areas, the team also restored 23 acres of prairie habitats.



HUNGER TASK FORCE
WELCOMED BACK
266 STUDENTS
TO THE NUTRITION EDUCATION
PROGRAM IN 2021



DIGNITY • JUSTICE • COMPASSION • STEWARDSHIP



Stewarding Gifts Locally and Statewide

Hunger Task Force was strongly supported by donors who may have been unable to volunteer, but who definitely contributed their financial resources to feed a neighbor. In 2021, gifts at all levels from local individuals, foundations and corporations powered our ability to meet basic needs. We supplied sanitizer and masks to seniors to keep them safe; clamshells for to-go meals at soup kitchens; space heaters for pantry volunteers serving during bitter temps; and catered individual meals for the homeless at makeshift shelter hotels—the list goes on, but we want to assure you that the donation you gave went where it was needed most. We are grateful for our tried-and-true partners and new supporters who stepped up to help feed hungry families and build our strength to serve. We are proud to steward their gifts.



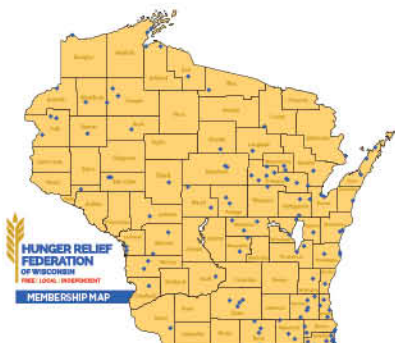


In December 2020, we purchased a 120,000 square foot warehouse in West Milwaukee to serve as our new headquarters, expand our capacity and increase our efficiencies. In spring 2021, we built a huge freezer and cooler in the building, and by summer we were operating our food bank fully from this location. A capital campaign was initiated to meet the costs of renovating the building and offices—we want to thank the members of our committee and the donors who generously committed their money to our cause.



The Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, Milwaukee Tool, Sargento, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, A. O. Smith Foundation and many more made leadership gifts to support our new building capital campaign. The Brian A. McCarty Family Fund made a \$500,000 leadership gift to support our new building's Nutrition Education Kitchen and inspire support for this special program.

At the outset of the pandemic, Hunger Task Force invested a million dollars in Wisconsin Dairy. We purchased the milk that would otherwise be spilled, and we bought many Wisconsin cheeses! After 18 months of dairy purchases, the Dairy Recovery Program ended in September 2021. Hunger Task Force shared milk, cheese and yogurt with food pantries and Tribal Nations across Wisconsin. Over those 18 months, Hunger Task Force committed nearly \$2.8 million to the Dairy Recovery Program, resulting in 8.5 million pounds of Wisconsin Dairy purchased and supplied to people in need.



HUNGER TASK FORCE
COMMITTED TO NEARLY

**\$2.8 MILLION
DOLLARS**
TO THE DAIRY RECOVERY
PROGRAM

RESULTING IN

8.5 MILLION
POUNDS OF WISCONSIN DAIRY
PURCHASED

OVER THE COURSE OF

18 MONTHS





HUNGER TASK FORCE STAFF
CONDUCTED
200
COMMUNITY FOOD
DISTRIBUTIONS
IN 2021



Leading the Fight Against Hunger

STAFF ON THE FRONTLINE

With the Volunteer Program back but at lower levels, Hunger Task Force staff continued to lead outdoor food distributions in 2021 to keep the safety net intact for families and seniors. Hunger Task Force staff conducted over 200 community distributions throughout 2021 in rain, snow and sweltering heat. Our resolve never wavered.



WISN 12 WINS SERVICE TO AMERICA AWARD

WISN 12 and Hunger Task Force have partnered since the 1980s on the Food For Families Campaign. This year, following their April 2020 fundraiser that raised \$666,890, station management and a team of amazing television personalities went on-air in November and helped raise over \$364,472 during the first ever Food For Families Virtual Food Drive. They capped off an amazing year of support—\$1,031,362 total raised!—and won the prestigious National Broadcasters Association “Service to America” award.



VACCINATION CLINIC

Hunger Task Force staff, volunteers and their “bubbles” needed to stay healthy and safe. In April 2021, Hunger Task Force organized a Vaccine Clinic with UnitedHealthcare and Midland Health that vaccinated 300 essential workers in an afternoon. There was plenty of joy and relief that day!



CONGRATS, DR. TUSSLER!

Hunger Task Force’s Executive Director, Sherrie Tussler, received her honorary doctorate from Cardinal Stritch University in 2021 for her community leadership, and spoke at the university’s commencement ceremony.

“ I want you to see poverty, address poverty, reject poverty and ultimately, fight poverty. ”

Financial Snapshot

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals	\$8,184,783	19.96%
Foundations	4,098,805	10.00
Corporations	2,248,222	5.48
Hunger Relief Fund of Wisconsin	196,456	0.48
Organizations	460,799	1.12
Bequests	305,447	.75

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: 15,494,512 37.79%

EMERGENCY FOOD 10,116,767 24.67

GOVERNMENT GRANTS 14,396,648 35.11

OTHER 996,054 2.43

TOTAL: 41,003,981 100.00%

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS

Food Programs	\$31,251,357	94.57%
Advocacy Program	772,704	2.34

TOTAL PROGRAMS: 32,024,061 96.91%

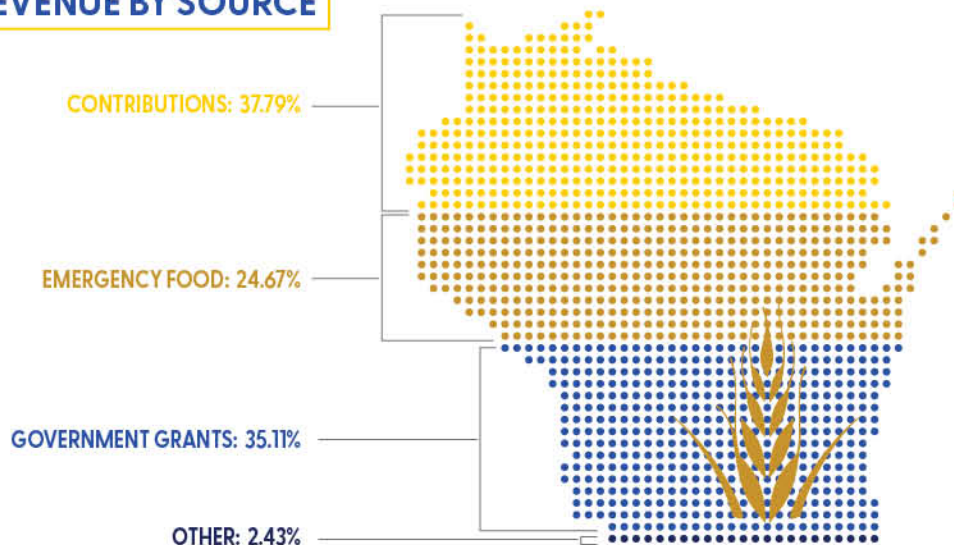
Fund Development 1,020,599 3.09

TOTAL: 33,044,660 100.00%

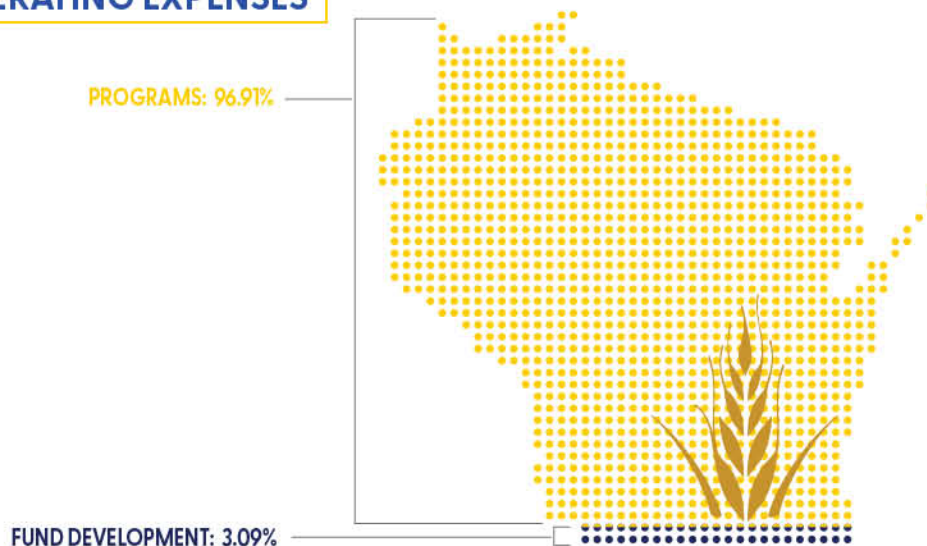
END OF YEAR

NET ASSETS: \$29,813,845

REVENUE BY SOURCE



OPERATING EXPENSES



Board of Directors

Mike Zeka/President
Quarles & Brady

Anoop Prakash/Vice President
REV Group

Mary Burgoon/Secretary
Rockwell Automation

Pat Byrne/Treasurer
Erica P. John Fund

Todd Adams
Zurn Water Solutions

Kareeda Chones-Aguam
Milwaukee Bucks

Katherine FINDER
Kohl's Department Stores

Jennifer Jones
Prevent Child Abuse America

Sadhna Morato-Lindvall
Rockwell Automation

Amy Mutziger
Johnson Controls, Inc.

Sandy Pasch

S. Edward Sarskas
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

Joe Yamat
Wells Fargo Advisors



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

HungerTaskForce.org



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 are dignity, justice, compassion and stewardship.