



HUNGER CONNECTION

Ending Hunger Through Community Support

Serving Milwaukee's Most Vulnerable



Local Purchasing Program a Win-Win for Farmers and Families



Food For Families Stretches Your Generous Holiday Donations



Network Pantry Serves Harambee Neighborhood for Over 25 Years

A Letter from the CEO



“With your support, we can continue to bring hope and nourishment to those who need it most.”
- Matt King, CEO

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you. Through your support of our mission, each one of you has made a difference in the lives of others. Hunger Task Force supporters are united by a common thread – the belief that no one in our community should go hungry. Thank you for trusting Hunger Task Force to conduct this critical work with dignity and compassion.

With your support, we can continue to bring hope and nourishment to those who need it most. Across our programs, we are now serving over 50,000 people monthly. Despite this nearly 30% increase in need, thanks to your generosity, our food supply has remained steady, and we have been able to provide food free of charge to hungry seniors, individuals and families across Milwaukee County. In this newsletter you'll read about the important work happening on Historic Mitchell Street and in the Harambee neighborhood, partnerships that have become traditions of giving in our community and, of course, ways to get involved.

Thank you for stepping up to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. We can all feel proud to be a part of this community – one that cares and lifts people up.

With gratitude,

Matt King, CEO

Winter Events

This winter, join Hunger Task Force and our partners for laser light rock shows, ham-tastic fundraisers and more as we work together to end hunger during the holidays.

December: Home 4 the Holidays



Home 4 the Holidays is back all December long with Raymond James and TMJ4! The original Virtual Food Drive gives you the opportunity to donate from the comfort of your home and provide festive and nutritious holiday meals for local families.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/home-4-the-holidays

December: Lend a Helping Ham



This December, 102.9 The HOG is again sponsoring the Lend a Helping Ham program and partnering with Meijer to provide holiday hams for families. Drop off a ham or purchase one online for \$15.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/hams

Winter: Powered by Tacos



Hunger Task Force is excited to announce its collaboration with BelAir Cantina as the beneficiary of their “Powered by Tacos” program! Try the specially-crafted “Mission Mushroom” taco and know that your purchase helps support our mission to end hunger in Milwaukee.

December 22: Trans-Siberian Orchestra



Cap off your holiday celebration with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's spectacular rock show at Fiserv Forum on December 22! Grab your tickets now—\$1 from each ticket benefits Hunger Task Force and Milwaukee's hungry children, families and seniors.

Holiday Season: Holiday Cards



The holiday season is upon us! Support Free & Local while you wish friends and family a happy holiday season. Original artwork from Wisconsin artists is featured on each Hunger Task Force holiday card.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/holiday-cards





Network Partner Highlight

Helping Community Food Pantry

“We’re proud to be a source of nourishment to children and families as well as the number of seniors who are bound to our area due to transportation or physical limitations.”

- Billie Burton, Manager of Helping Community Food Pantry

Hunger Task Force and Helping Community Food Pantry have been working together to combat hunger in Milwaukee’s Harambee neighborhood for more than 25 years. Most of the fresh, frozen and nonperishable healthy foods that more than 1,000 community members select at the pantry each month are provided by Hunger Task Force.

Helping Community Food Pantry is a choice pantry, which enables every guest to select nutritious food items that match their personal and cultural preferences. The team of staff and volunteers at Helping Community Food Pantry works to eliminate hunger as a roadblock to social and economic success for individuals and families.

“I believe the people in the Harambee neighborhood deserve to have our community resource,” says Billie Burton, Manager of Helping Community Food Pantry. “We’re proud to be a source of nourishment to children and families as well as the number of seniors who are bound to our area due to transportation or physical limitations.”

Hunger Task Force is the only food bank in Milwaukee that does not charge for food, delivery or network membership. Hunger Task Force works diligently to ensure seniors and families can receive emergency food with dignity, on the day they need it and in the neighborhood they live in.



2024 stats for Milwaukee’s Harambee Neighborhood

5,000+

PEOPLE SERVED

AT HELPING COMMUNITY
AND EBENEZER COGIC
FOOD PANTRIES
EACH MONTH

1,600+

STOCKBOXES

DISTRIBUTED ACROSS
LOCAL SENIOR CENTERS
EACH MONTH

1,700+

MEALS SERVED

TO CHILDREN DURING
THE SUMMER



New Southside Community Resource Center

In early 2025, Hunger Task Force will be moving our FoodShare resource center on Mitchell Street to a new location just two blocks away. This exciting development will become the permanent home of the Southside Community Resource Center, allowing Hunger Task Force to better serve local families in need. For over 15 years, our FoodShare Advocates have been a safe and trusted team that connects vulnerable families to FoodShare (SNAP) benefits and other critical resources.

This move represents a major milestone in our commitment to the community and the larger, updated facility will

enable us to better help thousands of families access healthy food and essential resources while reducing reliance on food pantries. The new space will more than double our capacity with expanded self-service stations, flexible community rooms and private spaces to ensure dignified and confidential support for families, individuals and seniors.

Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to opening the Southside Community Resource Center's doors and furthering our mission to end hunger in Milwaukee.

Food For Families Stretches Your Dollar



Food For Families is Milwaukee's most storied tradition of giving, feeding thousands of families during the holiday season. Hunger Task Force stretches donor dollars by purchasing food by the truckload at a lower cost per item than community members would spend at the grocery store. That means donated dollars can turn into more holiday meals for families served at our network of food pantries, meal sites and homeless shelters – which includes Rooted & Rising. Because of community support through Food For Families, Rooted & Rising receives turkeys for Thanksgiving and holiday hams absolutely free of charge to provide to children, families and seniors in need. Additionally, Hunger Task Force provides holiday fixings including sweet corn, green beans, fruit and rice to stock the shelves.

“The Food For Families program really helps us out in a special way during the holiday season. It enables us to offer healthy and delicious festive foods for families to come shop and take home to enjoy with their family and friends at no charge to us or them. Offering the holiday staples that we receive from Hunger Task Force helps alleviate the financial burden many families are experiencing this time of year,” says Bill Schmidt, executive director of Rooted & Rising.



Make your holiday gift today: www.HungerTaskForce.org/Food-For-Families



Wrap-up at The Farm

The 2024 growing season wrapped at the Hunger Task Force Farm. We are proud to report a bountiful harvest of over 500,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. Thanks to the dedication of our farmers and Farm volunteers – who volunteered over 13,200 hours – this year’s harvest provided access to nutritious produce to thousands of families and seniors facing hunger in Milwaukee.

“The heavy Spring rain helped make this season a productive one,” reflects Sarah Bressler, Farm Director. “We’re not your average farm. Our primary crop is healthy food access. The Farm plays a unique role in Hunger Task Force’s mission to end hunger by growing 70 varieties of 28 crops to help ensure everyone has access to fresh, culturally familiar foods.”

Sustainability and regenerative agriculture remain central to The Farm’s operations, with a strong focus on responsible land management and protecting biodiversity. At the Hunger Task Force Farm, we prioritize practices that nurture the health of our soil and preserve the ecosystem. We employ crop rotation and cover cropping to ensure the long-term vitality of the land. By enhancing soil fertility and preventing erosion, these sustainable methods not only yield high-quality produce but also safeguard the environment for future generations.

In the winter months our commitment to progress continues. Planning, purchasing and farming winter crops in our two hoop houses will help maintain our momentum as we look forward to the 2025 growing season.



To support seeds and supplies for the upcoming season, make a gift to support The Farm today! www.HungerTaskForce.org/farm

Farm-to-Food Bank: Purchasing Program is a Win-Win for Farmers and Families

Hunger Task Force reaffirmed its commitment to ending hunger in 2024 by investing in local agriculture through the innovative Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program. Hunger Task Force has purchased fresh, locally grown food from small and medium-sized farmers to complement the produce already grown at The Farm.

By leveraging federal LFPA funding, Hunger Task Force created a win-win scenario: local farmers secured a stable market for their harvests, while low-income families gained increased access to culturally familiar food sourced right here in Wisconsin. The items selected were guided by feedback and needs identified by our partners at the pantries, meal sites and shelters we serve.

Hunger Task Force purchased directly from eight Wisconsin farmers and producers, including the WI Grass Fed Beef Coop, Superior Fresh Salmon, Gwenyn Hill Farm and others. Frozen ground beef, pork chops and salmon purchased through the program were distributed with Stockboxes directly to low-income seniors across 29 counties – significantly extending our reach and impact.

Hunger Task Force takes pride in the success of the LFPA program and remains committed to exploring new avenues for ensuring that fresh, nutrient-rich food reaches the tables of those who cannot afford it. By supporting local producers and farm communities throughout the state, we are fostering a sustainable future for everyone involved in this vital mission.





Meet Kim Muench

Hunger Task Force Welcomes New Development Director

We are pleased to share Kim Muench has joined Hunger Task Force as Development Director. Kim is no stranger to the Milwaukee community. She joins the Hunger Task Force team with nearly 17 years of local fundraising experience.

In her role, Kim manages Hunger Task Force's fund and resource development, direct donor relations and stewardship activities and oversees partnerships, the Volunteer Program and events. Kim has a knack for developing strong relationships with donors and a track record of providing excellent stewardship, gift acknowledgement and donor recognition.

Kim was born and raised in the Milwaukee area and is thrilled to work for Milwaukee's only Free & Local food bank and Wisconsin's anti-hunger leader.

WISN 12 Celebrates Milestone Anniversary with Hunger Task Force Partnership



WISN 12 is celebrating its 70th Anniversary by partnering with Hunger Task Force for a '70 Years of Service' campaign. Throughout the year, WISN 12 highlighted multiple facets of our organization including:

- » How we support our pantry network partners by providing free food to feed children, families and seniors in need.
- » How our administration of the Stockbox program provides more than 10,000 Milwaukee County seniors with healthy nonperishable food they need each month.
- » How our Nutrition Education team develops family-friendly recipes using items that can be found on the shelves at food pantries within the Hunger Task Force network.
- » The importance of our nearly 16,000 volunteers who dedicate time at The Farm and in our Volunteer Center to pack Stockboxes for seniors and sort healthy donated food.
- » How our 208-acre Farm in Franklin, Wisconsin grows nearly 500,000 lbs. of fresh fruits and vegetables for the express purpose of feeding the hungry through our network of food pantries, homeless shelters and meal sites.
- » The value of our Mobile Market as a grocery store on wheels that visits food deserts in Milwaukee providing healthy food from Piggly Wiggly at a discount.
- » The impact of the Summer Meals collaboration that provides free, healthy meals for school-age children during the summer months at more than 170 local parks, recreation centers, schools and churches.



WISN 12 kicked off the year-long campaign with a generous \$2,500 donation to Hunger Task Force. Hunger Task Force is so grateful for longstanding supporters like WISN 12 who help ensure we can serve more than 50,000 people each month.

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.

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1. In October, Hunger Task Force hosted the Hunger Relief Federation Summit that brought together over 100 anti-hunger leaders from 29 Wisconsin counties to collaborate on strategies to end hunger across Wisconsin.
2. Hunger Task Force welcomed nearly 200 supporters for a donor event celebrating our mission to end hunger in Milwaukee. Guests enjoyed an evening of socializing, live music, refreshments and cuisine crafted by the award-winning head chef of Sanford restaurant.
3. Led by the Child Nutrition Educator, Hunger Task Force strengthened our partnership with local schools with classroom visits, hands-on nutrition lessons in the McCarty Education Kitchen and field trips to The Farm, to equip low-income students with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices.
4. Last month, Hunger Task Force teamed up with WWE to 'SmackDown' hunger! Before stepping into the ring at Fiserv Forum, WWE superstars visited Hunger Task Force to pack healthy food for local seniors in need.
5. We are proud to announce Hunger Task Force received a \$100,000 grant from GE Healthcare, the GE Healthcare Foundation and the Charles Antetokounmpo Family Foundation through the Powering Milwaukee Forward initiative. This funding will strengthen the Mobile Market to ensure more families in Milwaukee have access to healthy, culturally relevant food.

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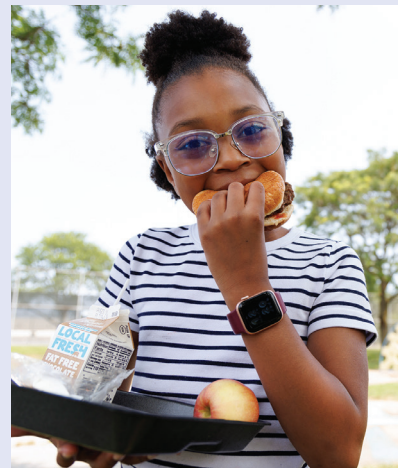
Make Your Year-End Gift!

2024 is nearly over, but there is still time to make your year-end gift and help Hunger Task Force feed families. Hunger Task Force must raise nearly \$2,000,000 in these last few weeks so we can keep our commitments to the Milwaukee community. Help us make that goal to feed kids, families and seniors!

If you have already made your gift, thank you! If not, you can make a tax-deductible, year-end gift by placing a check in the enclosed envelope or by scanning this handy QR code to donate by December 31.



www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate



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