

HUNGER HERALD



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

FALL 2020

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Central Wisconsin

"Feed My People has
been a lifesaver in the
Eau Claire community
especially as of late. They
not only have continued
to provide food, they
also continue to provide
hope."

Dani Claesges
Homeless Program Coordinator
Eau Claire Area School District

Meals on a School Bus

Feed My People adapted its meal program to reach kids at home

When area schools made the difficult decision to have kids move from the classroom to online learning, Feed My People (FMP) worked alongside the Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls School Districts to ensure kids would not go hungry while learning from home. We were proud to help fill the meal gap for vulnerable students and their families. Since then, 1500 meal bags have been distributed weekly to kids.

In addition to distribution at the schools, FMP volunteers, staff, and school employees have climbed aboard a school bus every Thursday to deliver bagged meals to kids at designated stops so transportation would not be a barrier to them having access to the food they need.

Amanda Parkinson, FMP Development Specialist was at one of the weekly food distributions and stated that what impacted her the most was at one stop, a young boy, waiting on his bike, under the school awning, waived at the bus driver and he waved back. They recognized each other after having done the same wave in previous weeks. The young boy took two breakfast and two lunch bags from the school, one each for himself and a sibling, and stuffed them into his backpack. He then placed two Weekend Kids' Meal bags carefully onto each handlebar. Balancing all of that, he rode away in the hot, July sun. It stuck with Amanda as a stark picture of the urgency we must have to ensure no

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Summer Kids Meals (continued)

matter what their circumstances no child goes hungry.

In addition to the school bus route, weekly distributions at designated Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire schools offered another grocery pickup option for entire families. Volunteers also delivered food boxes to Headstart families for our youngest learners so that transportation barriers did not prevent them from getting the help needed.

The entire summer Weekend Kids' Meals program was graciously sponsored by Markquart Motors and supported by the area school districts and bus companies. We are grateful for their partnership to ensure every child has safe, healthy access to meals.

Thank you



A Note From Feed My People's New Executive Director: Nancy Renkes

Joining a new organization during normal times can be unnerving. Joining a new one during a pandemic is full of challenges.

I joined Feed My People Food Bank in the middle of COVID-19, and in my brief time here I have witnessed firsthand the pride and compassion that people feel for this community. I have seen how much you all care about hungry people. I have been amazed at the dedication of our volunteers and am truly blessed by the moral and financial support our community gives to us daily.

I am so proud of the staff who every day figure out how to get food to hundreds of families in need, while keeping everyone healthy and safe. Lately here at the food bank we have been using the word "pivot" a lot. It seems that each and every day there are new challenges, expanded roles, and changing priorities that we must quickly turn to meet. Not only are we pivoting to meet the increased need, our partners have pivoted to

continue serving their guests in safe environments at food pantries, meal sites, and more.

Hunger Action Month is coming up in September, which is a nationwide campaign to mobilize the public to take action against hunger. We hope you will join us in our efforts to share with the community the issue of food insecurity and spread the word on how to ensure that people in our community have access to the food they need to live a happy, healthy life.

I know it is difficult for us to get together right now, but I look forward to when we can bring you to see our new expansion and share with you an update on our work in person. Until then, please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or just to connect.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy Renkes'.

Nancy Renkes
Executive Director, Feed My People
nancy@fmpfoodbank.org
(715) 835-9415 ext. 105

Bio Before joining Feed My People, Nancy was VP and Chief Partnership Officer of River Bend Foodbank in Davenport, Iowa. She now lives in Eau Claire with her husband, Jim. They share five children and twelve grandchildren.



Community Perspective

Deb Lewis, a partnership coordinator at Lakeshore Elementary, volunteered all summer at FMP's Pop-Up Pantries.

When school moved online due to Wisconsin's Stay-At-Home order, a big concern was how to help families with food insecurity at Lakeshore and in the community. After receiving an email about a Pop-Up Pantry Feed My People was going to start at our Lakeshore parking lot every Friday, I asked if I could help, and the answer was yes. The school district crossing guards would be directing traffic, but people were needed to distribute the food. Ten of us showed up on Friday, March 20 to help, and we haven't stopped since. Volunteers come from throughout our district: partnership coordinators, teachers, support staff, cooks, and more.

The ability to help others is what drives us. Whether it's rain or shine, or sweltering heat, we come. Even though the distribution begins at 2:30 p.m. people are lined up in their cars beginning at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is appreciative and kind. There is joy and shout-outs from our school families when they recognize a district employee. Their smiles are so broad. Sometimes there are tears from families who are grateful beyond words for the food, and when that happens, we have tears as well. How I wish we could give out hugs, but instead we give thanks that they are there, along with encouragement to please come again next Friday. We are exhausted by the end, having served an average of over 200 households, but it is good exhaustion. It is good for our souls. It is evident that food insecurity is real and how important it is that Feed My People is helping to alleviate it.



Deb Lewis
Partnership Coordinator
Lakeshore Elementary School



Hayward Community Food Shelf volunteers

Agencies Are Our Heroes

Covid-19 has produced unprecedented challenges for FMP's 200+ hunger-relief programs. While many programs thought they may have to close initially, most have remained open and many are doing more than ever to serve the hungry in their communities.

FMP has worked to support our partners in many ways:

- Support with creating curbside and drive-thru distribution models to ensure safety
- Sourcing, packing and delivering pre-packed food boxes
- Additional delivery routes to support increased distribution throughout west central Wisconsin
- Weekly agency calls to share information and ideas
- FMP's first virtual Agency Gathering
- Management of the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) COVID-19 Food Security Network Support Grant Support for partners throughout FMP's service area
- Support in planning for backpack distribution through summer and into the fall

"We love being in the food assistance network with Feed My People. They have been a true support and partner during these challenging times." - Barb Schweig, Hayward Community Food Shelf

Racing to Meet the Need During COVID-19

New challenges require new solutions

"My husband is too embarrassed to come because he just lost his job. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't know what to do. I just want to say thank you to everyone who donates and works so hard to allow us to have groceries," said a mother of two at a drive-thru Pop-Up Food Pantry this July in Chippewa Falls.

Feed My People (FMP) operates under the belief that no one should go hungry. When the worldwide pandemic reached into the quiet corners of where we live, work, and play the food bank met its biggest challenge yet. Situations involving those who have never had to get help with food before have become too common. In March and April, the warehouse broke records regularly with how many pounds of food were delivered to hunger-relief programs in any given day. 4.7 million pounds of food has already been distributed between January and July, compared to approximately 7 million pounds total in the entire calendar year of 2019.

One of the first actions taken to get ahead of this need and to do so safely, was to expand FMP's Pop-Up Food Pantry program. In past years it's been a predominantly summer-only program to quickly distribute fresh produce coming in from local growers. Last year it became a monthly

Our expanded drive-thru Pop-Up Food Pantry program has had 7,276 household visits in Augusta, Cadott, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Eleva/Strum, Fairchild, and Fall Creek from March through July.



Volunteers stand ready to put groceries, including milk, into vehicles at a drive-thru Pop-Up in Cadott, Wisconsin.



MORE DAIRY

201,222 pounds of milk, butter, and cheese has been distributed this year.



25 NEW PROGRAMS

New outreach programs this year are feeding seniors, kids, and homebound individuals.

Guess what? None of this was possible without you.

Thank you to our community who stepped up to take action against hunger during this challenging time.

- FMP Staff



A six-year old girl handed Feed My People volunteers this drawing at a Lakeshore Elementary school parking lot in July.

program. This March, however, it was expanded into weekly and monthly distribution points throughout Eau Claire and surrounding rural communities like Augusta as a drive-thru stop for families in need of groceries, including meat, dairy, produce, and dry goods.

Of course, none of this came without significant logistical challenges. Emergency bags, for example, have been created so that a variety of dry goods can be packed together by a handful of volunteers and staff in preparation for quick distribution at Pop-Ups and through hunger-relief partners across the region.

There has been no shortage of food coming in the doors, thankfully, and because of the building expansion last summer, FMP has been able to accept this increase from a variety of sources including local restaurants and schools, as well as a Farmers to Families USDA program that shipped pre-packed boxes filled with dairy and meat products from regional producers.

Ever since March, FMP has seen the community come together in unprecedented ways to help beat local hunger. Because of your support, families can receive the food they need. *Thank you.*

Preparing for what is to come

Thank you to the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley, the Eau Claire Community Foundation, area churches and other partners for funding the Feed Our Kids program ensuring that children and youth will have the nutrition they need during uncertain times this fall.

With the support of our community FMP will continue to react to changing circumstances with an unwavering commitment to filling the hunger gap in our community.

Letter from a mother

"As a child I always wondered how some people at the food banks had nicer cars than my parents while we drive by and saw them all lined up to get food, until recently.

"My husband lost his very successful job because of COVID. With three small children, we are struggling. We are struggling to pay for our vehicles, struggling to pay for our house, we are just struggling. I'm crying as I write this because we are one of those people in a nice car. We would've never ever ever dreamt this would happen, but it has. It's so hard to give up what you've worked

so hard for. I get those people now. I am one of those people. I know the time might come where we will probably have to sell the things we've worked so hard for, which will be a tough, tough day. But I want you to know how much you guys have helped us out. We are so very, very grateful. I'm hoping we are able to get back on our feet, and as soon as we do, we will continue to give as you have to us. I've been meaning to thank you since the first time I came, but I just haven't been able to come up with the words. Thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You guys are all such a blessing."





Luther Lakeside Apartments Gets Special Grocery Delivery Route

An Eau Claire senior subsidized apartment building receives a food delivery every week.

One Friday in late spring at the Lakeshore Pop-Up Food Pantry, a woman arrived to pick up groceries for fifty people. A conversation ensued about that need, and soon after, a new residential food pantry was formed. It turned out that the week before she had dropped off groceries for her grandparents at Luther Lakeside Apartments, and many of the residents there expressed a need for some kind of food delivery as well. Today, a delivery is scheduled weekly so any resident can safely access groceries any time. "I love the pantry. It helps me get by on the weeks I can't make it to the grocery store," shared Rosalie (pictured), during a visit there this August.

Memorials & Honorariums Given Between January 1 - July 31, 2020

Memorials

Ali Ternberg	Caroline Kortness (2)	Ervin Sprinkle	Joan & Kathryn
Alice Sauder	Charles Henry	Erwin and Eunice Gehrke	Jody Marie
Aline Buchner	Dale Hangartner (33)	Eunice Johnston	John
Alton Hageness	Dale Papke	Faith Esser (2)	John B. Iverson
Amanda Geissler	Dan Alft	Faith Thoele	John Harter (2)
Amya Meyer	Dan Schlewitz (12)	Felix and Bev Jungerberg	John Lindrud (2)
Andrea Popko	Darren Hyland	Forrest Jones	John O'Connor
Andrew Schultz	David and Judy Lindahl	Francess Grade	John Patrick Hart
Andy Loeffelholz	David Schlewitz	Fred Lueders	John Prine
Ann Wagner	Deloris Huse (2)	Gary Duffenbach	Joy Turner
Annabelle Doege	Diane Huth	George and Jacquie Gannon	Julie Anderl
Anne Filitz	Diane Prock (20)	Geri Rasmussen	Karen Boville
Arlene Conrad	Diane's mother	Gilly Golz	Kathi Jewell
Arlyn and Helen Ewert	Donald Mathison (2)	Gina McEnany	Kathleen Nemic
Arthur C. Erickson	Donna (Gruber) Henrickson	Glen Matson	Kathryn Colbert (2)
Arvin Thompson	Donna Hoepfner (3)	Glen Mercier	Ken Vance
Aubrey Olson	Donna Hoffmann	Glenn A. Niemuth (2)	Kenneth Canfield
Barb Lilly (2)	Donna Sly	Glenn Matson (5)	Kevin Cuddeback
Barbara Rindal	Donna Weegman	Gordy Weiss	Kevin Shea
Beatrice Schuh	Doris Case	Grace Sukowaty	Larry & Janet Lehman
Becky Zimmerman	Doris Jacobson	Harold Grabouski	Larry Everson
Bert Grant	Doris M Case (10)	Helen Meister	Larry Pasanen
Beth Lindner	Dorothy Meyer	Herb Anderl	Lehman Larson
Betty Jackson	Dorothy Wirtala	Howard Eytcheson (4)	Leo Court (2)
Betty Timm	Douglas Bailey	Hugh McNamara	Leonard Campe
Blance Sendelbach	Earl Carlson	Inez Becker	LeSandra J. Wheeler
Bob Sather	Ed Brantner	Irene Bulgerin	Linus Miller
Bob Schneider (11)	Edward Hebert (2)	Isabelle Bauernfeind	Lois Schultz
Bonnie Ashbaugh	Eileen Giddings	Iva Olson	Lois Whitted
Brad Windjue	Eileen Reed	Jaclyn and Stephanie Geske	Lorene Yager (5)
Brenda Fenner	Ellen Bee (2)	Jacob Vitek, Jr	Lorraine Petersen
Bruce Quilling	Ellie and Lawrence	Jake Mikkel Brown	Lorraine Pomietlo
Bryron and Lois Whitted	Bushendorf	James Schaefer	Louie Beaulie
Cal Campbell	Elliott Schoonmaker	Jason Lindquist	Margaret Martin
Calvin Baehr	Emmett Keller	Jean Winger	Marilyn Ives' mother
Carl Hatlestad	Eric Poulter	Jeanne M. Farmer (2)	MarJean and Kirby Peterson
Carol DeVriend	Ernest and Irene Kubesh	Jeff and Sam Lewis	Mark I. Gabriel

Together, ending hunger is possible.

As we work through the pandemic and continued hunger crisis, dependable monthly donations are vital.

Begin your monthly giving plan today at give.fmpfoodbank.org/donate.

\$1 = 4 meals

Mark Lightfoot
Mark Windjue
Martin Hansen
Marvin Pospishil
Mary "Peg" Krause (20)
Mary Ann Rizzato
Mary Barnes
Mary Keezer
MaryAnn Bauer
Masha Larson
Matt Zagel
Matthew deGroot (4)
Maynard Dokkestul (2)
Merlin Grutt
Merlyn Loga
Michael Farley
Michael Frohrip
Michael Ruffedt (2)
Mike
Mike Frohrip
Mike Ruffedt
Miles Wesley
Millie Ring
Milo (2)
Mr. David Fish
Mr. David Raihle
Mr. John Rassbach
Murray Cayley
My Mom (2)
Myra Ratering
Myrna Richmond (2)
Nancy Lindau
Nick Stark
Nick Wagener
Noble Lokken
Norma Arneson
Noval Beyrer
Oliver Christian
Our parents (2)
Owen Knutson
Patricia Paulsrud
Patrick McNally
Pauline Shrock
Phyllis Embke
Richard Gosnell
Richard H Peterson (2)
Richard James Jurowski
Richard Peterson
Robert E. Schneider (9)
Robert L. Bruce
Robert Lawrence
Roger Waak
Ronald Boyea
Rosalie Smith
Rosemary I. Davis
Rowan McAllister
Roy and Florence Hedges

Roy Olson
Ryan and Teresa Clark
Sandy West
Shawn
Sherman Iverson
Shirley K Stewart (2)
Sibyl Reiter (14)
Spencer E Fjelstad
Stephanie Kotecki
Stephen C. Perkiser (3)
Steven Boyea
Steve's mother
Susan Brown
Susan Schroeder
Sylvia Ann Arneson
The Dresden Family
Theresa Brantner
Thomas Gunderson
Thomas Jentlie
Thomas N. Boley (2)
Tim Anderson
Tim O'Connell
Todd Turek
Tom Larsen
Troy Bowe
Unice Johnston
Vern Smith
Victor A Gray (2)
Victor Wenaas
Virginia Ann Knoll
Virginia Kallstrom
Virginia Nelson
William Bartingale
Winifred Schuh
Yvonne Harlow
Yvonne Lillian Harlow

Honorariums

"Give From Home Day"
2020 Senior Class of Regis High School
All medical personnel, first responders, and people working at-risk jobs during the pandemic.
All the essential workers
Amy Potter & family
Atlas James Schmidt
Michael Perry
B.E. Fit with Hannah & Jecc, LLC (2)
Barbara Ryder
Beatrice Roycraft's 90th Birthday
Becky Wurzer
Bernie Abrahamson
Carin Schlick
Charles Macek

Charlie Kwick
Chris Draxler
Cindy McCluskey
Covid Ma Ra Th On
Dan Salinas
Daniel Peterson
David P Elvig
Diane Christenson
Doctor Lisa Henson
Elaine Craven
Elizabeth Stay
Ellis Sweeney's first birthday
Emily Moore (24)
Eunice Bruenjes
Evolet Donicht
Father's Day
Florence Iverson's 92nd Birthday
Darrin
The Monday Night Prayer Group
Front line workers!
Health care providers
Irene Anderson
Janet Powers
Janna Radtke
Jeans for Charity
Jim Beck's 77th Birthday
John Irish
Juanita Peterson
Julie Burkart
Julie Porter
Just Dance
Karen Metzgar
Katie Bushman
Keegan and Peyton Braun
Kurt Jacobson
Lakeshore Elementary
Larry Everson (3)
Lisa Marie Morgan
Logan Seipel's 30th birthday
Lois Thiede-Stallman
Marilyn Murphy's Birthday (3)
Mike Suehring's birthday
Mark & Suzanne Becker's 30th Wedding Anniversary
Mary Kell Cayley's 81st Birthday
Mary Nelsestuen and the team,
Across the Country Koldens
Mary Pat Sass (2)
Michael Perry (2)
Michelle Pride
Mike Lowry
Mother's Day (4)
Barb Hammer
Nancy Kloss

Nancy Ralston's birthday
Nancy who has one of the kindest hearts I know
Nature Nate's Honey Co.
Nina Writz
Optimum Therapies (4)
Our 50th Wedding Anniversary
Our community! Forward!
Our grandchildren
Our mothers
Pastor Karen's 30th ordination anniversary
Positive Avenues
Reynold Tomter's 103rd (2)
Birthday (2)
Rick Olson's birthday
Rose Battalio
Ruth and Bruce Grieves
Samuel Chaparro
Antonie Ortiz
Steve Spellman
Susie Haugley
Suzanne Becker (2)
All of the FMP workers!
The Annual Pie Social at Christ Cathedral Church
The birth of Cyrus James Elstran
The children of the Bruce and Jack Christensen families
The hard work of the 4th and 5th grade students at Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School in Eau Claire
The health care workers on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic
The Johnsted family
The Kojoian family
The Rindahl family
The McHugh family (2)
The Thyron family
The local cooperatives: Barron, Clark, Jackson, Jump River, Price, and Taylor
The Lynch Grandkids
The Never Not Funny podcast
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantires in Phillips and Catawba
Nancy Renkes
Travis Krueger
Valentines Day
Willy Porter (3)



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Feed My People
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STAND AGAINST HUNGER.



VOLUNTEER.



GIVE.



CONNECT.

TAKE THE STAND TODAY.

Go orange to support Hunger Action Month.

During September all gifts will be matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$50,000 by Otto Bremer Trust.

give.fmpfoodbank.org/HungerAction

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