

HUNGER HERALD



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

WINTER 2020

In this issue...

Note from the Director

2020 Volunteers of the Year
2020 Organization of the Year

Distributing to Rural Communities

Community Perspective:
Sarah Winkelmann

Giving Tuesday Matching Gift



New Challenges = New Solutions

Feed My People meets increasing need head on with warehouse distribution.

This past August, Feed My People began a weekly community distribution event out of its doors at the food bank. Due to the high need shown this summer at our Pop-Up events, transitioning to direct distribution right from the building ensures that the food provided isn't limited by what can go on a truck. No matter how many people visit the event, everyone will be served. It will also make it safer for the event to continue during the winter.

Our community distribution events are set up as a drive thru to minimize contact. The distribution has been well attended, sometimes serving as many as 500 households in one week.

A small group of dedicated volunteers and an FMP staff member set up an

assembly line inside door 17 every week before the doors open. Boxes of essentials including milk, produce, and meat are quickly packed and rolled out the door. Volunteers then load up vehicles as they come through underneath a new awning erected for this very purpose.

Recently, a woman flagged over Randy, one of our essential volunteers who has been at the distributions nearly every week. She was in her car, having just received groceries in the distribution line. She opened her window and was crying. She said "Thank you – you are helping us so much. I have two teen boys and no job in sight." It was a powerful moment for all involved.

Feed My People
Food Bank: Ending
Hunger in West
Central Wisconsin

"I've been so proud to be a part of this new program. Every week, I see the impact we're making in the lives of those who come. It would be impossible without the support of our donors and volunteers."

Sara Gibson
Feed My People Volunteer/
Program Specialist



Asking for help for the first time

Anna is a single working mom working paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. When her son was sent home from school to quarantine due to the pandemic, her world instantly changed. Being unable to work, she couldn't pay her bills. Going through the distribution line at FMP, she shared that she had never had to ask for help before. She just needed to get through the next few weeks. She needed to feed her kids.

A heartfelt thank you to our community for your support of Feed My People and all those we serve. Your generosity supports Anna's family and so many more. Please consider a gift to Feed My People with your yearend giving.



Note from the Director

The hunger issue in the 14 counties served by Feed My People is getting worse each day. In the past three months we have seen a 35% increase in food insecurity throughout the communities that we serve.

Also, there is every indication that those numbers will continue to rise over the winter. Despite the increase in need, Feed My People, alongside our partner agencies, continue to meet the needs of hungry people while doing so in a safe environment for our guests, volunteers, and our team.

We could not meet the increased need without the support of our communities and people like you. On behalf of the Feed My People Food Bank team, our board of directors and our guests, we want to thank you (our donor) for your incredible support, compassion, and kindness as we work through these unprecedented times.

Financial support from you during these difficult times has allowed us to:

- Install a new 18,000 square foot freezer in our warehouse to ensure we could safely store all the frozen food we need to distribute due to the increase in need.
- Ensured we have enough funds available to purchase food as the need continues to grow.

- Fund an increase in our programs throughout the counties that we serve.
- Staff and finance a new distribution at our warehouse. Each Wednesday we serve as many as 500 households with a trunk distribution that includes produce, meat, dairy, and bakery.
- Increase our delivery routes to provide more frequent deliveries for our agencies as they meet the increased need in their community.
- Increase the number of pop-up pantries, home deliveries, and resident pantry programs.

While the remaining months of 2020 look to be as challenging as the rest of the year, we know that by working together as a community we will ensure that NO ONE goes without the food they need to live a happy and healthy life.

Thank you for your continued support of the work we do.

With thanks,

Nancy Renkes

Nancy Renkes
Feed My People's
Executive Director



2020 Volunteers of the Year

Every year, Feed My People recognizes outstanding volunteers who make our mission possible.



Arden (Ole) Olson

A volunteer Weekend Kids' Meals packer since 2014, his retirement in 2019 opened his time even more to become a regular volunteer. He has since racked up over 500 volunteer hours with us doing everything from delivering the Weekend Kids' Meals to picking orders and helping with pretty much whatever we ask of him. He's also a great ambassador of

FMP as he recruits other volunteers and has brought up FMP on his Church committee as well. He always volunteers with a smile on his face, even if it's after delivering to Prairie Ridge when it's below zero. Through it all, Ole always has a positive personality, smiling and sharing stories with everyone he volunteers alongside as well as the staff.



Julie Weber

Julie has gone above and beyond bringing a fun and cheerful spirit to FMP on a daily basis. She has been a lead volunteer for our Weekend Kids' Meals program and since the pandemic began, has volunteered constantly with any and all projects. Ranging from packing emergency meal bags and delivering meals to Prairie Ridge school families, to picking and distributing food at Pop-Up events – Julie has done

it all. At Pop-Ups, she checks in each car and is also a flag volunteer for traffic in the hectic times. She has been out there in severe heat, heavy rain, and snow. She has the most positive and upbeat personality anyone could have to make a bad day beautiful.

2020 Organizations of the Year

We are thankful for their dedication to donate essential meat.



Jones Dairy

Over the last few years Jones Dairy has been the largest and most consistent provider of frozen meats for Feed My People than any other source. In 2019, Jones Dairy donated 101,286 pounds of frozen meat. So far this year to date (with four months remaining) they have donated 131,165 pounds of frozen meat and have recently sent us a notice to expect an increase in donations for the

rest of the year. Meat is a coveted donation for our partners, so this consistent donation has been extremely valuable. George Purucker, Transportation Manager for Jones Dairy, believes in the mission of FMP. He shared, "We always check with you (FMP) first to be sure you are getting what you need."

Feed My People is thankful for all of our volunteers who have helped during 2020. Your dedication to our mission during these difficult times is so appreciated. We look forward to reconnecting with all of you in 2021.



A volunteer pauses from preparing groceries for a weekly distribution in Abbotsford

Distributing food in rural communities during the pandemic

Rural communities face additional barriers including lack of transportation and limited resources.

Communities beset by economic downturn from the pandemic has resulted in unpredictable need. Without our partners adapting their programs to meet not only the increasing need, but to also ensure safety during distribution, many more families, especially in rural pockets of our service area, would be left without access to crucial groceries. Here are two examples of communities that have adapted their distribution to ensure they meet the increased demand while keeping everyone safe.

Backpack Buddies NOW, Feed My People's partner program typically average 25-30 kids per week. Since the beginning of the pandemic, they are now averaging double the number of guests per week. Some of the kids are new to the program and some are from their virtual school program. Food is picked up by their families along with school lunches.

"Typically, the program starts small and grows throughout the school year. It will be interesting to see what happens this year, to say the least," said Donna Albarado, its program coordinator.

Also in the town of Cadott, a twice monthly Pop-Up Pantry began in June and is averaging 120 households per week. Many of the guests are from Cadott, but also include the

"We're providing a little bit of security. Receiving groceries means there's one less thing to worry about."

- Donna Albarado, Cadott Food Programs

surrounding communities of Cornell, Augusta, Fall Creek, Cameron, and Boyd, which demonstrates there is need in every rural pocket.

Recently, a young mother came through the drive thru line at the Pop-Up before she stopped to pick up her kids from school.

"I've never been to something like this before. Thank you so much," she shared.

A new carryout meal site was started in Cadott this July, and it has been well attended by mostly seniors. While many guests were at first apprehensive, 60-75 people now attend every month, and it is a welcome addition for both their budgets and their social health since many do not feel safe navigating retail space during the pandemic.

In addition, the Cadott Christian Community Center Food Pantry, a partner with FMP for over 15 years, continues to serve families every month.

Abbotsford, a town of over 2,000 people, is located on the eastern edge of our service area, half in Clark County and half in Marathon County. Many families rely on the farming and manufacturing economy. This causes them to be especially vulnerable to job loss, transportation issues, and a lack of access to quality, affordable food. A new program called the Abbotsford Area Collaborative Team was organized this year by Father Tim Oudenhoven of St. Bernard Catholic Church to help meet those needs.

“When COVID hit, I felt that we needed to do something. At first, we were not able to find a reliable partner, but when we connected with Feed My People, we were able to rapidly pull together our first distribution event,” said Fr. Tim.

Two trucks from Feed My People make a delivery every week, filled with milk, meat, rice, beans, cereal, produce, and more. They also set up a station filled with resources including information on the housing authority, Workforce Resource, and the COVID-19 hotline, as well as baby food and toys.

6.9 million pounds of food has been distributed through FMP from January to October - a 35% increase compared to 2019.

86% of counties across the country with the highest percentage of children at risk for food insecurity are rural.¹ FMP distributes to 11 rural counties, which is the majority of its 14-county service area.

So many of our partner programs continue to step up to meet the needs of their community during these difficult times. Together we are filling the hunger gap for struggling families.



“One of our main goals is to put a smile back on their face. We treat every person with dignity because helping them get back on their feet is what we’re all about.”

- Father Tim Oudenhoven,
Abbotsford Area Collaborative Team

“The pandemic along with economic and geographic factors makes it very challenging for many families. The need for this food distribution is very real.”

- Sue Spurr Morton, Volunteer at the
Humbird Area Pop-Up Pantry

Volunteers at the monthly Pop-Up Pantry distribution in Cadott

¹ feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/rural-hunger-facts



Community Perspective: Sarah Winkelmann, WEAU News

This reporter went behind the scenes to give back at Feed My People

Right at the start of the pandemic, I noticed Feed My People was hosting new drive-thru pop up pantries. As a reporter, I reached out to see about doing a story to let people know this resource is here for them. During the interviews I learned a lot about the need for food in the Chippewa Valley and I was so impressed how dedicated Feed My People was to fill the void.

I told them if they ever needed help, I would be happy to volunteer. That same afternoon I went to the pop-up pantry at Lakeshore Elementary. I continued to go back every week for the next several months. I really get to know the families that come through the line. They share stories with me about their current situation

and how much the food has eased some stress in their lives. They are so grateful and thankful for the quality of food they received week in and week out.

But in addition to some emotional moments, there have been lots of laughs, jokes and good times with the volunteers and the people we serve.

Now, more than 6 months later, I still meet people in line who are coming for the first time, which proves the struggle to feed their families is still there. Also, still there is the wonderful staff, volunteers and community partners that feed our community. I am so blessed to be such a small part of large work Feed My People continues to do for the Chippewa Valley.



“As a reporter, I see the best and worst of things happening in the Chippewa Valley. The Pop-Up pantries are certainly one of the best things I see going on and it’s a joy to be a part of it.”

Sarah Winkelmann
Multimedia Journalist
WEAU News

Memorials & Honorariums Given Between August 1 and October 31

Memorials

Aaron Anderson
All those who have gone on before all of us
Allard and Carol Peck
Allen Meister
Alta Bragg
Amy Kalmon’s Mom
Ann Larson
Ann Wagner (2)
Anne Svacina
Arleen Stumm
Arlene Jackson
Arlene Vance
Arnetta Eckes
Arvin Thompson
Austin Rageth
Barb Bennett
Betsey DeMerit
Betty Amelse
Betty and Lyle Norquist
Bill Andreis
Bill Benson
Bob and JoAnn Syring
Bob Krumenauer
Bob Schneider (2)
Carl T Bahnson (3)

Carol DeVriend (11)
Christine E. Henderson
Christopher Hansen
Chuck Hill’s Dad
Chuck Kaiser
Clifford Thompson
Corey Jevne
Dan Schlewitz
Darlene Brunner
Darlene Stokes (4)
David F. Rugutzke
Delma Dahl (2)
Delores Fedie
Dennis Yanny
Denny Dahl
Diane Hanson
Don Burns
Don Knutson
Donna M Hoffmann
Dorothy Christianson (2)
Dorothy Dutzle
Dr. John J. Flynn
Dr. Kenneth St. Louis
Duane Popple
Edie A Isaacs
Edward C. Hebert
Eric Poulter
Esther Eberhardt
Evelyn Amdahl Nyre

Faith
Frances Grade
Gail Mittermeyer (2)
Genevieve Acker
George and Merna Johnson
Gina McEnany
Gordon Hong, Sr
Harold O’Donnell
Harold Zempel
Horatio Wald
Howard and Dorothy Sturtz
Hugh McNamara
Irving Strand
Isaiah Reither
Jaclyn Geske
Jahn Hansen
Janet Sterling (2)
Janice Ginzl
Jean Mickelson (2)
Jeanne M. Farmer
Jeff Shafer’s Mom
Jene Dahlby
Jerry and Mary Thomas
Jim Binder
Jim Erickson
Joan Knack
Joan Smith
Joanne Ahlers
Joanne Hanson

Jody O’Donnell
Joe Dow
John Harter
John Junttila
John Lindrud
Jon Peterson
Joseph Dow
Karen McDonnell
Keegan Crist (28)
Kim Bohjanen’s Dad
Lareen Yager
Larry Thompson
Lillian Johnson Hegg
Linda Berger
Loreen Yager (9)
Lou Kahn
Lucille Otterhold
Luther Larson
Marcella Franklin
Margaret Gutche
Margaret Pichler
Marion Amundson
Mark A. Mitchell
Marlene O’Donnell
Marline Grambo
Marvin Kilty
Mary Ann Bauer
Mary Ann Rizzato
Mary Kay Vollhoffer



No gift is too small this holiday season

Help us reach a \$20,000 giving goal this Giving Tuesday on December 1 thanks to a matching gift from Thrivent Financial!

To learn more and donate, visit www.fmpfoodbank.org and click "Giving Tuesday"



This Thanksgiving we are grateful for all our supporters who give so others can have food. Our corporate sponsors, individual donors, families, and our community have come together this year more than ever to help our neighbors. Together we will persevere.

Matt Reither
Matthew deGroot (3)
Mel Jensen
Melanie Smith
Michael Frohrip
Michael Moe
Michael O'Donnell
Michael Quicker
Mike Schneider
Millard Sivertson
Mrs. Anthony (Clara) Anzalone
Murl Hahs
Murrell Price
my husband
my mother Anne
Myrna Richmond
Nellie Irish
Nezahat Ulgen
Patrick E. Purdiak (3)
Paul Chilson St
Paul M Chilson
Phil Korenuk
Philip Machmeier
Raymond Anderson
Richard Benik
Richard Peterson (2)
Richard Vander
Robert Krumenauer
Robert Schneider
Roger Kressin

Rosanne Haugland
Roy Olson
Sally LaRose
Shawn Newhouse's mom
Sheri Knudson
Shirley Sivertson
Shirley Stewart
Stephanie Geske
Stephen Perkiser (2)
Steve Wahl
Sylvester Jones
Sylvia A. Arneson
Sylvia Schaaf
Terrance Shaurette
Terri Hanson
Thomas Jentile (2)
Tim O'Connell
Tom Gunderson
Tom Schwartz
Vilona Ashwell
Virgene Dahlby
Virgil Hammerstad
Wayne Kaiser (2)
Yvonne Lillian Harlow

Honorariums

2020 Election
Abraham of Worms

Ali, Dan, Will, and Becca
Andra Chumas
Aunt Barb and Uncle Dale Thomas
Barb Dukerschein's Birthday
Birthday of Mary Cuddebach
Borgny Ager
Carla's Birthday
Char Weidinger
Cheryl Cutsforth
Dale and Barbara Thomas 50th
Wedding Anniversary
DeAnn Hanson
Donna Wishowski
Dorothy Rossow's Birthday
Dr. Robert Libbey's Birthday
Ed Anderson
Edgar & Lois Hulberg
Ellen Killian
Evin See
Frederick Geske's Birthday
Humanity
Isaac Davis's Birthday
Jean and Clint Helland's 50th
Wedding Anniversary
Jesus Christ
Jill Joles
Jim and Connie Beck's Wedding
Anniversary
JoAnn Mellema
Joann Spooner

Joanne Spooner Birthday
Judy and Mike Reetz' 50th Wedding
Anniversary (2)
Justin Hertz and Maranda Mahrs
Wedding Anniversary
Kathy Warren's Birthday
Larry Everson
Laura Ruth Donall's Birthday
Lyle & Kathy G
Marge Behlen
Mark Serier
My wife's recovery of a stroke
Our 50th Wedding Anniversary (2)
Pat McNally
Penny Kolloff
Rev. Betsy Libbey's birthday
Robert L. Stevenson
Susie Haugley
Terry Steward
The Vassallos and Zinks Families
Vicky Suby
Yvonne Dedrickson's Birthday



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

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**HELP FIGHT LOCAL
HUNGER FROM HOME.**



EMPTY BOWLS WEEK

MARCH 1 - 5, 2021

Support the Empty Bowls fundraiser to help those in need of food in west central Wisconsin.

STEPS TO HUNGER ACTION:

Choose either a locally created handcrafted bowl or select the special commemorative bowl.

Receive your Empty Bowls gift bag with your bowl selection, coupons to support past food vendors, signature soup recipes & more!

Browse our virtual silent auction featuring local artists and businesses.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tickets go on sale

February 2021.

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Become a sponsor today at give.fmpfoodbank.org/EBsponsors