



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

WINTER 2022

HUNGER HERALD

Working to End Hunger in West Central Wisconsin



Volunteers at a Pop-Up distribution in Humbird this October worked quickly to serve 107 families in line for food.

The Higher Cost of Living Means More Families in Our Lines

Inflation is affecting the ability to get basic needs met.

"I have had to stay home much more and keep my heat very low," shared Holly at a recent Pop-Up food distribution event in Eau Claire. "I try to drive less and cannot afford any new things for me like coats and shoes so my kids can have what they need. Because of the extra groceries (from this

Pop-Up), I have been able to continue to cook good meals for my family and can cover higher costs for gas and electricity with a lower food bill."

Holly is part of a family of four, and like many of us, she puts herself last to ensure her kids will continue

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Voices From Our Guests

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We scrimp on groceries as much as we can. We look for extra jobs, keep the heat low. Sometimes we ask family for help. We've cut any extra expenses.

My kids are small, so I hope they haven't seen huge impact. We try to hide it. Food (from FMP) makes the difference between being able to buy diapers and afford gas.

— JACQUELINE, FAMILY OF 4

I'm retired and living on Social Security. It's not enough. I had to give up travel, entertainment, and having family gatherings. The Pop-Up is a blessing.

— SUZANNE, FAMILY OF 1

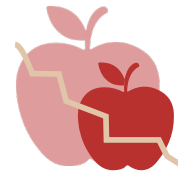
I have to take an extra shift at work, which means less time with my kids.

It's been harder to get what they need. My husband and I will skip meals so the kids get what they need nutritionally. Food (from the Pop-Up) helps a lot. We are eternally grateful for the help.

— ADRIENNE, FAMILY OF 5



Families receiving food at our Pop-Up grocery events have more than doubled this year.



Food supply chain challenges mean less donated food, which increases costs overall.

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to get what they need. We know that when parents are struggling, kids are struggling, and that's just not acceptable. Imagine how hard it is this time of year not to be able to gather with loved ones and celebrate over a meal because prices are too high at the grocery store.

With soaring food and transportation costs, Feed My People (FMP) is seeing longer lines at our Pop-Up grocery distribution events, and many of our hunger relief partners are also reporting similar increases. Simply put, we're serving more families compared to a year ago, many for the first time.

This includes an increase in kids struggling and more teachers reaching out to FMP asking to implement onsite pantries at their schools to help their families.

This increased need comes at a time of rising costs and supply chain

issues being felt across industries causing a significant decrease in food donations. Even with these challenges, we are working hard every day to keep sourcing and purchasing nutritious food items despite the higher cost to meet the need in our community.

We need your donations now more than ever. It takes a community to ensure every child has the healthy food they need to grow and succeed. Together, we can give the gift of food this holiday season and beyond to our neighbors in need. Help bring meals back to the table for local families when you give to Feed My People.

Thank you being part of our community of supporters. Your donation today is helping feed healthier futures tomorrow.
give.fmpfoodbank.org/donate

A Note From the Director

With inflation affecting us all, I have great respect for parents, including those quoted in this newsletter, who are going to great lengths to ensure their children have what they need. They inspire us at FMP to continue and expand on the work we do together. With more and more schools reaching out for help, it is a top priority in 2023 to support families in every school in our service area. This task is daunting, but, with your support, we will provide the helping hand they need. After 40 years of addressing food insecurity in west central Wisconsin, we remain committed to making a difference for our neighbors who struggle with hunger.

In gratitude,

Suzanne Becker, Feed My People's Executive Director





Our Volunteers are Everyday Heroes

Volunteers at Feed My People helping to prepare donated corn for distribution to regional food pantries.

Determining our 2022 volunteer and organization of the year recipients is no easy task. Since 2004, FMP's board and staff have selected one organization and a few volunteers to honor. It's difficult to choose - we are privileged to work with many outstanding people and groups who make the work we do together possible. Thank you to all for being generous supporters of the food bank with your time and effort!

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR - WEAU 13 NEWS

WEAU 13 News has been a friend of Feed My People for many years. In addition to regularly reporting FMP's press releases, their reporters also often contact the food bank to keep the public informed about pressing issues like childhood hunger and current events affecting operations. Its Hello Wisconsin segment has also frequently broadcast live from the food bank to bring real-time coverage to viewers to help tell the story of those in need and resources to help.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - KATHY EHLERS

A regular volunteer since 2015, Kathy has become something of a fixture at the food bank, but you definitely won't find her doing the same task twice! She is always willing to help when we get in a pinch, and she is also up for whatever task we need help with, even deep cleaning the clean room. Since 2021, Kathy has spent over 200 hours packing and sorting food, picking orders, organizing TEFAP orders, cleaning, and helping out at special events like Stamp Out Hunger and Empty Bowls.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - LORRAE FELLEENZ

When the pandemic hit, LorRae began sitting at our front desk a couple of mornings a week to help answer the phone, greet guests, and complete all miscellaneous administrative tasks. She is friendly, reliable, and courteous to all she contacts, including those in need of food. Her positive presence is infectious in the entire office, and she continues to make a difference to so many.



Clockwise from top left: LorRae Fellenz, 2022 Volunteer of the Year; Kathy Ehlers, 2022 Volunteer of the Year; Jeff Ralph and Bob Gallaher representing WEAU 13 News, 2022 Organization of the Year



Come Volunteer With Us

When you volunteer at Feed My People, you are making an immediate difference in your community! Volunteers as young as 12 are welcome. Learn more and sign up at fmpfoodbank.org/get_involved/volunteer.phtml

Upcoming Community Action Night

December 6, 5-7 pm

Visit our website for upcoming dates in the new year.

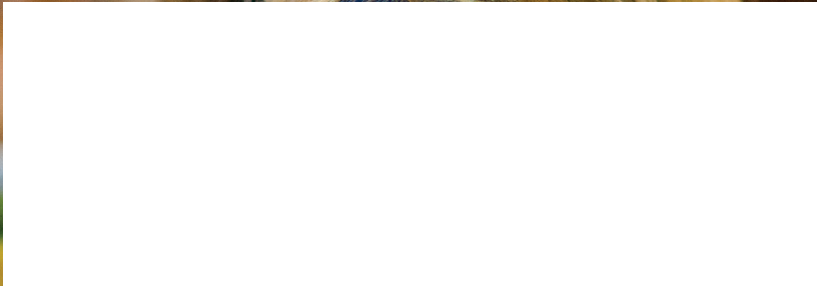


Feed My People

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GIVING TUESDAY

MAKE A GIFT. BE A HUNGER HERO.



Help fill the table of our local neighbors in need by supporting Feed My People this Giving Tuesday.

EVERY \$2 = \$1 MATCHED

THRIVENT IS MATCHING DONATIONS TO FEED MY PEOPLE MADE ON NOVEMBER 29.

Visit thrivent.cotribute.co/events/695886/detail for more info.



Save the Date
Empty Bowls is May 18, 2023
at Feed My People

If you are interested in sponsoring the largest annual fundraiser for hunger relief in west central Wisconsin, visit give.fmpfoodbank.org/ebponsors