

HUNGER HERALD



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

SPRING 2020

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

“Delivering bags of ready-to-eat food to our senior members has been so helpful. In the wintertime when travel is difficult, having that extra food right there can make sure a meal isn’t skipped.”

*Kelly Zimmerman
Nutrition and Transportation
Program Coordinator
Chippewa County ADRC*

Serving Our Elderly Neighbors

Seniors are the fastest growing population in the country

“I can’t remember the last time I’ve had meat or vegetables like this,” said Emma.* She was calling Feed My People (FMP) to make sure we knew just how much it meant to her to have the food she had received the day before at our Pop-Up Food Pantry in rural Fairchild. Emma went on to share that as an elderly woman recovering from a heart attack, she has had very few options. She is living on a limited income and has no transportation. Subsequently, daily life is a struggle and healthy eating nearly impossible. Having access to fresh food right there in her rural community has meant the difference between a bleak outlook and a hopeful future.

For low-income seniors, the problem of food access is a difficult one because it is often a balancing act based on factors outside their control. Like Emma, many

are on a limited income that provides no grace for unexpected or increasing health needs. Coupled with diminished transportation options, especially in a rural area, and sometimes a non-existent support system, these barriers mean seniors in these circumstances may go without the meals they so desperately need. To complicate matters further, the size of the senior population is growing across the nation, and we’re seeing that increase right here in our service area.¹

The number of seniors aged 60 and up that are served by FMP partner programs has risen by 25% over a 5-year time period from 2015 to 2019. It is imperative to expand our programming reach to match this growth, especially in rural and aging pockets such as Fairchild where there is no permanent grocery store.

Continued on page 2.

*Name changed to protect privacy
¹ Feeding America’s Senior Hunger in the United States 2019 Report

Senior hunger (continued)

To better understand senior hunger, we reached out to Chippewa County's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) last spring for help in improving our emergency senior box program. As experts in senior care, they shared that smaller bags of food containing easier to open packaging with delivery more often would better serve the needs of their members. We have received positive response from this change and have used this as a model for other programs. We are also working to partner with meal sites, senior centers and other organizations to make more food available to those who need it.

By listening to voices like Emma's, and by working alongside our valued partners, we are improving food options to our senior neighbors in the wake of this growing need. Support like yours makes this possible. Thank you!



Where is Feed My People Reaching Seniors?

Pantry Partners

Senior-specific FMP partners including the L.E. Phillips Senior Center and the Pepin Food Pantry Meal Site along with other partner pantries share a commitment to finding new ways to serve the increasing number of seniors coming for food.

Meals on Wheels

FMP partners with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in both Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties for

their meal program, Meals on Wheels (MOW). This partnership also provides emergency bags of ready-to-eat food to seniors on MOW routes when inclement weather prevents meal delivery.

Rural Outreach

FMP has increased food distribution in rural communities where seniors have an especially hard time accessing food due to transportation barriers.

Pop-Up Pantries

By targeting high-need neighborhoods FMP is reaching individuals, including seniors, who need food and connection to other resources but may not know how to start or are reluctant to ask for help.

Resident Pantries

Pantries located inside low-income senior housing provide much needed groceries directly to residents unable to get to area food pantries.

1 Feeding America's Senior Hunger in the United States 2019 Report

Note from the Director

Feed My People's strength comes from its partnerships. We share a common goal of strengthening communities through hunger relief with hundreds of organizations in our service area.

Together we learn from each other, encourage each other, and help one another build capacity to do this work better. Many partners shared with us specific new efforts they will make in 2020 to reach more people or improve sustainability for those they have in place. I find this especially encouraging and energizing.

Stepping Stones, a program in Dunn County that offers food, shelter and support, is developing its rural outreach efforts. I recently spoke with Kris Pawlowski,

the director of the food pantry. I am impressed with the work Stepping Stones is doing to lift barriers for those experiencing food insecurity in rural parts of Dunn County. They have developed ways to distribute food closer to where people are in Colfax, Sand Creek, Ridgeland and Downsville. Kris is pleased with the broader impact they now have. Our respect goes both ways as she credits Feed My People with providing ideas and inspiration, as well as where she gets problem-solving support and practical help in getting new programs off and running.

I'm equally impressed with the recent efforts of our partners in Sawyer County. When a large food pantry in Hayward closed, existing and potential new food pantry programs worked together with us to figure out how to share responsibilities for picking up retail store food donations and for replacing some of the hours the

former pantry had offered. The whole community will benefit because of their stellar commitment, dedication and collaborative spirit.

It is a pleasure to work with so many toward a common goal. I am glad that YOU are part of it, too!

With gratitude,

Emily Moore

Emily Moore
Feed My People's
Executive Director



Community Perspective

Volunteer Truck Driver Wayne Abley shares some thoughts from his travels.

I have friends who go to meetings, give their opinions, talk at open forums, or are a part of boards or various committees, but I tell them that's not my thing. I'm not comfortable doing that. Give me a Feed My People truck and a route to drive; I'm fine with that! When I began driving, I started to write my time in a notebook just for the fun of it to see how many miles I'd driven. One line was used for each trip. I've since filled 14 pages of that notebook. At last count I've driven over 29,000 miles.

I have told a lot of people that I enjoy driving because I'm getting out on roads I'd never otherwise drive and going to towns I'd otherwise not visit. Why would I go to Winter? Or Park Falls, Phillips, or Catawba? In fact, I didn't even know there was a Catawba, let alone know where it was before I started driving there!

Then there are the Pop-Up Food Pantries. Tami is the exuberant person behind some of those, and I've been to a few. Once in Fairchild we set up tables outside of the community center. I heard more than one staff member say that Fairchild was a "food desert". Unless being satisfied with just going to the convenience part of the gas station, one would have to drive to Neillsville, Augusta, or Osseo to get groceries. Some of the people didn't drive, or it was hard for them to get around, so this was great for them in their hometown to get vegetables. We also helped carry boxes of groceries to their rides or cars if they needed help. This one man who I was carrying his box to the vehicle, turned to me and said, "You guys are alright!"

Another time, Tami and I set up off Runway Avenue in Eau Claire. This little girl, maybe ten years old, came by on her bike. Tami talked with her, and I think she came from the trailer houses nearby. She was invited to sack up some veggies. She hooked them over the handlebars on her bike and was excited to take them. I could tell she was proud to help her family by bringing them home. She was so happy to be getting this food so she could help feed her family.

Overall, I've enjoyed the miles. I've gotten a lot out of it as well. There are friendly faces, good conversations, and helping hands. Hopefully, you'll see me around here for a while yet, in some capacity or the other.

"She was invited to sack up some veggies. She hooked them over the handlebars on her bike and was excited to take them. I could tell she was proud to help her family by bringing them home."

Wayne Abley
Feed My People Volunteer Truck
Driver since April 2014



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* Newly elected

Nordson Pop-Up Grant Thank You

Feed My People's Pop-Up Pantry program is possible in part through a grant from Nordson Corporation Foundation. We are grateful for their partnership in reaching more of our neighbors facing food insecurity.



Crisis Outreach

There is no time to waste

Field Services Specialist, Tami Syverson, is pictured here in January distributing groceries to residents in Maples Trailer Park in Eau Claire where many homes are condemned or in disrepair.

“Two young children came to the Child Advocacy Center due to allegations of abuse. Based on the information disclosed during the forensic interview, it was determined that these children would be going to stay with a different family member. With little warning, this family member had no time to prepare for the arrival of the two young children. Because of the food closet that was set up at the Child Advocacy Center, our staff was able to provide this family member with enough food for the next few days to give them time to adjust. We were thrilled to be able to help a family in need,” shared Stacy Boos, a CAC intern at Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center.

Crisis comes in many forms. Since starting with a jail re-entry program in Eau Claire County, Feed My People (FMP) has developed crisis outreach programming with a variety of other organizations including the Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy. While providing food to low income families has always been our mission, making sure our resources can also reach those in crisis has received increased focus.

Families and individuals who find themselves unexpectedly in a crisis are often those who have never used traditional hunger relief resources such as food pantries. Our goal in partnering with organizations in the community who work directly with people in these situations is to remove the barrier of hunger so other pressing challenges can be addressed.

When working with a potential new partner, we ask if they are offering information on food pantries, meal sites and FoodShare. Then we ask, “If so, why would a program here be a benefit?” Over and over we hear that when someone is experiencing crisis, hunger can be a part, homelessness can be a part, violence can be a part. By being able to provide food on the spot to someone in crisis, it may give people the strength to face the crisis in their life. It may be the thing that sees them through.

*Name changed to protect privacy



“By being able to provide food on the spot to someone in crisis, it may give people the strength to face the crisis in their life. It may be the thing that sees them through.”

crisis [krah-y-sis]

noun, plural cri • ses

a dramatic emotional or circumstantial upheaval in a person’s life



FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The *Child Advocacy Center* is a safe place for children who may have been abused. The staff is able to provide emergency groceries so that during this difficult time the parent or guardian has one less thing to worry about because the child is provided for. FMP stocks a food shelf at *The Department of Human Services (DHS)* in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties as part of a joint effort to help families provide stability and reduce the chance of children being removed from the home.



DISASTER

Sudden emergencies can affect anyone. FMP supported a meal for those affected by the Wheaton tornado last fall and has a Safety and Preparedness plan to respond to future events.



SEEKING EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The *Public Health Department* provides connection to emergency resources such as WIC, housing assistance, or energy assistance. FMP supplies food bags there so they can address an imminent crisis or the crises of daily life for low income seniors and families.



JAIL

The *Eau Claire Jail Re-Entry program* provides food from FMP and info about resources such as FoodShare application assistance for someone being released who has nowhere to go.



HOUSING EMERGENCIES

To support those living in difficult conditions, often without transportation, FMP has introduced a new meal bag program at the *Maples Trailer Park* in Eau Claire. FMP also works with the *Chippewa Valley Street Ministry* and local shelters to improve food that is most useable for those facing homelessness.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Lauren* is a single mother to two teenagers and a pre-teen. Recently, she was placed in the Eau Claire county jail. While she was away her mother thankfully took in the kids, but it drained all her financial resources as she struggled to care for the growing children on a very limited income. Lauren also lost her job during her stay in jail, and upon release at 5:00 a.m. on a cold morning, she was without a safety net. Her mom was at her limit. Lauren had no car and no job. With no way to even access a

food pantry at that time of day on the other side of town, she turned to a start-up program recently launched at the Eau Claire County Jail for help. When Lauren received a 30 lb. box of food through Feed My People’s partnership with the jail’s re-entry program, she said, “You have no idea how much this is going to help us. This is amazing.”

- JAIL RE-ENTRY PROGRAM, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

A FoodShare participant came to the agency to request an emergency card because she had lost her first card and was in desperate need of food. Homeless and with transportation barriers, it was difficult for her to visit other food resources in the area. When a bag of food from Feed My People was provided on the spot, she started to eat the snacks and stated she hadn’t eaten much in the last couple of days. She was very grateful as that immediate help is what she truly needed.

- DHS, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY



Volunteers are Taking a Stand Against Hunger

Learn how you can take a stand too

After moving into our new space, we saw a 20% increase in volunteers in November and December of 2019 compared to that same time period in 2018! That's awesome not just because we love our volunteers, but because we simply cannot get food ready for distribution all over west central Wisconsin without them. If you haven't volunteered before, we highly encourage you to give us a try and stop by for a behind-the-scenes tour. We have all kinds of opportunities including sorting produce, repacking dry goods, picking orders, driving box trucks, and so much more. In fact, Empty Bowls is coming up, our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need a whole crew for that day to be a success. Interested? Give us a call!

Interested in volunteering at the food bank? Nick can get you started!

nick@fmpfoodbank.org | 715-835-9415 x 101

Memorials & Honorariums Given Between November 1 - December 31, 2019

Memorials

Alex and Josephine Gabrys
 Alfred Geiss
 Arnold & Nina Kressin
 Art & Millie Szotkowski
 Barb Lilly
 Becky Zimmerman
 Betty Buchman
 Bill Benson
 Bill Grutzmacher
 Bud Brommer
 C. Dale Harrison
 Carol Cutsforth (2)
 Carol Mitchell
 Carol Sirianni
 Christine Konsella
 Claude & Lorraine Lammers
 Corinne Liegel
 David Beck
 David F Rugotzke
 David Hepfler
 Dennis Satten
 Don Teasdale
 Doris Case (2)
 Dr. John J. Flynn
 Ellen Fredel
 Eric Gardow
 Family and Friends
 Frank and Elaine Kneer
 Garrett Baumgardner

Gerald Krause
 Geraldine Kramer
 Glen & Cloe Woodcock
 Glenn Niemuth (3)
 Hazel Fisher
 Helen Kanikula
 Helen Meister
 Jack Emanuel (2)
 James and Helen
 LaChappelle
 Jane and Gordon Roholt
 Janice Ginzl (3)
 Jeanne M. Farmer (4)
 Jim Sutherland
 Jodi R. Nelson
 John and Mary Grabowski
 John and Patricia Murley
 John Buchholz
 John Devine
 John Lindrud (5)
 Judy Kaatz
 Julie Anderl
 Kathy Pahl (2)
 Kevin Cuddeback
 Larry Pearson (2)
 Lee Helwig
 Marie Adams
 Mark B. Atkinson
 Marland L. Schmidt

Martha Gilbert
 Martha Michaud
 Martin Hansen
 Mary Markquart
 Mary Thompson
 Matthew deGrood (2)
 Merlin Dodge (2)
 Michael
 Michael Hoyer
 Mom and Sister
 My husband, Eugene
 Henning
 My husband, John Harter
 My husband, Leslie Nelson
 My mom, Inez Muszynski
 My sister, Shirley Miller
 Myra Kamrowski
 Myrna Richmond
 Noble & John Lokken
 Oric P. Hoffmann
 Orville Mikelson
 Our parents
 Our son, Scott Nuttelman
 Pastor Ray Bell
 Paul Tschan
 Philip Machmeier
 Richard H Peterson
 Roger Kressin
 Roger Priem

Ruth Michalak
 S.R. Jones
 Shirley K Stewart
 Shirley Olson
 Spencer Fjelstad
 Stephen Perkiser (2)
 Steve Dennis
 Steven Larson
 Sylvia Ann Arneson
 Terri, Diane, and Joanne
 Hanson
 The parents of Carol and
 Gary Mooney
 Theresa Brantner
 Thomas Jentlie (2)
 Tim Anderson
 Tim O'Connell
 Tom Carlson
 Tony Giammona
 Troy Bagniefski
 Wayne, Leo, Gloria, and Julia
 Wesley Berg (2)

Thank You Local Thrivent Members make a difference

Over the past ten years designations from Thrivent Members to Feed My People have provided enough groceries for over 113,000 meals to those struggling with hunger in west central Wisconsin. Your Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Team grants have helped put food on the table for our neighbors in need and brought them hope for a better tomorrow.

If you are a member, don't forget to designate your annual Thrivent Choice Dollars before March 31st, 2020 to a cause you feel strongly about. If you need help coming up with ideas for your Thrivent Action Team, call the non-profit you would like to volunteer at and they can help you form a plan.



Faithful Friends Feeding neighbors a month at a time

Our Faithful Friends are an important part of ensuring that each day Feed My People is here for our community members. These donors commit to giving every month of the year and pledge their support to making food available for those trying to make ends meet.

When you become a Faithful Friend with your ongoing monthly contribution, you form a powerful foundation of support Feed My People can count on each month. Your gift adds up to form a huge impact over time and it's easy to do.

Join today by going to our website and choosing to give monthly, or by setting up a monthly donation through your bank account.

Please contact Amanda at 715-835-9415 x 103 or amanda@fmpfoodbank with any questions.

Honorariums

Ann German
Ann Raid
Barb and Don Dukerschein's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Bernard & Catherine Stackhouse
Beskar Partners
Bill and Lori Mannel
Brian and Rita Henry
Cedar River Potato Company
Christy and Dan Adkinson
Chuck and Linda Morreale
Church and Sally Gavin
David, Lynn and Samuel Nelson
Deborah Burns
Denmark Dairy
Dennie Konkel
Diurys & Jason Murphy
Emily, Gregg, Brian & Sweetie (2)
Emmert and Sons
Francis and Violet Eiseth's 72nd Wedding Anniversary
Fred and Alice Kersten
Fred and Kathy Kohout
Frederick Geske
Giving Tuesday
Gwenn Nyhagen
Henry Thomas
Jack and Vivian Vaudreuil
James, Stephanie, Erin, Benjamin

& Caitlin Gerdes
Janice Buvala (2)
Janna Radtke
Jerry Rottier
Jim and Kathy Syrstad
Jimmy and Rebeca Daley
Joel Stayer
John and Allison Dinning
John and Diane Josephakis
Kathy Rowekamp
Kevin Patrow
Kris Moldenhauer
Kurt Jacobson
Ky Anderson
Larry Everson
Larry Lemier
Luna's retirement
Margaret Baumgardner
Mark and Mary Robarge
Mark and Suzanne Becker (2)
Mark Goldenberg and Lacey Searfoss
Marshfield Clinic Eau Claire Anti Coagulation Dept
Marshfield Medical Center - Eau Claire Center Operating Room Team
Marty Boutiette
Michael Newman and Family
Michael, Kathy, Kelsie & Kevin Nelson
Mike and Elise Piraino
Mike and Jennifer Vildibill
Mike on his birthday
Mike Prochnow

Mitch and Barb Piper (2)
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Brettingen
Mr. Mark Mosey
My nephew Christopher Wood
My son
Nancy and Charlie Walter
Neoma Dole's 104th Birthday
Nuto Farm Supply
Our 3 grandchildren
Our daughters (2)
Our grandchildren
Our grandkids, Liam and Lauren
Oss
Our loved ones
Pankaj and Swati Goyal
Pappy Ray
Pastor Rick and Nancy Biedermann
Paul and Lindsey Hiemstra
Peter Kofman and Chole Kofman
Prochnow Farms
Robert Brendsel
Robert Stevenson
Roger and Joan Thielen
Shelley Fredson
Stathis and Amanda
Papaefstathiou
Steve and Lori Scott
Team Elmer
The Kuehls
The 100th birthday of Ruth Blom (2)
The Gerald Brost Children
The Henrys

The Jones
The Lambs
The Lowry Family
The marriage of Steve Halloran and Theresa Hunt
The Metzgers
The Mullen-Kuehls
The Peters Family
The Program Angels - beautiful women of God
The Public Health and Human Services Fiscal Team of Chippewa Falls
The Raves
The Smiths
The Wiswells
Tom S. and Steve S.
Vicky Suby
Wade Duroe
Wayne and Kathryn Erickson



Feed My People
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EMPTY BOWLS

Thursday, March 5, 2020
11 AM - 7 PM

- Enjoy tasty soup, breads & desserts
- Silent Auction
- Raffle Prizes
- Browse 100s of handcrafted bowls and take your favorite home

www.fmpfoodbank.org
Tickets available online, at the door,
or call 715-835-9415

The Florian Gardens
2340 Lorch Ave, Eau Claire



JOIN US FOR A
Feed My People

OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 4:30 - 6:30 PM
2610 ALPINE ROAD, EAU CLAIRE

TAKE A TOUR. ENJOY REFRESHMENTS.

CVASING CONCERT

Benefit for Feed My People
Sunday March 1 • 2PM & 7PM
Trinity Lutheran Church Eau Claire

