

In This Issue >>>

Quarterly Update – p. 1

Wish List – p.1

Volunteer Spotlight – p. 2

Staff Story – p. 2

Quarterly Calendar – p.3

GVFB 101 – p.4

Program Highlight – p.4



JULY
2018

GVFB NEWS

Local support for local families

Summer 2018>>>

This Quarter's Wish List

High-Priority Foods

- Canned Tomatoes
- Cold Cereal
- Tuna
- Juice
- Gluten Free Foods

Non-Food Needs

- Sharpies
- A Weed Eater
- Packing Tape
- Paper Towels
- Disposable Nitrile Gloves
- Gallon-sized Freezer Bags
- Top Soil
- Bricks for the Garden

FOOD ASSISTANCE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm & Tuesday

Evenings, 5:00-7:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS & DONATIONS:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm & Tuesdays
until 7:00 pm

What's New and Exciting?

Once upon a time there were quiet times at the GVFB. That is no longer the case. One season spills into the next. This spring was marked with three successful food drives: Carve Out Hunger at Bridger Bowl, Spring for Food, and the Postal Drive. Together those food drives brought in 28,518 pounds of food and \$4,461!

The spring is also a busy time for grant writing and setting budgets for the next fiscal year. With our fiscal year ending June 30th, we continue to be 98% funded by local donations. The generosity of our community never ceases to amaze us and proves that every donation, large or small can increase food security in our community.

In the New Year, we took time to reflect on our strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities. As our community continues to grow so do those in need. We have long past the capacity of this warehouse and store and so will be looking at a transition in the future. In our reflection we also deemed a shift in staffing responsibilities necessary to add greater coverage for the store and added leadership to share in the responsibilities of running the food bank. Jill Holder is now our Food and Nutrition Director, Jon Horn our new Operations Manager, and Laura Stonecipher has new responsibilities as

Program Manager. This team has worked together for seven years. Their shared knowledge of the Food Bank's customers, volunteers, and systems makes for a stable transition and ability to move ahead quickly and efficiently. In addition to serving over 3,000 people a month we continue to work on creative solutions to respond to needs in our community. The KidsPack Program has been an instrumental program for our area, but still one in five area youth experience food insecurity. Efforts are being made to pilot food pantries in the middle schools in an effort to meet the need. Additionally, Mattie Griswold, our new VISTA for the Story Mill Learning Garden, (learn more pg. 4) has been busy working with the four apprentices we will engage over the summer. We look forward to a bountiful summer!

Volunteer Spotlight >>>

This Quarter's All-Star Volunteer: Donna West

Known as the mother of the food bank, Donna West embodies the spirit of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. She began volunteering May 25, 1995 and hasn't slowed down yet!



For the past 23 years she has contributed in a multitude of ways. She is a leader among the volunteers, she serves as store stocker, warehouse receiver, and Advisory Council Member. The job she loves the most is working directly with GVFB customers.

Three days a week, four to six hours at a time, she listens to the hardships and the victories of the people who walk in our doors. She is a warrior of the people, fighting for services and social justice nearly every day.

She has found medical care for peoples' pets, provided a ride to a doctor's appointment, delivered food to conceal a much-needed check-in, and been a sounding board for veterans of war or women experiencing postpartum depression. The list goes on and on. In each one of these situations, she has transformed a human life, letting them know that someone truly cares. We are forever grateful for Donna!



Master of All Things

Donna has also been a staple at our annual Huffing For Stuffing fun run. For the last 11 years, starting at 5:00 am she has helped keep us safe by directing traffic every Thanksgiving morning for our HFS participants.



If you haven't been to Higher Ground lately, stop and enjoy some refreshing coffee and tea creations. In addition, Higher Ground will have a booth at the Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market on Saturdays beginning on June 16 from 9:00 am - Noon.

Food Fact:

Did you know we accept donations of fresh produce year around? So, if you find yourself with an abundance of produce in your garden, and you don't know what to do with it, bring it on down!



Staff Corner >>>

Welcome Kyla Crisp, our new Food Rescue Coordinator

We mentioned some of the staff changes earlier but in case you forgot, Jill Holder, who was our longtime Operations Manager stepped into the Director role this past winter and filling her shoes is our former Food Rescue Coordinator, Jon Horn. Replacing Jon was no easy task but luckily Kyla Crisp came into our world. Kyla became our new Food Rescue Coordinator in May. Her responsibilities include picking up donated food from businesses in Bozeman, coordinating volunteer drivers and helping out around the food bank warehouse. The majority of her free time is spent playing ultimate Frisbee!

She also plays volleyball, spike ball, and enjoys hiking and camping.

Her experience includes working in the agriculture labs at MSU, conducting soil samples, blow-drying bumblebees, and performing ELISA tests. She holds a BA in Ecology and minor in Climate Change Studies from the University of Montana. (While she is a former Grizzly, she has promised to keep this to herself during Can the Griz!)



Quarterly Calendar of Events for GVFB

This Quarter, we have a lot of exciting events, and programs. We hope everyone enjoys their summer! If you want any further information on a specific event or program, feel free to email or call the food bank during operational hours.

	Date	Event	What is it?
July	Tuesday, July 3 rd	Four months until Can the Griz!	Can you believe it?! Start scheming! Those Grizzlies have become competitive. Ok, maybe we have too!
	Wednesday, July 4 th	Closed for Independence Day	The Food Bank and Summer Lunch program will close for the day. We will be open our regular hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
	Thursday, July 5 th	Belgrade Farmer's Market	Stop by our booth and learn more about our programs and services.
	Saturday, July 14 th	Cowboyz and Carz Show	Come out to the beautiful Sacajawea Hotel in Three Forks during Rodeo Weekend. The Cowboyz and Carz Show will benefit the Headwaters Area Food Bank.
	Saturday, July 28 th	Pancake Breakfast during the PBR Rodeo	How about some tasty pancakes to benefit the Big Sky Community Food Bank? Stop by from 8:00 to 11:00 am at the Fire Pit Park in the Town Center.
August	Wednesday, August 1 st	Launch of the KidsPack Matching Funds Drive	The Community Co-op has generously donated \$7,355 as a match for KidsPack. Please help us reach our Match dollars by making a donation through our website. Thank you for your partnership with Farm to Food Bank, the Fork and Spoon and now KidsPack!
	Thursday, August 9 th	Belgrade Farmers Market	Stop by our booth and learn more about our programs and services. Head Start will join us to enroll kids in their Belgrade program.
	Monday, August 20 th	Last Week of Summer Lunch	Do you know that at its peak, the Summer Lunch program served around 700 breakfasts and lunches to youth in Bozeman, Belgrade and Three Forks per day?!
	Thursday, August 30 th	Belgrade Farmers Market	Stop by our booth and learn more about our programs and services.
September	Monday, September 3 rd	Closed for Labor Day, and yes, only 2 months until Can the Griz!	The Food Bank and our Belgrade Mobile service will close for the day. We will be open our regular hours Tuesday.
	Mid-September	The KidsPack Program begins	This year is the first year we do not have large grant support for KidsPack. We need help! You can run a food drive of kid friendly items, help with a cash donation, or tell a friend about our needs. We also will be assisting with the launch of food pantries in our Middle Schools.
	Thursday, TBA	Volunteer Recognition Event	Every year, the Gallatin Valley Food Bank hosts a gathering for the best volunteers in the state. In our last fiscal year, volunteers donated 18,516 hours to the food bank. We can't wait to celebrate these awesome folks! Time and location TBA.
	TBA	Apple Harvest	Tricky business trying to predict when apples are ready to pick. We will be gathering land owners names who need help picking and volunteers who are willing to pick! Give us a call if you want to donate your apples or would like to volunteer!

GVFB 101

Here you can find information on who we help, what programs we offer, and how to get in touch with us.

How many programs does GVFB have?	We're more than a food bank. We're a supporter of the community. We have a number of programs, projects, and services associated with us. Some are focused on specific vulnerable populations like Senior Groceries, KidsPack and Summer Lunch. In each coming newsletter, we will highlight one in more detail. This issue we are featuring our partnership and involvement with the future Learning Garden and our transition to the Story Mill Park.
How can I help the GVFB?	You can volunteer, donate food, donate money, host a food drive, grow a row in your garden, make your next birthday party an event that benefits the Food Bank, or have a Zucchini carving contest (we mostly jest).
What if I can't volunteer or donate? Can I still help?	Absolutely! The Food Bank doesn't just need donations and volunteers. It also needs advocates! If you can't volunteer or donate, encourage others to do so. Talk about Food Bank programs and events. We appreciate support in all of its forms from our community.

Project Highlight >>>

Story Mill Learning Garden

In 2017, GVFB piloted a Learning Garden Program with a VISTA and Big Sky Youth Empowerment. This was to serve as a model for the development of the Story Mill Learning Garden. The Story Mill Learning Garden is going to be a community gathering space and educational hub in Bozeman's largest city park. The mission is to cultivate an environment of community-driven education, agricultural stewardship, environmental awareness, and food sovereignty. Our vision is to create a healthier, more resilient, food-secure community in which all of the members are empowered and have the means to nourish themselves.

Currently, Mattie Griswold is serving as our VISTA for 2018. She is paired with a Student Counselor from MSU's Human Development Clinic, together they are engaging 4 youth, 12 hours a week, learning about best planting practices, sustainability, nutrition, and even volunteering with Summer Lunch. Next summer, we will add an Intern from MSU's Sustainable Food Program to help manage our gardens as well as the newly created Story Mill Learning Garden. If you want to get your hands dirty and make a difference contact, Bri or Mattie.



2017 Ground Breaking Ceremony for Story Mill Learning Garden at Story Mill Park.



Contact us!

Phone: 406-586-7600
Email: info@gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org
Mail: P.O. Box 1129 Bozeman, MT 59771
Location: 602 Bond St., Bozeman, MT 59715
Website: gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org