



**FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS  
OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, HRDC**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2014- JUNE 30, 2015**



**Letter from Director:**

*My name is Marjorie Hennessy and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new food and nutrition director with the HRDC. I am humbled and delighted by the privilege of joining this hard working team. Together, with 17 staff members, we strive to fulfill our mission of improving food security throughout the Gallatin Valley and southwestern Montana.*

*This is achieved through services at four facilities; The Gallatin Valley, Big Sky Community and Headwaters Area Food Banks, and the Community Café. Our food banks provide a five day supply of emergency food to anyone who requests it. Our Café is the first Pay What You Can restaurant in Montana, allowing anyone to dine regardless of their budget. We also administer the Healthy KidsPack and Summer Lunch programs, delivering year round meals to children. Senior Groceries reaches 355 seniors once a month who are 130% of poverty in Gallatin, Park and Madison counties.*

*I joined the team midway through the year. It quickly became apparent to me that all of the Food Banks', the Café and the other nutrition programs have a strong history of success steeped in community. This is in large part due to the generosity and support of our community and partners. Thanks to the many donors throughout our communities, we are able to do profoundly good work. We also have talented and dedicated volunteers donating time and expertise to our staff and serving us on Advisory Councils.*

*In addition to this support, we realize we need to become as sustainable as possible in the long term. That's why we spent time this year developing and introducing new programming and social enterprises. This past year marked the beginning of a culinary arts program and a catering service at the Community Café. The culinary arts program is a workforce development initiative that empowers individuals suffering from chronic unemployment or underemployment, provides them with new skills and connects them with employers. We also utilized interns to complete a new client study and to encourage the use of highly nutritional and affordable foods through sampling and recipes.*

*With so many exciting things happening and ongoing community support, it is important to remember that our work is not done. As you will see in our report, we are still experiencing high numbers of families living in food insecurity. It is also important to note that 65% of our clients at the Gallatin Valley Food Bank only visit us once per year. No one is immune to threat of food insecurity.*

*Food is a common thread and the basis for community. We hope to continue to advocate and support our community through our work and commitment to improving food security. With that in mind, our doors are always open. If you are interested in learning more, visiting our facilities or pitching in, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you so much for your support and here's to another great year!*

*Sincerely,*

**Marjorie Hennessy**



**OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY THROUGHOUT  
THE GALLATIN VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

*Our Food and Nutrition Programs meet emergency  
food needs but that's just the beginning.*



**We use food as a tool to build health, skills, and community. Bringing people together around nutritious, healthy food is the heart of our work. During the summer and fall months our Food Banks are bursting with produce from local gardens. In the winter and spring we survive on food drive bounty. We feed 1 in 8 residents with your help.**

**Delicious and equally nutritious meals are served 7 nights a week at the Community Cafe, and the newly launched culinary arts program is bringing community members together while learning valuable skills.**

**Our Senior Grocery program provides monthly supplemental foods to area seniors, and our Childhood Nutrition Programs help area children throughout the year with KidsPacks and Summer Meals.**

**THE LAST BEST PLACE is no place for hunger, yet families continue to need our help.**

***But we can do it thanks to you!***

**Meeting the need in the communities we serve is only possible with the help of our volunteers. They are vital to fighting hunger, and are the backbone of our operations.**

**Last year, volunteers contributed 26,749 hours to our Food and Nutrition Programs!**

**Individual volunteer contributions for GVFB were 16,556 hours (includes our Belgrade site).**

**The Community Cafe and KidsPack volunteer contribution was 10,193 hours!**



# HOW WE MEET THE NEED



The Gallatin Valley Food Bank distributed 1,973,899 pounds of food last year, 332,256 pounds of which went to other area non-profits, including the Community Cafe.

An average of 5,502 pounds of food are distributed to households EVERY day!

*All of this took an extraordinary effort from hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff.*

# FOOD RESCUE



We know that tossed food is lost food, which is why we partner with area grocery stores to collect and redistribute food that would otherwise go to waste.

*Last year we rescued  
1,038,155 pounds of food!*

PHOTO: ADRIENNE SCHROEDER

# OUR SERVICES

We offer many programs to help our clients achieve food security;

Through the Gallatin Valley, Big Sky, and Headwaters Area Food Banks, food assistance is provided in the form of emergency food boxes, healthy snack packs for the weekend, nutritionally balanced lunches during the summer months, and supplemental foods to seniors. HRDC added the Community Café to its Nutrition initiative in 2012, offering free meals nightly, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Nutrition is vital for our area's vulnerable senior and child populations.



*Our food banks provided 16,986 total food boxes for our neighbors!*

PHOTO: ADRIENNE SCHROEDER

# OUR FOOD BANKS



During the past thirty-two years, GVFB has grown with the needs of our community and has become a food resource center for Gallatin Valley. Our current facility houses our warehouse, food distribution areas, and commercial kitchen. Gallatin Valley food Bank also acts as the distribution site for area non-profits ordering foods from the USDA or Montana Food Bank Network. Large quantity food donations received are shared with area non-profits and low-income housing sites throughout Southwest Montana.

- Gallatin Valley Food Bank and our Saturday service in Belgrade provided 15,102 food boxes to an average of 1,199 families per month



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The Big Sky and Headwaters Food Banks were established in response to community need. They make it possible to serve outlying areas in the Gallatin Valley.

Our Headwaters branch has been around since 2004, serving folks that live in Three Forks, Willow Creek, Logan and other small communities. HAFB also rescues food from area grocery stores including the Belgrade area.

- Last year, Headwaters Area Food Bank provided 677 food boxes to families.



**Big Sky Community Food Bank was established in late 2012 to meet the needs of area residents during the off season. Since its inception 2702 households and individuals have been served. BSCFB rescues high quality food from all three of Big Sky's grocery stores and received donations from individuals and other organizations, accounting for over 25,000 lbs of food each year. Thanks to a variety of grants and donations, BSCFB also provides crockpots, winter coats and a variety of toiletries to those in need.**

- Big Sky Community Food Bank provided 1,207 food boxes to families last year.**

# INTAKE AND OUTREACH

When people come to the food bank we often find that they need more than just food.

Through the intake process, we provide information regarding services that are commonly needed: emergency shelter (the Warming Center); emergency food and other nutritional programs (the Community Cafe); housing, affordable housing, homeownership education, to name a few; home heating emergencies and heat bill assistance (LIEAP); early childhood care and education (including Head Start); services for seniors (transportation, food, and home care); and many more.



# SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES

Every month volunteers deliver pre-packed groceries to 355 area seniors with the intention of supplementing the household's grocery budget. Senior Groceries are distributed out of all of our food banks.

# THE COMMUNITY CAFE

The Cafe is Montana's only Pay What You Can restaurant, open 365 days a year providing dinner service from 5-7pm each evening. The pay what you can model, allows those who can contribute to pay it forward for others who cannot. The Cafe is also the homebase for our Childhood Nutrition Programs as well as the Culinary Arts Training Program and the NEWLY launched Catering Service.

*The Cafe provided 56,415 meals to 34,939 customers!*

# CHILDHOOD NUTRITION PROGRAMS



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The Healthy KidsPack Program strives to alleviate childhood hunger by providing nutritionally balanced, kid-friendly foods to area elementary students every Friday during the school year.

During the 2014-15 school year the KidsPack Program reached an average of 850 kids each Friday, at 26 different sites, serving areas as far as Boulder, Twin Bridges, and Ennis, MT.

The total number of KidsPack distributed was 21,431!

Summer time can be difficult for families but our Summer Meals Program helps to reduce the stress by providing breakfast at 3 sites, lunch at 6 sites, and supper at 1 site, serving a total of 9,809 meals to children. The Cafe also provided 4,742 evening meals for Whittier School.

# CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM

A part of a larger community work force development initiative, the Cafe is home to a 6 week culinary arts program. Designed as an introduction to the culinary arts, our program covers kitchen skills ranging from ServSafe Certification to Knife Skills to Crème brûlée. We equip aspiring chefs to find food service jobs to support themselves while pursuing advanced culinary education.



# CATERING SERVICES

A newly launched social enterprise at the Community Cafe! Let the Community Cafe cater your next event, at your place or ours!

The Community Cafe has the capacity to host 40 people in it's space and can provide delicious lunches, breads, pastries and more!

Visit [www.cafebozeman.org](http://www.cafebozeman.org) for more details!

PHOTOS: ADRIENNE SCHROEDER





# **THANK YOU!**

**Fight hunger and feed families. With your help we can do both. Your donations of time, food, and funds make our work possible. Thank you for supporting our mission!**

## **MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS:**

- **Eat at the Cafe and pay for someone else's meal**
- **Grow an extra row in your garden**
- **Donate food or funds**
- **Have your event catered by the Cafe**
- **Host a food drive**
- **Volunteer your time**

# STAFF AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

## GVFB Staff

Jill Holder  
Bethel Erickson-Bruce  
Ben Denio  
Jon Horn  
Joyce Conard  
Laura Stonecipher  
Monica Ruiz

## Cafe Staff

Lyra Leigh-Nedbor  
Andrea Steward  
Bri Gorecki  
Dalya Kefi  
Megan Shaver  
McKenzie Ball  
Laci Sanders  
Paul Thomas

## HAFB Staff

Kim Gelder

## BSCFB Staff

Sarah Gaither

Food & Nutrition Director  
Marjorie Hennessy

## Advisory Council Members

### GVFB:

David Baumbauer, Rick Cameron, Judy Mathre, Charlie Christensen, Donna West, Doug Weber, Jodi McDevitt, Justin Varley, Mitch Bradley, Shelle Egbert

### HAFB:

Charlie Christensen, Chuck Wambeke, Connie Hussung, Fred Panion, Gene Townsend, Joyce Zacher, Kathy Bowman

### BSCFB:

Lynne Anderson, LaDawn LeGrande, Candice Brownmiller, Diane Bartzick, Leslie Piercy, Michelle Donaldson, Pam Rempt, Pride Moline, Susan Myers