

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



**FY ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016**

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR:

Hello, and thank you for picking up a copy of our annual report! The 2015-16 year was another fantastic year for our Food and Nutrition programs at the HRDC! It's been a humbling experience for all 8 full time and 10 part time staff as we worked to fulfill our mission of improving food security throughout the Gallatin Valley and southwestern Montana.

One of our proudest achievements was getting our budgets inline and beginning to plan for future needs and projects. Through our partnership with the Montana Food Bank Network, we received grant funding to support our purchase of a new food rescue truck! Our new truck will aid in our capacity to rescue food from our 40 area partners. As area retailers make room for new stock, we pick-up their extra perishable food items. This exciting program diverts over a million pounds of food from area landfills and allows us to increase offerings at all of our food banks and the Community Café.

This year marks a lot of changes, growth and even more reasons to celebrate. We've continued to develop the Higher Ground Coffee Hut, a social enterprise that marks a collaborative effort with the Youth Workforce Development Program at the HRDC. This partnership builds off of the culinary arts program. We've completed four offerings of the program and are redesigning components of the program to expand it and build in flexibility. We hope this will make it appealing to the community as a whole, increase our ability to serve the community, and reflect the needs of the local restaurants and cafes that serve as a stakeholder group. I hope you are noticing a pattern of collaboration and community spirit! Our programs owe their success and innovation to the outpouring of support we get from the communities we serve. This past September we launched the Café's Un-Gala event. It was a virtual fundraiser to help the Café overcome some hurdles, and solidify its place in the community. The result was one of the largest fundraising campaigns for the Café. In addition to these financial gifts, the Café, Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Big Sky Community Food Bank and Headwaters Area Food Banks continue to benefit from the army of talented and dedicated volunteers that give tirelessly to our efforts on a daily basis. They show up for us every day to stock shelves, pack kids packs, chop veggies, fix doors, serve on advisory councils, install sinks and deliver food boxes and meals.

Thanks to the community wide support we receive, in all of its forms, we are able to do profoundly good work. However, it is important to remember that our work is never done. As you will see later in this report, we continue to experience high numbers of families living with food insecurity and each community has its own unique needs and opportunities. The Headwaters Food Bank is in the process of securing a new building as they have long outgrown their space. Big Sky sees a younger population that struggles to make ends meet due to seasonal work and limited cooking facilities. They are addressing that need, in part, by sharing crock pots and utilizing local schools to feed children. At the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, we look to create sustainability and to develop healthy paths for our clients to choose. Our new partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Story Mill Community Teaching Garden is an exciting new step and example of these efforts. We will continue to advocate and support our community through our work, partnerships and commitment to improving food security. If you are interested in learning more, visiting our facilities or pitching in, please don't hesitate to contact us – our doors are always open. Our team is looking forward to another great year working in the community and with you all.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Hennessy

THE HISTORY OF OUR PROGRAMS



In 1980, Mary Martin was tasked with developing food banks across Montana. Maggie Price and Julie Heinz followed Mary as HRDC employees. Julie Heinz was the first director of The Gallatin Valley Emergency Food Bank, which operated out of a small house donated by the City of Bozeman on Mendenhall and Third Streets. This location also housed the food stamp office. The work continued and in 1983, Mary Martin took the lead in bringing the state-wide need for affordable, nutritious food to the attention of the Montana legislature, ultimately securing a \$15,000 direct appropriation to provide training and assistance to food banks across the state. Mary Martin continued this work and helped almost fifty Montana communities launch successful food banks. Missoula's food bank was launched at that time as a collaborative effort with Bozeman's HRDC. Later the GVFB moved to a 1950 square foot location on location on Wallace Street – then ultimately to its current location on Bond Street off of North Rouse.

**IN MEMORY OF MEMORY MARY MARTIN
JULY 7, 1956-OCTOBER 17, 2016**



While our core work is food distribution, our efforts extend far beyond that.

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 and supplemental foods to seniors, known as Senior Groceries. HRDC added the Community Café to its Nutrition initiative in 2012, offering free meals nightly, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. In some cases the Cafe provides folks their only meal of the day. The Cafe is home to our Childhood Nutrition Programs, which provide vital nutrition to area children and also hosts the Culinary Arts Program which helps aspiring chefs begin their education. We also work with local stores to rescue food that would otherwise be thrown away. Meeting the in the communities we serve is only possible is only possible with the help of our **Volunteers!**

Whether it is repacking food for our food banks, serving meals at the Cafe, delivering monthly groceries to seniors, stocking our shelves, helping with our gardens, or driving our food rescue routes; volunteers are vital to our operation and mission.

34,656 hours were contributed to our Food and Nutrition Programs!





The Gallatin Valley Food Bank was the first food bank, opening its doors in January 1982, and over the past thirty-four years has grown to meet the changing needs of the community. Last year we provided **14,950** emergency food boxes to people in need and served an average of **3,104** persons a month through our Bozeman location alone. This number doesn't include all the people who visit our bread and produce room daily or the outreach that we provide through our partners in our community (BYEP, Haven, Salvation Army and it goes on and on).

We distribute nearly **3 tons** of food each day to individuals. Throughout its history the original vision, of putting healthy food into the hands of neighbors has carried through and helped shape the organization and its culture and treatment of people in need. The last decade in GVFB's development has been witness to the creation of numerous programs and services that reach out into the community to address food insecurity. The Food Bank provides immediate relief to households facing food shortages and has become a major food distribution center for the Gallatin Valley and much of Southwest Montana.

As we look ahead our goals include utilizing local foods, such as our partnership with Hunters against Hunger and with our local farmers. We are continually trying to improve the quality and variety that our food bank offers. In the near future look for our involvement in the Story Mill Teaching Garden and our continued focus on young people who struggle with poverty.

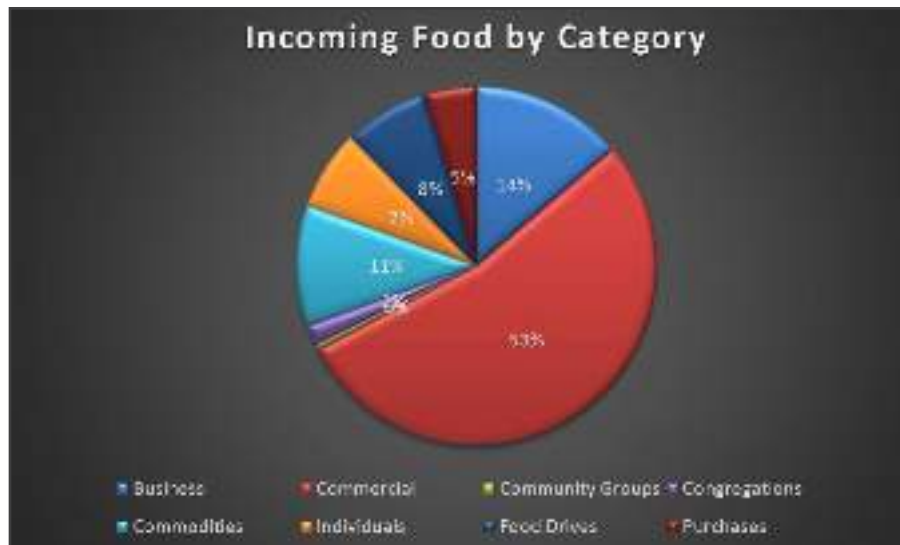
FOOD RESCUE

“Food loss and waste in the United States accounts for approximately 31 percent — or 133 billion pounds — of the overall food supply available to retailers and consumers, and has far-reaching impacts on food security, resource conservation, and climate change.”

USDA News Release September 16, 2015

We try and do our part in the Valley because we know tossed food is lost food.

1,086,221 pounds of food were gleaned from area grocers, businesses, restaurants, and convenience stores last fiscal year! Food brought in from our Food Rescue Program accounts for over half of the Gallatin Valley Food Bank's inventory!



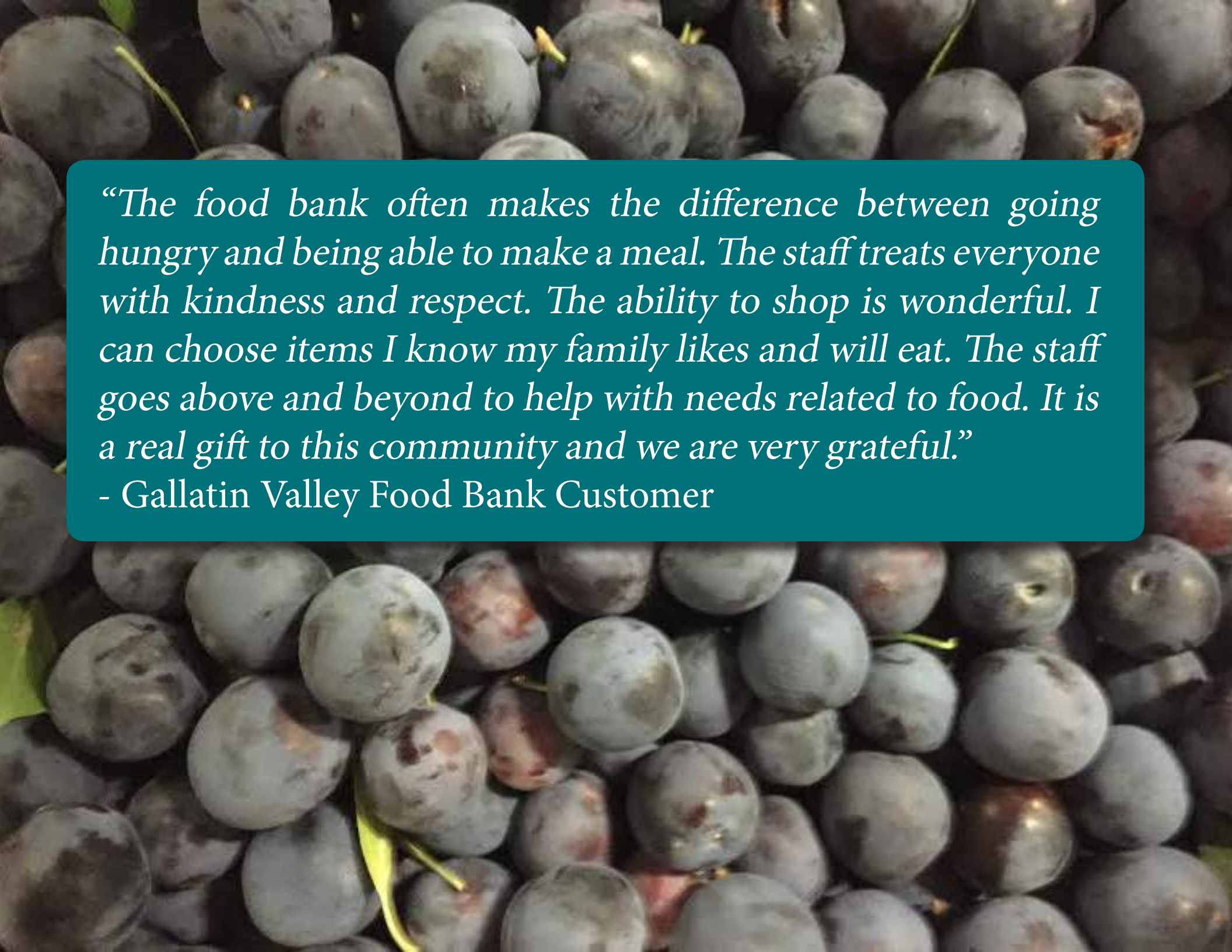
FOOD=HEALTH

347,768.50 pounds of produce were donated last fiscal year!!

We believe no one should go to bed hungry, and we also believe in removing barriers and increasing access to healthy foods. Working together with local producers, we are able to provide our customers with increased access to local food.

Our donors include retailers, manufacturers, small farms, wholesalers, restaurants, food drives, and individuals.





“The food bank often makes the difference between going hungry and being able to make a meal. The staff treats everyone with kindness and respect. The ability to shop is wonderful. I can choose items I know my family likes and will eat. The staff goes above and beyond to help with needs related to food. It is a real gift to this community and we are very grateful.”

- Gallatin Valley Food Bank Customer

SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES

Each month, **355** area seniors receive Senior Groceries in Gallatin and Park County. These groceries help supplement their food budgets. Many seniors live on fixed incomes and these foods help them get through each month. Volunteers and staff go the extra mile and deliver these groceries to seniors that can't pick them up. Senior Groceries are distributed out of each of our food banks and in Livingston! Last year, on a monthly basis volunteers contributed an average **60** hours of their time to pack and deliver groceries to seniors in Gallatin and Park county.





A PROGRAM OF  HRDC

Our Headwaters branch was established in 2004, and serves folks that live in Three Forks, Willow Creek, Logan and other small communities in the west valley.

Last year, Headwaters Area Food Bank provided **567** food boxes to families, **32%** of recipients were children, **4%** were seniors.

Volunteers contributed **120** hours to our Headwaters Area Food Bank!





Big Sky Community Food Bank was established in 2012, to meet the needs of the unique and growing resort community.



Big Sky Community Food Bank provided **1,476** food boxes to families, the majority of clients served in Big Sky are **1-2** person households.

Volunteers contributed **547** hours to our Big Sky Food Bank!

THE COMMUNITY CAFE

The Community Café 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 Café is also the homebase for our Childhood Nutrition Programs as well as the Culinary Arts Training Program. Our core purpose at the Community Café space is to support our Healthy Nutritious Nightly Meal service.

*In September 2016, due to expenses that have consistently exceeded revenues, the Café had to close its doors one night per week. Thanks to the Bozeman Community, donations for the Café have increased over the four years of operations but even with the infusion of support the need to reduce costs has necessitated the Saturday closure. Higher Ground Coffee (a social enterprise endeavor designed to generate revenue that will directly support the Café), launched in the fall of 2016. We are hopeful that this exciting project will allow us to reinstate the Saturday service again in the future.

Since opening in 2012 we've served over **150,000** meals utilizing many foods recovered from the Food Rescue program. Last FY, the Café served **46,715** meals to **27,961** clients, out of this total, **3,283** were children and **2,575** were seniors.

11,832 volunteer hours were contributed by **2,200** volunteers to the Café and KidsPack Program.



CHILDHOOD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

HRDC's Childhood Nutrition programs ensure that all kids have access to well-balanced and nutritious meals year-round.

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.



- **15,631** KidsPacks were distributed to an average of **700** kids each Friday, during the 2015-16 school year at **25** different sites, serving areas as far as Boulder, Twin Bridges, and Ennis, MT.



Summer time can be difficult for families but the Summer Meals Program helps to reduce the stress by providing delicious and nutritious meals when schools out.

- **19,374** total meals were served during the summer of 2016, including breakfast at **5** sites, lunch at **10** sites, and supper at **1** site.

CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM

A part of a larger community work force development initiative, the Cafe is home to a 5 week culinary arts program. Designed as an introduction to the culinary arts, the program covers kitchen skills ranging from ServSafe Certification to Knife Skills to Crème Brûlée. We equip aspiring chefs with skills to find food service jobs to support themselves while pursuing advanced culinary education.



- There have been **4** sessions and **17** graduates to date!
- Ages of participants range from **16-55**
- We partner with local restaurants and employers to shape the curriculum and provide training potential employers want to see.



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 what you can or Pay it forward
- Grow an extra row in your garden
- Donate food or funds
- Get your morning coffee from Higher Ground
- Host a food drive
- Volunteer your time



STAFF AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

GVFB Staff

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

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Advisory Council Members

Gallatin Valley Food Bank:

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Headwaters Area Food Bank:

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

Big Sky Community Food Bank:

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