

# FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMS OF THE HRDC



## Annual Report

Our mission is to improve food security in Southwest Montana  
July 1, 2016-June 30,2017

# WORDS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

This fiscal year marks the Gallatin Valley Food Bank's 35th year in service to our community. Many have contributed in the making of this place, and we build on each other's successes. Mary Martin, who passed away in October of 2016, was the foundation of this idea and helped launch food banks across the state. We are forever grateful for her passion, foresight and grit to get the job done. We are also grateful to you, for picking up this report and being interested in our work. Without the support of our community we would not exist. All programs mentioned in this report are part of HRDC's emergency food & nutrition initiative, improving food security throughout the Gallatin Valley.

Looking back at our 2016-2017 fiscal year we can be proud of the need we were able to meet. We distributed 16,928 food boxes between our three food banks; Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Big Sky Community Food Bank, Headwaters Area food Bank, and our mobile service in Belgrade. As you will see in this report, it took the effort of hundreds of volunteers, our benevolent donors, a committed staff, and an engaged advisory council to make this a reality.

The phrase many hands make light work certainly applies to moving food, but also to supporting our programs. Much of our strength lies in the many who give a little. One failing grant will not be our demise because of the good folks who walk in to donate 12 cans of soup or \$20.00. This broad base of support means that every donation counts, however big or small. It means everyone can make a difference, from the child using his karate competition for a food drive, to the massive efforts of Can the Griz and Huffing for Stuffing!

With all that we have accomplished, we cannot stop pursuing our goal of food security for everyone in Southwest Montana. We have to stay informed of the changing needs in our community. Our staff maintains engagement through groups like the Health Department's Collaboration Committee, GGHAC, Gallatin County Council on Aging to name a few, and keeps our passionate staff informed and creative. In the past year, we took part in the pilot of Washington State University's Healthy Food Pantry Assessment Tool, in conjunction with our local SNAP office, and while we received a high rating, we were still able to make some improvements in the placement of foods, signage, and customer experience. Additionally, we are proud that our HRDC needs assessment helps keep us informed and guides us to the greatest needs in our community.

To extend our reach in meeting the needs of those who are struggling with the effects of poverty, we partner with many non-profits. For example, we provide the majority of food for Salvation Army's meals, BYEP's weekend lunches, Warming Center's weekend breakfasts, and Haven's shelves, so when people arrive in crisis, they have food to eat.

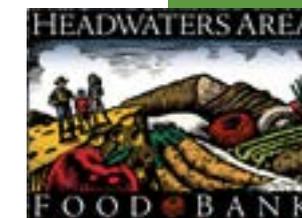
Our immediate challenges will be sustaining the funding of our Healthy Kidspack program and meeting the need of the projected growth in our community. New opportunities always lie with our many partners at Montana State University, where we can utilize expertise and innovative thinking to better our systems and service delivery. The pilot of our Story Mill Learning Garden project engaged over 120 young people to focus on gardening and nutrition and utilized 3 interns in the process. We are open to partnerships, fresh ideas, and welcome your visit anytime. Thank you for reading our annual report and please share it with someone you know.

Jill Holder,  
Operations Manager

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# THE DAILY FLOW

THE GVFB DISTRIBUTES AN AVERAGE OF 7,826 POUNDS (3.91 TONS) OF FOOD TO FAMILIES EVERY DAY

GVFB AND OUR SATELLITE SERVICE IN BELGRADE DISTRIBUTED 15,059 FOOD BOXES



Mornings start by stocking the store and the Bread & Produce room. We receive three food rescue trucks that visit up to 27 grocers. Volunteers sort the donations and place the items in our store so our clients can easily access the food. Every expiration date is checked, and all produce is inspected for quality.



The afternoon is all about helping people. Clients come in and fill out a short intake form, which helps us assess how they are getting by, if they have any health concerns or if they are falling behind paying bills. An intake worker can then encourage the client to utilize a resource like LIEAP, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program for heating, or Career Transitions to help with vocational training depending on the need. We try to connect clients with as many programs and resources in our community as we can, and often make multiple referrals. After the interview, clients shop in our self-choice grocery store. Afternoon volunteers assist our clients by boxing their groceries, helping them to their vehicles if needed and restocking the store. Our food rescue program doesn't quit. After the morning routes there are up to 7 more food rescue stops in the afternoon that will be sorted and stocked.

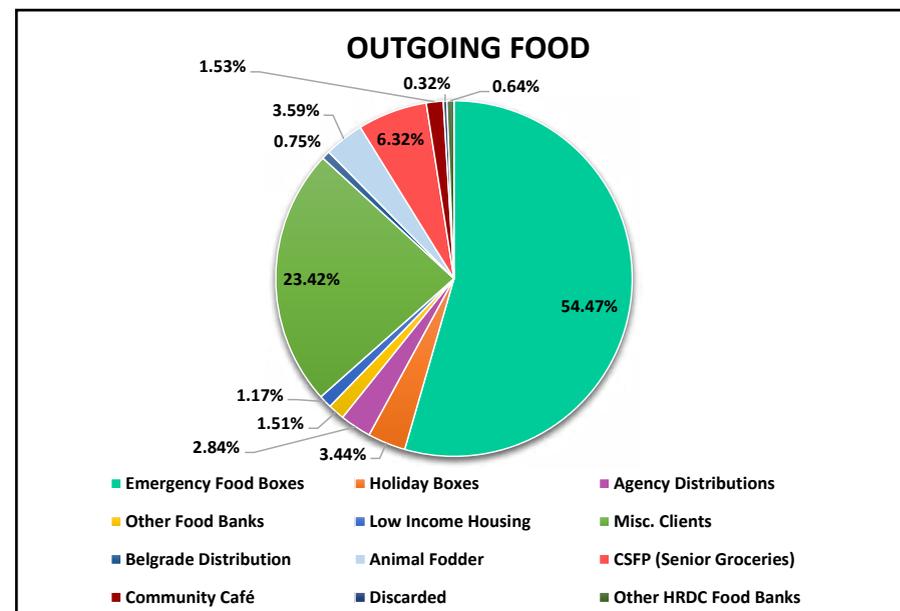


At the end of the day, we have helped an average of 65 households, and between food boxes, sharing with other nonprofits, and stocking our Bread and Produce room we have given away **3.91 tons** of food. Volunteers add a special caring touch to the experience and are vital to our operation—it takes a minimum of 10 volunteers per shift to help get our work done each day.

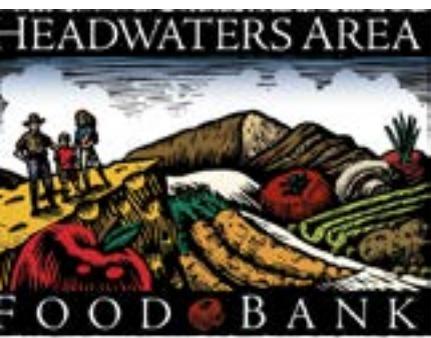
We served 4,376 unduplicated Households, this averages out to be 3.4 food boxes per household per year.

The Gallatin Valley Food Bank serves an average **1,361** households (roughly **3,204** individuals) a month through the Emergency Food Box Program at our Bozeman location and our satellite service in Belgrade. Nearly **95%** of our clients are living at or below 150% of the federal poverty level; for a family of four this is only \$36,900 per year.

- 16% of households are single parent families
- 34% of households have a least one child
- 13% of our clients are age 55 and older
- 287 of our clients are Veterans
- 44% of clients did not have any health insurance of any kind



Getting food to people in need is the focus for GVFB and last year we distributed **2,000,486** pounds of food. Out of that total, **136,613** pounds of food went to other area nonprofits, the Community Café, CSFP and KidsPack. This distribution of food expands the scope of who becomes more food secure. All this took an extraordinary effort by hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff.



# THREE FORKS, MT



The Headwaters Area Food Bank (HAFB) provided 409 food boxes amounting to 23,474 pounds of food distributed.

In the near future, HAFB will be moving to 216 1st Avenue West! This project is the culmination of multiple area partnerships and the support of the Three Forks community. As they move forward in this process, HAFB is launching a capital campaign to fund their new home. This new home will include a larger lobby, an office for community partners, more storage, a receiving area, and a larger shopping area to improve the customer's experience.

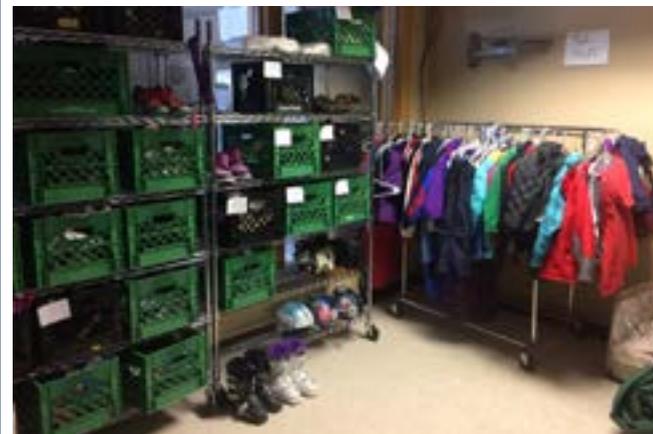


FOOD



# BIG SKY, MT

The Big Sky Community Food Bank is a hub of social services for Big Sky, expanding their whole-person services over the course of the year. BSCFB clients now have access to monthly healthcare insurance enrollment assistance through a partnership with the Gallatin City/County Health Department. Clients may apply for SNAP or LIEAP on site. They may also receive help with budgeting, healthy food preparation, and job applications. BSCFB helped establish a healthy snack pantry at the school. Clients continue to have access to a community coatroom where they can receive free winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, as well as toiletries and cookware. BSCFB received a large grant this year to purchase and distribute brand new crockpots to 100 clients who do not have adequate kitchen facilities.



Service numbers vary from 100 people served per month in the summer, to 350 people served per month in the Fall. The Big Sky Community Food Bank receives 84.7% of it's food from Big Sky's local resources- including grocers, bakeries, food drives, and donation bins at area businesses.



This year, the Big Sky Community Food Bank served 1,654 food boxes, totaling 37,082 pounds.

# FOOD RESCUE



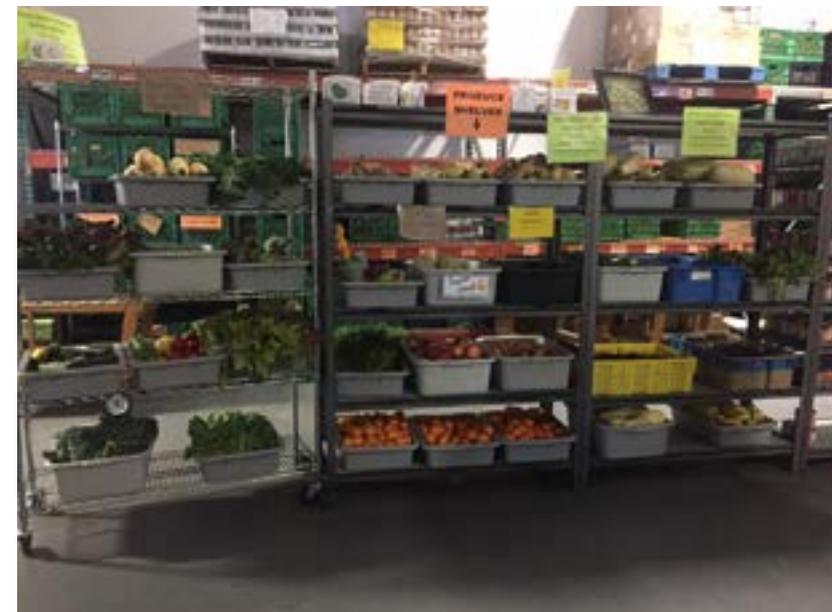
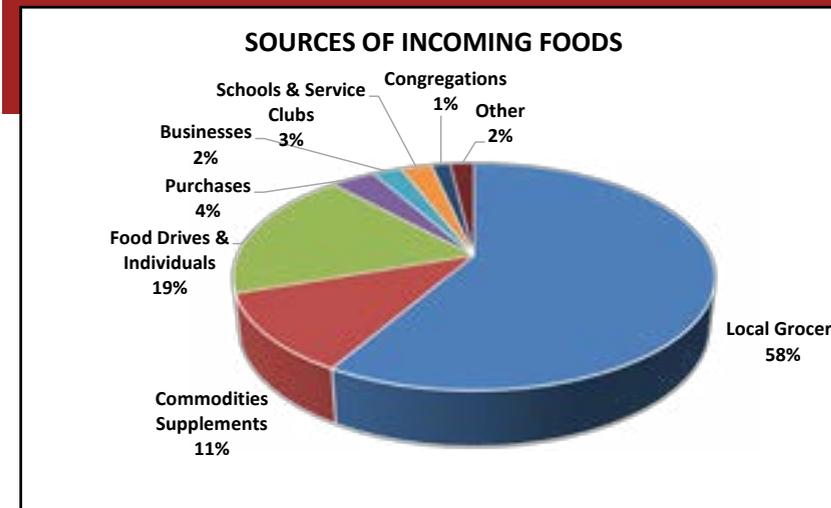
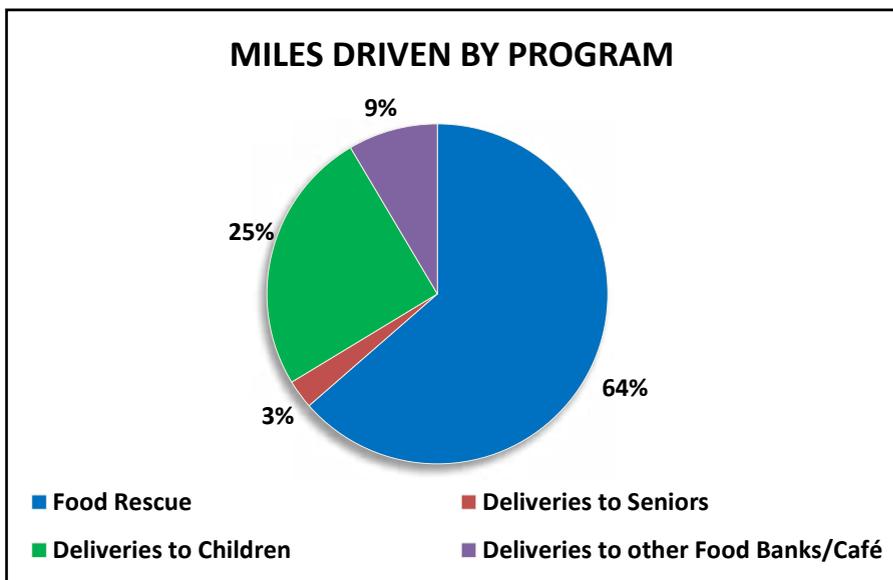
Each day our food rescue team heads out to recover food that would otherwise be thrown away. In 2016-2017, the Food Rescue program collected 1,214,451 pounds of food from area grocery stores. These trips put a lot of miles on our fleet; last year we logged over 29,698 miles.

The bulk of the miles are used for the food rescue program, as shown below in blue. The green area represents distribution of KidsPacks during the school year and deliveries to summer lunch sites in June, July, and August.

The purple area illustrates mileage to food assistance programs like our Belgrade service and the Cafe.

*Last year we received a grant from Walmart and Feeding America to purchase a much needed new vehicle.*

We recognize that transportation is often a barrier for some of our clients to get the food they need. To address this with our seniors, we have 26 volunteer drivers who deliver groceries and check in on a monthly basis.



**In total, there are over 33 local growers and many individual gardeners that help us provide the best produce in Gallatin County to our clients.**

**Out of the 317,601 pounds of produce donated to the GVFB, at least 76,589 pounds came from local growers. In addition to those donations we received 75,795 pounds of potatoes from local farmers.**



# VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are vital to fighting hunger and are the backbone of our efforts. They stock our shelves, sort foods, interview clients, box groceries, serve lunches to kids in the summer, and deliver foods to seniors! These contributions amounted to **18,516** hours at GVFB alone!

*"I volunteer because I believe it's human nature to help others, and though I may not have a lot of money to give, I do have time to share. We are all in this together, and volunteering reminds me to keep an open mind and an open heart. I chose GVFB because I believe everyone has a right to start the day with a healthy meal, and no one should go to bed hungry."*



*"GVFB serves the people, with respect and compassion. As a Council member we can't do without all our volunteers, they help us do everything that is needed. The staff is very devoted to the GVFB, and they do an awesome job. I truly respect them. I have been coming back to Volunteer for more years than I can count. It has become a devotion for me, I feel it is my mission to serve the public with GVFB."*

*"GVFB's purpose, positive community impact, staff and volunteers are why I volunteer."*



# ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

## KidsPack Program

The KidsPack Program is a weekend supplemental food resource that provides healthy food access and nutrition/lifestyle knowledge to elementary children across Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson counties. Through the KidsPack Program nutritionally balanced, kid-friendly foods are packed and distributed to local school children every Friday during the school year. The goal of KidsPack is to ensure that all children have access to food over the weekend and arrive at school fed and ready to learn each week. KidsPack is funded through foundation support and individual donors. For the 2017-2018 school year we are working to recruit sponsors for each participating school. During the 2016-17 school year we distributed 11,803 KidsPacks, the program reached an average of 400 kids every Friday serving 20 sites in areas as far as Boulder, Twin Bridges, and Ennis.



## Summer Food Service Program (Summer Lunch)



The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federal program and runs throughout the summer months. An average family spends \$300 more per child, per month when school is not in session. In an effort to alleviate this stress, Summer Lunch, as we call it, provides free meals to any youth 18 years old and under. There are no applications to fill out, or proof of income, kids just show up and eat lunch. Meals served are tasty, follow USDA nutrition guidelines, and help ALL families save money. We offer a safe, supervised location where kids and teens can stay active and spend

time with friends while enjoying healthy meals. This program provided breakfast at 7 sites, lunch at 12 sites, and served a total of 22,346 meals to children this past summer.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Senior Groceries)

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program or CSFP provides food to seniors who make an income of 130% of poverty or less. For one person, this is only \$15,678 a year, not much to live on in an area that has high housing costs. Deliveries are made to the majority of seniors, providing a much needed check in on their health and well being. CSFP, known here at the food bank as the Senior Grocery Program provides approximately 26 pounds a food once a month to roughly 372 seniors.

# GOOD VIBES

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

# FOOD DRIVES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events help sustain the food bank's supply in the lean months of spring and summer, when donations drop off. In November, we host Can the Griz, a friendly off field rivalry between U of M and MSU. This food drive has become the largest community wide food drive in recent years, and encourages competition and generosity. After we wrap up Can the Griz, we look forward to Thanksgiving morning and Huffing For Stuffing. Last year was a record breaking year for both events! Scouting for Food, Spring for Food, and Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat, are few more of the many food drives that help us round out the year.



## #CANTHEGRIZ2016

**234,486.3 LBS.**

**\$92,688.00**

### HFS 2016



**Huffing For Stuffing**  
Thanksgiving Day Run/Walk  
[huffingforstuffing.com](http://huffingforstuffing.com)

**4,531 RUNNERS HELPED  
RAISE \$61,000 FOR  
THE GALLATIN VALLEY  
FOOD BANK!**

# WHAT'S SHAKIN'



The Story Mill Learning Garden was piloted at the GVFB with the committed work of our VISTA, Rachel Schorr. In one season, we were able to reach 160 new individuals through this programming. We engaged 120 youth through a partnership with Big Sky Youth Empowerment. Those 120 young people volunteered by prepping, planting, and harvesting the gardens. Many of the youth had never experienced gardening, and as an added value, nutrition and food systems were discussed. We also had the privilege of hosting 15 youth from Fort Peck Reservation, and they enjoyed the process of prepping the gardens. Capacity was built in the

form of volunteer recruitment, training, and the hours served. In all, we used 25 volunteers and they donated well over 100 hours of service. In our next season we look for more partnerships that will help us engage young people in growing food, developing work skills, and educating our community about issues of food security.

## AWARDS

Each year Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have done exemplary work to end hunger. This year the Gallatin Valley Food Bank received their Hunger's Hope Award. A second award was given from MFBN's Food Security Council to Operations Manager, Jill Holder.



Jill with her 'Glacier Award' for Moving Mountains to End Hunger.

*"Gallatin Valley Food Bank is an ideal example of a next-generation food bank that understands the changing face of hunger in Montana. Their staff and volunteers foster an environment of community collaboration and partnership that stretches across four counties."*



**GVFB STAFF WITH THEIR HUNGER'S HOPE AWARD 2017**



## CAFE PATRONS

## THE COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES...

PER EVENING	IN FY 2016-17
85 PEOPLE	25,843 PEOPLE
5 FAMILIES	1,628 FAMILIES
64 ADULTS	19,925 ADULTS
10 SENIORS	3,048 SENIORS
9 YOUTH	2,870 YOUTH
129 PLATES	4,0333 PLATES



## VOLUNTEERS

**IN FY 2016-17, THE COMMUNITY CAFE BENEFITED FROM 2,560 VOLUNTEERS (WHO GAVE) 12,634 HOURS OF SERVICE (VALUED AT) \$101,703**

# MEET THE STAFF



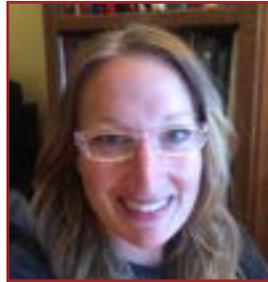
**Marjorie Hennessy,**  
Food & Nutrition  
Department Director



**Jill Holder,**  
Operations Manager at  
Gallatin Valley Food Bank



**Kim Gelder,**  
Operations Manager at  
Headwaters Area Food Bank



**Sarah Gaither,**  
Operations Manager at  
Big Sky Community Food Bank



**Bri Cronin,**  
Volunteer Coordinator



**Joel Tatz-Morey,**  
Warehouse Coordinator &  
Driver



**Jon Horn,**  
Food Rescue Coordinator



**Laura Stonecipher,**  
Programs Coordinator



**Lyra Leigh-Nedbor,**  
Childhood Nutrition  
Programs Coordinator



**Mariah Smith,**  
Data Entry/Receptionist



**Monica Ruiz,**  
Services Navigator/Special  
Projects Coordinator



## SPECIAL THANKS

All of our food banks benefit from community input and guidance in the form of our advisory councils. They represent members of the community, attend monthly meetings, drive trucks, answer phones, stock shelves, advocate for us, and even flip a burger or two! Their leadership helps guide our next steps as we grow.

GVFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

- Justin Varley
- Donna West
- Judy Mathre
- Mitch Bradley
- Lori Christenson
- Rick Cameron
- Doug Weber
- Jody McDevitt
- Carmen Byer-Shanks
- David Baumbauer

HAFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

- Charlie Christenson
- Chuck Wambeke
- Gene Townsend
- Jason Kovnesky
- Ed Nave
- Ann Cole
- Aimee Jones

BSCFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

- Lynne Anderson
- LaDawn LeGrande
- Michelle Donaldson
- Diane Bartzick
- Pam Rempt
- Leslie Piercy
- Susan Myers
- Dustin Long

**Gallatin Valley Food Bank**  
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