

In This Issue >>>

Quarterly Update – p. 1

Wish List – p.1

Working Together – p. 2

Donor Thank you– p. 2

Quarter Calendar – p.3

GVFB 101 – p.4

Volunteer Spotlight – p. 4



WINTER
2020

GVFB NEWS

Local support for local families

Winter 2020 >>>

This Quarter's Wish List

High-Priority Foods

- Canned Fruits (in juice not syrup)
- Canned Vegetables
- Cereal
- Chunky Soups
- Chili
- Peanut Butter
- Whole Grain Pasta

(Low sodium and low sugar foods preferred.) Thank You!

Other Needs

- Gluten-Free Foods
- Baby Wipes
- Blue Painter's Tape
- Mechanical Pencils (0.7 mm)

FOOD ASSISTANCE HOURS:

Monday-Friday from 1:00-4:00 pm &

Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS & DONATIONS:

Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm &

Tuesdays until 7:00 pm

Food Rescue:

A story from behind the wheel

Our food rescue program collects perishable donations from local grocery stores and restaurants and uses the food to stock the shelves of the food bank. Food rescue helps to ensure that the food bank has items like produce, dairy, bread, and meat instead of just shelf-stable foods like canned goods. This greatly increases the variety in our store and makes it feel more like a traditional grocery store. Much of the food is donated because it is near its "best by" date, but we also get food due to misorders, discontinuations, and more! Every weekday morning there are three food rescue routes that travel across Bozeman and Belgrade to collect donations. These routes are performed by both staff and dedicated volunteers. Each day brings a unique and exciting challenge, as we never know exactly the type or quantity of donations that await us. Recent donations include three pallets of Brussel sprouts, one pallet of broccoli, hundreds of gallons of eggnog, and lots and lots of kettle chips!

We also collect and distribute non-food items like shampoo, toilet paper, and pet food. We even get furniture and mattresses that the HRDC uses to furnish the homes of community members in need! Overall, the food rescue program collects more than a million pounds of food per year that would otherwise be wasted. World Resources Institute (WRI) says food waste is responsible for 8% of annual greenhouse gas emissions. We are so appreciative of our generous commercial donors and volunteer drivers. We are looking for new food rescue drivers, contact us if you're interested!



Joel, Warehouse Coordinator &
Kyla, Food Rescue Coordinator

Programs Highlight >>> Collaboration with HRDC Senior Programs

Poverty is a common thread among seniors across the country and southwest Montana is no exception. According to US Census 2013, 9.7% of seniors (age 65 and older) in Park County and 7% in Gallatin County are living below the poverty level. Many of the seniors who are living in poverty receive some form of government assistance such as Medicare or Social Security, but these critical funds often are not enough. High rents, expensive prescriptions, medical bills and over the counter medical needs often bring seniors to the GVFB in search of emergency food assistance. Hungry seniors receive an emergency food box and those who meet income qualifications can also receive monthly

Senior Groceries. While this food assistance is vital, it might not be enough to meet our clients' needs. This is when we partner with other HRDC Programs to work together for the benefit of our seniors.

I'd like to tell you about one senior here in our community. She originally came to the food bank in need of food assistance. We were able to supply her with nutritious food that she couldn't otherwise afford. Due to mobility issues, her food is delivered to her home. Additionally, we were able to connect her to senior groceries to help meet her monthly food needs. When she began to struggle to remain in her home, HRDC's Senior Programs stepped in to provide Homemaker

assistance. This involves light housekeeping, cooking, shopping, and assistance with personal care needs weekly. A registered nurse visits once a month as well. Without this assistance, she feels she would no longer be able to remain in her home. Since she cannot afford assisted living, her options are limited. Thanks to the collaboration between GVFB and the Homemaker Program, our client isn't just getting by, she's living a good life and is grateful for the difference our services provide. She says she can't imagine life without this support and just knowing we are here making things better despite the daily challenges.

-Laura, Program Manager

Donor Spotlight >>> L & L Site Services



Laura with L & L Staff

In 2015, XL Country put out a call for help during Can the Griz, and L & L Site Services Inc. did not hesitate to step up! Their help provided much needed food to many in our valley. Now each year they come help us Can the Griz. To date, they have donated 26,623 pounds of food to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

Locally grown; Veteran owned is part of their byline. We would also like to add Community Focused. Thank you for helping our neighbors who find themselves short of food.

The Flow of Food >>>

Where does the food come from & where does it go?



Quarterly Calendar of Events

Here are a few community events for you to check out! Visit our website www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org for a complete list of events and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

	Date	Event	What is it?
February	Saturday, February 1 st	Community Connect	Community Connect is held at the Bozeman Public Library from 9 am – 2 pm this event provides one-stop, single day referral and support to our veterans, area homeless, and the general public.
	Saturday, February 1 st	Scouting For Food	Join the Scouts as they collect food for local food banks at Heebs Fresh Market in Bozeman, Three Forks Market & at Town & Country Foods in Bozeman, Belgrade, & Livingston from 9 am – 3 pm!
	Tuesday, February 4 th	VITA	The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program begins. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Visit thehrdc.org for more details.
	Valentine's Week	Pack the Sack	Join Healthy KidsPack in fighting childhood hunger all you have to do is Pack the Sack with funds to support. Get help or give help through our website.
	Monday, February 17 th	Holiday Closure	GVFB will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day, this includes our Belgrade Mobile Service.
	Thursday, February 27 th	Senior Program's BINGO night	Join HRDC's Senior Programs for a night of Burgers and Bingo as they raise funds for at risk and low-income older adults, ages 50+
	TBD	Community Needs Assessment	The final draft of HRDC's latest Community Needs Assessment will be published. Visit thehrdc.org for more details.
March	Saturday, March 14 th	Pi Day Fundraiser	Join Bozeman Poets Collective at The Bozeman Supper Club for pie slices, live music, silent auction, and beautiful art! Portion of proceeds benefit GVFB. Nonperishable items can be also donated at Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse .
	Monday, March 16 th – Friday, March 20 th	Spring Break	No Healthy KidsPack Distribution during Spring Break
	Saturday, March 28 th	Carve Out Hunger	Donate canned food for discounted lift tickets For every 15 cans donated, one \$25 voucher will be issued good through the end of the season at Bridger Bowl.
April /May	Monday, April 13 th – Friday, April 17 th	Childhood Hunger Awareness Week	Fight Childhood Hunger Week is a week-long awareness effort put on by the MT Youth Leadership Council. Participate in Wear Orange Wednesday to stand united against Childhood Hunger across the state. Local events are in the works and will be posted on our website.
	Saturday, April 18 th	Spring For Food	Help the Healthy KidsPack program and GVFB replenish their food supply with healthy food. Sign up for a volunteer shift on our website.
	Saturday, May 9 th	Letter Carriers Annual 'Stamp Out Hunger' Food Drive	Every second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America collect food items for the NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive — the largest one-day food drive in the nation. All donations stay local.

GVFB 101

Here you learn fun facts about GVFB and our programs!

What is a Service Navigator?	A Service Navigator helps customers find community resources, answer questions, and can even help fill out paperwork for certain programs if needed. Did you know all 3 of our food banks have a Service Navigator on staff?
What's the difference between a food bank and a food pantry?	Food banks typically store food and act as a distribution centers for direct service programs. A food pantry is where families can receive food. Supplied with food from a food bank, pantries feed hundreds of people per week! Because every community is different, there are many different types of pantries. GVFB is a hybrid food bank, we do large scale purchases as well as direct service!

Volunteer Spotlight >>> Rookie of the Year

This month marks a year of service for Anne, one of our newest intake volunteers. Anne and her husband recently retired to Bozeman, she is a former prosecutor, who speaks Spanish and even a little French! Monica sat down with Anne for a quick interview:



What attracted you to GVFB?

The heart of every community can be judged by the way in which the least fortunate among us are treated. As a more recent resident of Bozeman, I was interested in how our community responds to the needs of those with food insecurity, affordable housing, educational equity and crisis support systems. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank offered a glimpse into that response, so I became an intake volunteer.

Why do you volunteer/donate?

I volunteer and donate to GVFB because I am impressed with the dedication of the staff and volunteers to meet the needs of all our clients in a respectful, caring and non-judgmental environment. The organization leverages volunteers to move more than two million pounds of donated food a year to those in need, and this monumental effort is managed by just over 10 paid staff. I am inspired by the leadership who make decisions based on what is best for our community, and I know that every dollar donated is well spent.

Do you have a message to share?

Food insufficiency is a widespread but seldom observed problem in our world. The new Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow spoke about how some of his school friends went home to empty cupboards when he was growing up, and that sparked an effort that raised over \$500,000 in one month. I would like to see that kind of response to food needs in Bozeman.

The Food Bank needs a larger building for food storage and better distribution infrastructure, as well as offices for staff and programming. Leadership at the Food Bank has articulated a plan for an infinitely more effective safety net for our residents in need. Since 97% of the funding for the Food Bank comes from donations, it is going to take a gargantuan effort to raise the funds to meet the growing needs of our neighbors. I have seen the humanity in the Food Bank's commitment to relieve food insufficiency in our valley, and I believe this is a cause worth supporting at every level.



Contact us!

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