



FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMS OF HRDC

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

2019 was a year of good work and progress in planning for our future. Throughout the year, we supported our community members with free groceries, fresh food, hot meals and more along their path to growth and stability. With your help, we were able to positively impact the lives of more than 12,000 neighbors in 2019. Of course, we could not do this important work without the support and partnership of our entire community - to every grocer, producer, birthday food drive, volunteer, and donor, we are grateful for your generosity. It enables us to ensure that no one goes to bed hungry.

2020 has provided our customers and our organization with many unexpected challenges. We have continually adjusted and adapted to meet our community's most pressing needs. COVID-19 has shed light on many local, regional and national issues, exposing how vulnerable our communities can be. Thanks to an outpouring of support to address hunger, as a result we have been able to meet every request for help. As we charge ahead into the remainder of 2020, we know we have more work to do and we know you will be right there by our side. Thank you Gallatin Valley.

Heather Grenier, HRDC Ceo



Instilling Hope

Developing Resources

Designing Solutions

Changing Lives

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Intro: A Letter From Jill, Food & Nutrition Director
- 1. Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) Program Overview
- 2. Program Updates: Senior Groceries, Healthy KidsPack, School Pantries, and Summer Lunch
- 3. Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB) & Headwaters Area Food Bank (HAFB) Program Overviews
- 4. Revenues & Food Rescue
- 5. Fork & Spoon Overview
- 6. Special Programs & Initiatives, Unprocessed Pantry Project (UP3), Learning Garden Projects, and Amplify Montana
- 7. Changes & Adaptations to COVID (Timeline)
- 8. Volunteer Highlights
- 9. Staff & Leadership
- Bonus: Evolution of Food & Nutrition Programs

**OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE
FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTHWEST
MONTANA**

A YEAR IN REVIEW & REFLECTIONS ON COVID

Reflecting on 2019-2020 really feels like two different lives. One pre-COVID and one living and adjusting to life in COVID. The fiscal year began like many others with a huge summer lunch season, consistent need for emergency food boxes, and an average of 140 new households visiting us every month. Revenues started in earnest during November. Holiday Food distribution reached 2,856 households. Food and funds raised from Can the Griz were record setting and Huffing For Stuffing, although frigid was very successful. On March 17th, everything changed for all of us. COVID-19 and the uncertainty that came with it became everyone's new reality. I remember an evening during those first couple weeks when our staff sat around and realized, "We are the emergency food system. If we get sick, how will the food bank continue to operate?" And so with this recognition of responsibility, we all moved forward. Our staff transitioned quickly and effectively to shift all food banks to drive-thru models within the span of a few days. We also worked with all area schools to support shifts to a summer lunch food service model where grab and go meals were available for kids who suddenly found themselves at home without school meals. Our success has everything to do with the wrap-around community support that makes sure everyone has enough food. The entire spring was filled with good people reaching out to make sure we could meet the needs of our community. We did it because of you! In this report, you will see the impact



Our store pre-COVID



Drive-thru distribution in May

we made together to alleviate hunger. Our challenges are harder to pinpoint. We do not know if our limited fundraisers will be successful. We do not know how great the need in our community will become as the recession deepens and businesses are affected by closures. Despite these challenges, we remain hopeful. We know that our community is resourceful and compassionate. It is why we all live here. Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Take Care,
Jill Holder, Food & Nutrition Director, HRDC

25,186 Meals provided by
Fork & Spoon

16,154 Food boxes distributed
by HRDC's food banks

3,921 Bags of Commodity
groceries given to
low-income seniors

1,991,201 Pounds of food
distributed to area
families, nonprofits, and
other HRDC programs
such as Fork & Spoon,
Blueprint and KidsPack

FOOD BANK TERMS:

Food Insecurity: the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Emergency Food Box: a five day supply of food.

Food Rescue: the act of collecting foods that are being donated by local grocers and farmers. The reasons vary but commonly the foods are overages, close to expiration date, or do not fit our culture's view of attractive.

Service Navigation: the act of connecting our customers with other needed services to help move them to a more secure situation. A common referral is the Low Income Energy Assistance Program through HRDC.



BOZEMAN, MT

11,355 Individuals received groceries from GVFB

13,921 Food Boxes were provided

1,450 Households received help for the first time

GVFB's mission is to increase food security by providing hunger relief to area families. 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. Our Emergency Food Box Program provides the bulk of our hunger relief. GVFB is also home to several other programs and initiatives.



GVFB not only provides food to our customers but serves as a food hub for our community. As a hub, we serve as the receiving warehouse for area partners including the Senior Center, area food banks, and REACH to name a few. We also provide food to other nonprofits who need food (121,165 pounds last year).

Our other role is to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Who dreamed a pandemic would be our test? When the pandemic hit, our 2019 Fall food drive season held us over until we were able to buy food to replenish our reserves.

7,246 Average pounds of food distributed to families everyday

1,160 Households received help each month

4 Additional staff were hired to help when the pandemic hit

PROGRAM UPDATES

GVFB is home to several supplemental programs aimed to fill in the gaps for vulnerable community members.

Our Childhood Nutrition Programs include our KidsPack Program, which provides nutritious foods for kids every weekend during the school year; five School Pantries that empower kids with nutritional resources while at school; and Summer Meals Program that offers tasty meals for all kids 18 and under when school is out.

In addition, GVFB provides monthly Senior Groceries to area seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), reaching seniors in Park, Gallatin, and Madison counties.



29,034 Meals provided to area children this past summer (June-August) at **9** sites across the valley

11,101 KidsPacks distributed to an average of 400 children every Friday at **23** sites in Southwest, MT

327 Seniors received monthly Senior Groceries, and 150 of these seniors were delivered to each month

5 School food pantries established in partnership with area schools





BIG SKY, MT

821 Individuals received help from BSCFB

1,355 Food Boxes distributed

137 Households received help for the first time

Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB), based in Big Sky, provides emergency food assistance, a clothing closet, and service navigation to area residents. With limited social services in the area, BSCFB serves as a one-stop-shop for locals. They primarily serve resort employees and seasonal service workers.



BSCFB continues to operate on a pre-packed food box model for drive-thru pickups. Services initially spiked when the pandemic hit but quickly slowed when most of the resort employees lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and subsequently moved home. New client numbers increased, as many households faced unanticipated consequences of the shutdown. The need for wrap-around services such as; help obtaining rental assistance, income-replacement grants, unemployment, mental and behavioral health increased as well. Sarah, Operations Manager, continues to meet with Big Sky nonprofit leaders to coordinate these services.

2 New part-time staff were hired to help

2 Extra days of operation were added per week

50% Increase in food boxes provided in March 2020 compared to March 2019

THREE FORKS, MT



Headwaters Area Food Bank (HAFB), located in Three Forks, serves the west end of the Gallatin Valley. HAFB provides emergency assistance, and distributes senior groceries. HAFB partners with other organizations to meet the needs of area residents.

428 Individuals received help from HAFB

878 Food Boxes provided



82 Households received help for the first time

2 New Food Pantries were established in partnership with Three Forks Schools

44 Clarkston families received Farmers to Families Food Boxes

822 Families received a Farmers to Families Food Box from May 1-Sept. 16

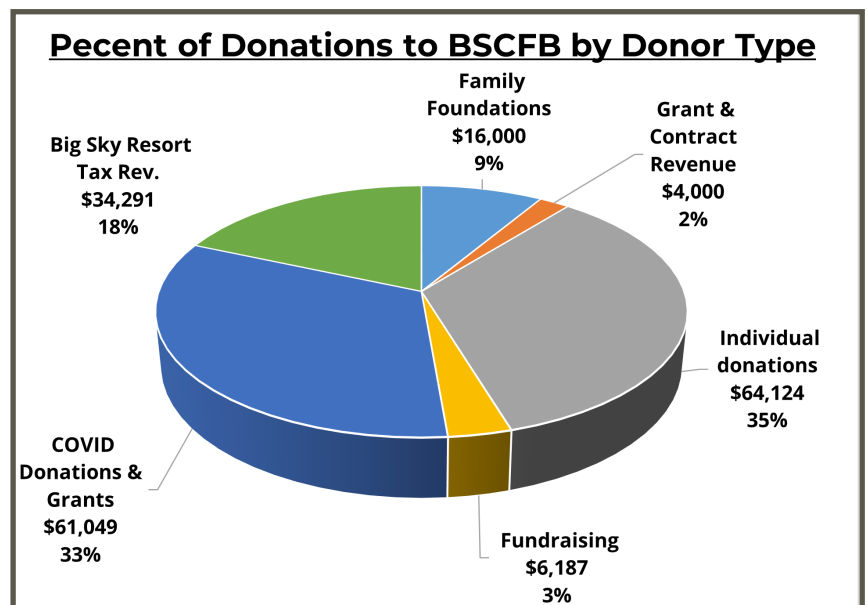
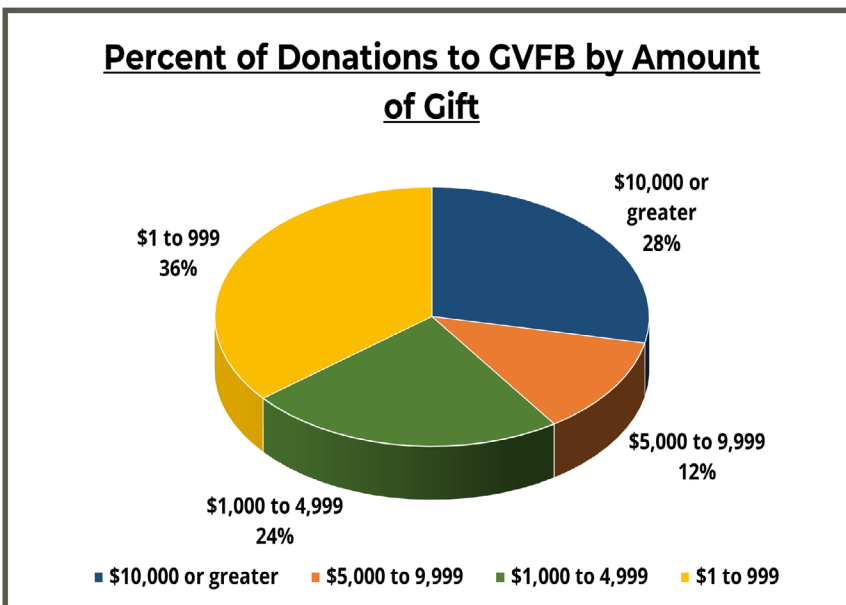
HAFB has settled into their new building and is enjoying all the features. Everything seems to be working perfectly. They were gifted two new 4'x4' garden boxes to grow vegetables in from First Presbyterian Church. COVID-19 has brought new challenges, like job loss and increased childcare expenses that has increased demand. HAFB transitioned their food box model to curbside pick-up. Kim, HAFB Operations Manager has been busy providing outreach to the Clarkston community to make sure they have the resources they need.

REVENUES

This year was unique in so many ways. Our broad base of community support held strong but we also welcomed many new donors who recognized the need and took action. We were the recipients of COVID-19 relief efforts from foundations like Town Pump, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Big Sky Foundations who have supported us for many years but went above and beyond by giving more than once this year. We also received state funds, which are normally allocated elsewhere. Many others stepped up for the first time to ensure everyone had the food they needed.

BSCFB received support from the Big Sky ski area foundations and Big Sky Resort tax. We are fortunate that Big Sky recognizes the importance of supporting their community of seasonal employees who depend on tourism for their paychecks.

We chose to highlight the funding sources for GVFB and BSCFB because they are unique to each program yet show the creative ways both communities come together to help those in need. The graphs on this page reflect this.



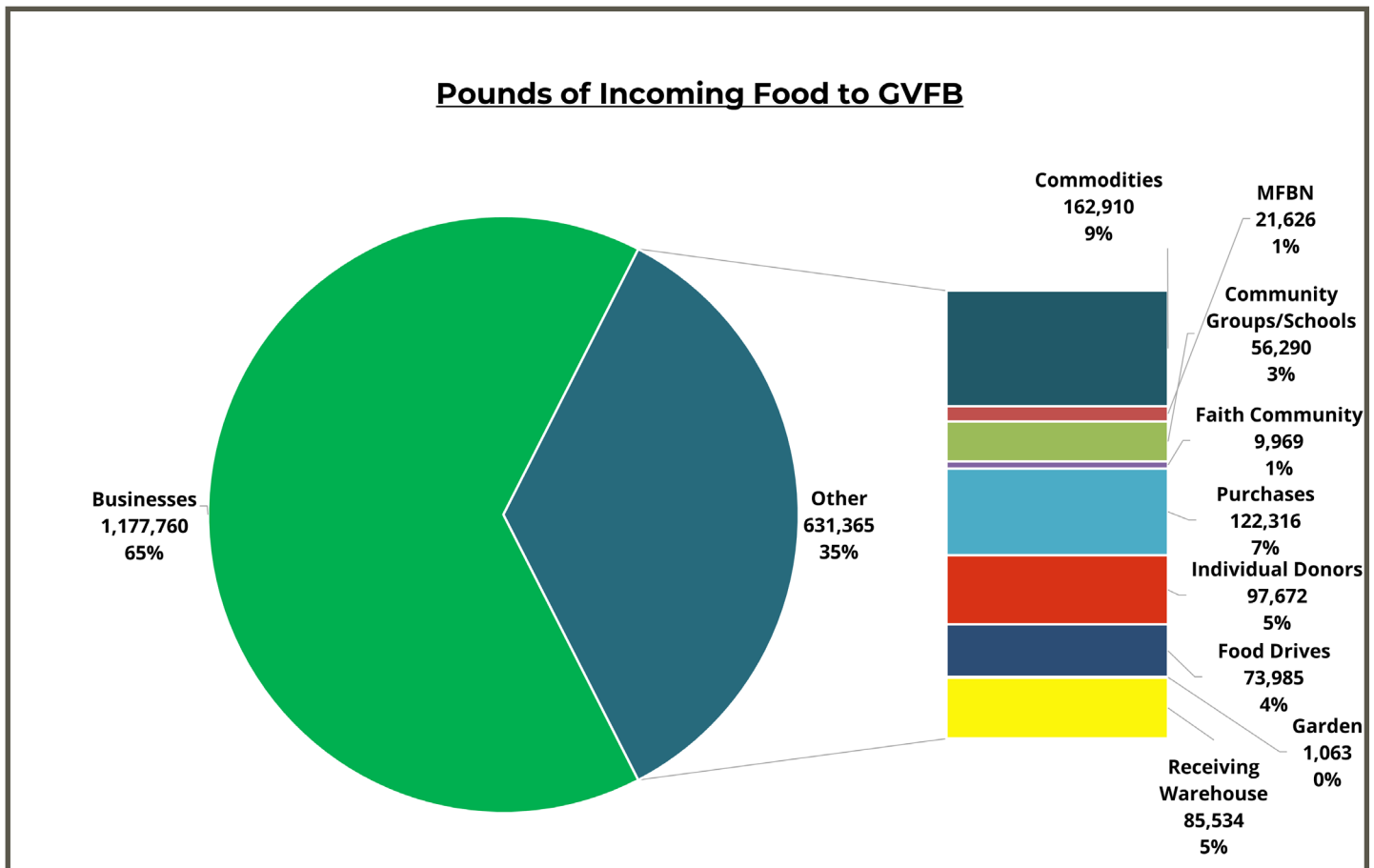
FOOD RESCUE

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Gallatin Valley Food Bank distributed 1,904,499 pounds of food. Out of the total, 121,265 pounds of food were distributed through the Fork & Spoon, Senior Groceries, KidsPack and other area nonprofits. All this took an extraordinary effort by dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers.

In 2019-2020, the food rescue program collected 987,133 pounds of food from area grocery stores, bakeries, and farms. This is noteworthy considering that we drastically reduced our food rescue during the first months of the pandemic. When we realized the pandemic was here to stay, we gradually increased rescue of the most nutrient-rich foods we could collect.



The graph below shows where all our food came from. Local businesses contributed 65% of food donations through food rescue and Can the Griz. The remaining 35% is made up of government commodities, purchases, the gardens, and our generous community of organizations, faith groups, school and individual food drives and donations.





Good Food Does Good

Fork & Spoon is Montana's first and only pay-what-you-can restaurant. Fork & Spoon focuses on creating homegrown, scratch cooking using locally sourced ingredients whenever possible. Everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious evening meal at a price they can afford. Because Fork & Spoon operates on a unique pay-what-you-can model, each person who walks in the door receives a full plate and a welcoming experience, regardless of how much they pay. When the pandemic hit, Fork & Spoon pivoted to providing take out meals only.



25,186 Hot meals were provided

2,704 Children were provided meals

1,601 Seniors were provided meals

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Gardens: As part of our mission to increase food security we manage the Learning Garden & Food Forest at Story Mill Community Park and gardens at GVFB. This summer GVFB hosted free workshops to disseminate information related to growing food, improving health, and increasing resilience within our community.

Belgrade Outreach: The pandemic forced us to suspend our Mobile Service in Belgrade however in an effort to continue to serve the local community, GVFB partnered with the Belgrade Public Library to help maintain a mini food pantry.



UP3: GVFB embarked on a partnership with several community organizations called The Un-Processed Pantry Project (UP3) first in 2019. UP3 is a formal study that aims to improve the health of food pantry customers by increasing access to and intake of unprocessed foods. Even with COVID-19 disrupting the second year, we had an 87% retention rate, significant decreases in BMI and significant increases in participants Healthy Eating Indexes.

Amplify MT: By sharing the stories of our customers we hope to educate our community and better support them as they navigate challenging times. Our group continued to meet monthly and hosted a Virtual Panel for our community to learn how the impacts of COVID-19 disproportionately affect community members experiencing poverty.

1,500 Pounds of produce harvested from GVFB's gardens for our customers

70 Average number of pounds of food provided to the Belgrade Library Pantry every week

87% Retention rate of UP3 participants in the second year

1 Virtual Panel held for our community to learn how the impacts of COVID-19 disproportionately affect community members experiencing poverty

MAP OF CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION



January—Mid-March
Business as usual, GVFB serves an average of 3,000 individuals each month



Mid-March
News of the pandemic hits and we shift our distribution model to a drive-thru.

Late-March
We make the tough decision to split our staff into two teams and scale back food rescue and physical donations. We begin purchasing more food to offset increased demand.



March & April
Our Spring fundraisers are canceled. In 2019, these food drives (Spring For Food, Carve Out Hunger, and the Letter Carrier's Food Drive) brought in 37,000 pounds of food.



April
Summer Lunch waivers go in to effect. Grab-and-go meals are served in partnership with area schools.



Early-April
We hire additional HRDC staff to help with operations.





May

We were humbled by community support, from unique fundraisers to large foundation donations, that allowed us to purchase necessary foods.



June

As part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, the USDA purchased and distributed agricultural products to those in need. We began distribution of the Farmers to Families Food Boxes in Belgrade.

July
Summer Lunch production increases.



August

We find refuge in the gardens. Throughout the summer, GVFB hosts 5 garden workshops in an effort to disseminate information related to growing food, improving health and increasing resilience within our community.



Looking Ahead

We have made many adjustments to our operations for the safety of our customers, volunteers and staff. While the future remains uncertain, we will continue to do outreach, operate our drive-thru distribution, and provide the best Thanksgiving service we can.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of our organizations. When the pandemic hit, one of our greatest challenges was to ask our volunteers to stay home for their own safety. This drastically shifted how we do business. We hired more temporary staff and continue to operate with a skeleton crew.



26,196 Total hours donated to HRDC's Food & Nutrition Programs

HOURS BY PROGRAM/EVENT:

- GVFB: 12,130
- FORK & SPOON: 9,775
- SUMMER LUNCH: 1,300*
- BSCFB: 1,160
- KIDSPACK: 595
- HAFB: 550
- HUFFING FOR STUFFING: 410
- SENIOR GROCERY DRIVERS: 276

*hours from 2020 Summer Season



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Donna West is often referred to as the mother of the food bank. Volunteers like Donna help shape the positive, supportive, and welcoming experience that everyday people in need have when they turn to us for help. Donna has been volunteering at GVFB since 1995 and has served on our advisory council since 1997. This woman has done it all! She stocks shelves and interviews our customers who came in for food, and assists them in finding help with a variety of resources they may need.

Her life has been devoted to serving people in one form or another. She has worked in both the medical and legal fields. In between she was a waitress, house painter, and even worked for Bendix manufacturing airplane parts and owned several businesses in another state.

Donna came to Bozeman, Montana from Florida in 1985 and put down roots. It was a dream of hers to go to Montana since she was a little girl. She genuinely loves the big sky and long drives. She genuinely loves the big sky and long drives. One of her degrees is in Forestry & Conservation. Her hobbies include reading and learning as much as possible about everything. She also likes flying kites both big and small and spending time with her chihuahua, and on occasion enjoys riding an ATV on the back roads. In her time at GVFB, she has received many community awards, notably in 2006, GVFB named the new expansion the Donna West Wing. In 2012, she was the Governor's Office of Community Service Volunteer of Brawl of the Wild Game for her efforts with GVFB! While Donna is still hoping to continue serving her community, the pandemic has made her reconsider. She continues to serve on our Advisory Council but she has made the tough decision to stay home as we navigate these difficult times. Donna is one in a million!



FOOD & NUTRITION STAFF

GVFB:

Back Row, Left to Right:

Jon Horn, *Operations Manager*

Laura Stonecipher, *Programs Manager*

Lyra Leigh-Nedbor, *Child Nutrition Programs*

Jennifer Treff, *Data Entry & Reception*

Kyla Crisp, *Food Rescue Coordinator*

Dara Fedrow, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Front Row, Left to Right:

Jill Holder, *HRDC Food & Nutrition Director*

Wes Cawood, *Warehouse Coordinator*

Monica Ruiz, *Special Projects Coordinator*

Mattie Griswold, *Outreach Coordinator*

Not pictured: Madelyn Hillis, *Warehouse Assistant*



HAFB:

Kim Gelder, *Operations Manager*



BSCFB:

Left: Laine Hegness, *Operations Assistant*

Right: Sarah Gaither, *Operations Manager*

Front: Candice Brownmiller, *Operations Assistant*



F&S:

Back Row Left to Right:

Zach Brown, *Evening Lead*

Bill Rogers, *Kitchen Assistant*

Nate Brooks, *Kitchen Assistant*

Front Row Left to Right:

Leah Smutko, *Head Chef & FOH Manager*

Rick Hilles, *Program Manager*

Jennifer Treff, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Not pictured: Jacqui Colt, *Catering Chef & Events*

Hannah Larson, *Evening Lead*

Natalie Wilkinson, *Evening Lead*

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

All of our food banks benefit from community input and guidance. Our advisory councils represent members of the community. They attend monthly meetings, drive trucks, answer phones, stock shelves, advocate for our programs, and at times even help us with building maintenance. Their leadership helps guide our next steps as we grow.



HRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David Kack	Pierre Martineau
Gene Townsend	Robert McMahan
Bill Berg	Kris Moos
Bailey Bliss	Peter Schmidt
Mitch Bradley	Billie Warford
Ron Brey	Leroy Wilson
Scott Malloy	Linda Young

GVFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Justin Varley	Dick Dowdell
Donna West	Jerry Johnson
Mitch Bradley	Judy Mathre
Carmen Byker-Shanks	Jody McDevitt
Rick Cameron	Melissa Meredith
Lori Christenson	Doug Weber

BSCFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Pam Rempt
Leslie Piercy
Diane Bartzick
Jeremy Blyth
Paul Conrad
Michelle Donaldson
Laine Dru
Susan Myers
Robert Gerard Koehler
Christine Lugo-Yergenson

HAFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chuck Wambeke
Jeff Elliot
Aimee Jones
Gene Townsend
Ann Cole
Lamont Kotter

THANK YOU

PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) opened its doors for Emergency Food Assistance in a little house on Mendenhall. 549 Households receive emergency assistance in the first year.

1982



The First CROP Hunger Walk is held in Bozeman. CROP Walks raise awareness and funds for international and local hunger relief.

1987



Summer Lunch Program for children begins.

Satellite distribution established with Church of Christ in Belgrade.

Property at 602 Bond Street is purchased.

1999



The National Letter Carrier's Food Drive begins in Bozeman.

1995

GVFB begins participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), or Senior Groceries as we know it.

The food bank moves to 803 N. Wallace, a 1,950 square foot building and remains there until 2001.

1985

GVFB Staff help establish the Livingston Food Pantry.

The Headwaters Area Food Bank is also established.

2004



GVFB purchases 1.23 acres of land adjacent to existing property for future

2007



2001



The new building on Bond Street has twice the space as the Wallace building, increasing the square footage to 3,600.



A pre-packed food box circa 2005

Client choice system is implemented.

The Bread & Produce Room opens.

2006



There is a 15% increase in usage of Emergency Food Boxes, reflecting the impact of the recession.

2008



Between 2008-2011 GVFB experiences a 35% increase in Emergency Food Box requests.

2011



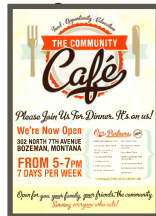
In 2012, in order to maintain the one-month surplus of foods for disaster response, overflow warehouse storage is utilized for the first time.



In the Fall of 2012, our Big Sky Community Food Bank opens its doors.

2012

The Community Café was launched in 2012 with an ambitious goal of providing a hot meal to anyone who needed one, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Meals were prepared at the food bank and delivered nightly to the Café.



2013



Can the Griz reaches new heights! There was a 70% increase in pounds of food donated from 2012!

GVFB pilots the "Learning Garden Program" in the gardens at GVFB as a test run for Story Mill Community Park.



2017

GVFB explores new ways to understand our customer base and improve their health with UP3 and Amplify MT.

2019

HRDC begins planning a new building for Food & Nutrition Programs on land that was purchased in 2019

2020

2016

The Community Cafe transitions to a 'Pay What You Can Model' and in 2017 rebrands as Fork & Spoon.



GVFB partners with area Middle Schools to implement the first school pantry to help reach more students.

HAFB moves into their new building



