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WINTER
2021

A PROGRAM OF  HRDC

GVFVB NEWS

Local support for local families

Winter 2021 >>>

This Quarter's Wish List

High-Priority Foods

- Fresh Produce
- Canned Beans
- 16-oz Peanut Butter
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Canned Tomato Products
- Gluten-Free Foods
- Cereal
- Rice

Non-Food Items

- Diapers, Sizes 3 and Up
- Unopened Boxes of Nitrile Gloves
- 12-Count Egg Cartons

FOOD ASSISTANCE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS & DONATIONS:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00, off-peak hours are encouraged (before 12:00 pm or after 2:30 pm)

Happy Holidays!

In some ways, the end of the year is my favorite. It means that we have traveled through Thanksgiving and Christmas and we can look back at a job well done. We helped 1,744 households (well over 3,500 people) to have a traditional Holiday Meal—this in addition to serving our regular 1,100 households a month! I think for many of us, a nutritious, beautiful meal is one way we express to another person that we care, and that we wish them good health. If we go deeper, we see a community that cares and they, too, share this ideology. In November and December, we had a cumulative total of 1,287 unique financial donations and food donations from approximately 750 identified

sources, providing this safety net of services takes all of us. Our volunteers packed boxes, sorted groceries, and stood out in all kinds of weather to distribute these foods and without them, our Food Bank would not run. When I think of our customers, their grace, relief, and perseverance are inspiring. Despite what life is throwing our way, we have proven that if we work together we can make the best of today and plan for a better future. I am hopeful because of all of you! Bring on 2021! -Jill Holder



Volunteer Spotlight >>>

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. 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. Over time, we were able to incorporate volunteers back into the fold but some of our long-time volunteers have continued to stay home. We miss our old friends but have made new ones along the way.

We asked a few of our new volunteers to share what brought them to the food bank and what they enjoy.

What brought you to the food bank?

"My wife Kim did some volunteering at GVFB and thought it would be something I would enjoy. And signed me up! It has been one of the best and easiest decisions I have made!"
- Ande S.

"We moved to Montana for retirement. I now had the time to do more than just write a check or volunteer for a once-a-year function. Someone in my book group suggested I check out HRDC. I love food-both eating and cooking so the Food Bank seemed a natural fit."
- Donna V.

"Retiring and moving to Bozeman I wanted to do something that was fulfilling, and I thought the Food Bank would be a perfect fit. So, I called and talked with Dara who is the Volunteer Coordinator. She told me that they could use the help, I was really excited."
- Beverly A.

What do you enjoy about volunteering?

"My greatest joy working at the Food Bank is the people. Both the staff and the other volunteers. I work twice a week, Mondays doing food rescue and Wednesdays working in the warehouse."

Both give me a sense belonging and accomplishment that I would be hard pressed to replace in any other volunteer work I do."
- Ande S.

"Once I started, I was hooked. I did budgeting and archival records management for years so I felt that my logic and organizational skills were being put to use. Plus, I am a people person and I enjoy the interaction with the customers. Everyone has a story and is deserving of kindness and respect. Lastly, the Food Bank staff and volunteers are AWESOME! The Gallatin Valley is very fortunate to have such a dedicated, hardworking group of employees."
- Donna V.

"It is rewarding to know that I am not only helping people in need but also the HRDC. The people that I have been fortunate enough to work with are really upbeat and friendly and help out a newbie person which I appreciate. We work hard but we also have fun doing it." - Beverly A.

We still keep in touch with many of our volunteers, by hosting monthly Zoom calls. (If you want to be a part of this, contact Dara!)

Jean S. a long-time boxing and intake volunteer, shared what she missed about the food bank:

"There are so many things I miss about the Food Bank! The passion and perseverance of the staff, the dedication of the volunteers, and the kind words of appreciation from the clients are highlights, all of these inspire me to be a better person. The Food Bank is one of those special places that is so much greater than the sum of its parts, and it is a joy and an honor to be a part of it."



Jean hosting the Monday crew for a socially distant dinner.



Jeremy B. stopping by to say hi.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked with us in the fight against hunger this past year. Local dollars make up 99% of GVFB's funds. Together, we have provided food for nearly 10,000 families and helped connect many customers to critical resources. This year, more than ever, your support meant that no one had to go to bed hungry.



To: Those who helped us provide holiday foods to 1,400 households!



To: Our grocers and donors who help us year-round!



To: Those that contributed to Can the Griz- a grand total of 150,290 pounds and \$252,893



Thank you!

To: The 1,653 Huffing For Stuffing participants who ran their own course to support GVFB!



To: The volunteers who sustain us daily and gave 12,406 hours last year!



To: Town Pump For their matching gifts and for motivating so many to support GVFB



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."- Helen Keller



At the start of 2020, we never would have imagined what this year would bring. What a challenging time it has been. Yet, as we reflect on the last 365 days, we are reminded of why we are still here. We made it through because of our devoted staff and Board, our thoughtful community partners, our loyal volunteers, and our many generous donors. We are so grateful for our friends. We wouldn't be here without you. To the right are a few of the many things we did last year, all with your support! Thank you! HRDC



Donor Spotlight: Town Pump

This Fall, Town Pump began the 19th year of their “Be a Friend in Deed, Help Those in Need” campaign. Their partnerships with Montana food banks allows them to support our friends and neighbors dealing with food insecurity. This year, our local Town Pump stores went above and beyond to help us meet our match! This was on top of funds donated when the pandemic first began!

We have come together, stayed together and remained strong.

We distributed outdoor gear to people without homes.

We installed portable restrooms around town to ensure everyone has access to a bathroom.

We packed and packed and packed food boxes and loaded everyone's vehicle full of goodies.

We visited every tent around town to conduct wellness checks.

We made sure that no one missed a medical appointment.

We called every senior to make sure they are safe and cared for.

We have cooked and delivered countless meals. We delivered thousands of pounds of groceries.

We have delivered medications.

We worked nights and weekends and early mornings

We generated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support our customers and our community.

And so much more!



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