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SPRING  
2021

# GVFB NEWS

Local support for local families

## Spring 2021 >>>

### This Quarter's Wish List:

#### High-Priority

- Dry Beans or Lentils
- Masa Harina
- Canned Beans
- Canned Chilies
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Canned Tomato Products
- Peanut Butter (16oz jars)
- Cereal
- Rice

#### Other

- Diapers Sizes 2-6
- Baby Wipes

#### Food Assistance Hours:

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

Drive-Thru Only, Lobby Closed

#### Office Hours & Donations:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

## What's New and Exciting?

**Springtime**, starting seeds, vaccines, and volunteers returning to our programs— these are new and exciting changes. Our staff is working on a reopening plan for our store and lobby, one that keeps everyone safe but brings back choice to our customers and allows for a more in-depth visit. We have missed having deeper conversations with volunteers and customers alike. In addition to meeting our customers' grocery needs, we look forward to having more time to connect them to resources needed to move them from crisis to thriving. Opportunities to learn come in many packages, and this is undoubtedly true for this year and this pandemic. We want to share some of our take-aways **1)** The food supply chain is fragile. Interruptions in production, transportation and demand change the supply quickly. Like many of you, we have committed to supporting our local growers and producers. **2)** Our function

is critical to the stability of serving the community. Our inventory allowed us to ride out the first wave of shortages at the start of the pandemic when we saw a spike in need. **3)** The drive-thru distribution was well received by some (think sleeping kids in the car or the person who is ill and in need of groceries), so it is likely that we will maintain one day of service in a drive through model. **4)** Mobile pop-ups work. Distributions in Belgrade, Clarkston, and at the Gallatin Valley Mall saw numbers in an hour's time that we could never manage in the store. **5)** We are resilient, all of us, our staff, our volunteers, and most importantly our customers. We are grateful for the encouragement, the donations and our community helping us move forward to a hopeful Spring.

## Partnership Programs Spotlight>>>

### Activity Kits: Montana Science Center and Bozeman Public Library

GVFB is committed to seeking partnerships that improve the health and well-being of our customers. These partnerships allow us to provide healthy tips and learning opportunities to youth in our community.

#### Bozeman Library Foundation

Early Childhood Literacy Outreach, a partnership between Bozeman Public Library and GVFB, aims to provide free children's books and educational activity bags to families at the food bank. GVFB received 150 activity kits in February. The activities include vocabulary lessons, interactive art projects, and of course fun books to read!



#### Montana Science Center

Montana Science Center, in partnership with Bozeman Health and GVFB, created take-home science for families throughout our community. 75 kits were delivered to the food bank back in January. These STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) kits focus on keeping the body healthy with a different topic for each of the kits. They were designed to encourage children in first through fifth grades to engage in science while at home through a series of hands-on activities.



**Root Cellar**  
Authentic Foods  
MONTANA

LOCAL // HEALTHY // DELICIOUS

Donate produce to  
Gallatin Valley  
Food Bank through  
the online market

Support access to local products by donating  
produce to GVFB when you order from Root  
Cellar Foods online market:  
<https://www.rootcellarfoods.com/>

### Staff Corner >>> 47 years and counting...

Laura Stonecipher, Jon Horn and Jill Holder all started at GVFB in early 2011. Monica Ruiz joined the team in 2012 and Lyra Leigh-Nedbor in 2013. With ten years together and a cumulative total of 47 years of experience, our staff understands each other well. Everyone knows and appreciates their peers' workstyles and strengths. They can anticipate need and they expect the unexpected. Their experiences have included a 35% growth in a two-year period during the recession, the launching of the Fork & Spoon, a food rescue program that keeps growing, the incredible expansion of Can the Griz, and now a pandemic.

When this crew is asked "What keeps you engaged and what do you like about your work?" two things always come up. "Our work is important; it is a basic need, and I am proud that our community cares about its citizens enough to help provide much needed food." The other constant is "I love my co-workers." Food bank life is never boring, and there are inherent "team building activities" for instance moving 2,000 pounds of milk, running off the rogue ground squirrel or supporting each other when we work with a customer who is struggling.



GVFB staff circa 2013



### Donor Spotlight:

#### Root Cellar Foods

Having access to fresh produce is important, but our customers are not always afforded this opportunity. Thanks to our new partnership with Root Cellar Foods, community members can donate funds to be used by GVFB while supporting local producers and growers. 100% of funds will be used to provide local, healthy, and delicious produce for our customers. Next time you shop their online market, look for the donate button!

# Quarterly Calendar of Events

*This Quarter, we have a lot of exciting events and programs. If you want any further information on a specific event or program, feel free to email [info@gvfb.org](mailto:info@gvfb.org) or call the food bank at 586-7600*

	Date	Event	What is it?
April	Monday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Childhood Hunger Awareness Week</b>	The week of April 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> we are raising awareness of childhood hunger by helping schools and communities support food resource programs that provide students with the meals they need to succeed.
	Wednesday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wear Orange Wednesday</b>	<b>Wear Orange</b> on Wednesday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> to bring awareness to the issue of childhood hunger. Share your photos on social media with #wearorangewednesday!
	Saturday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm	 <b>SPRING FOR FOOD</b>	Join us on Saturday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> at area grocery stores to collect food for GVFB. More information can be found at <a href="http://www.springforfood.com">www.springforfood.com</a>
May	All Month Long!	<b>Community Action Month</b>	Welcome to Community Action Month! During the month of May, HRDC celebrates our partners, colleagues, businesses, and customers who allow us to Build a Better Community.
	Thursday, May 6 <sup>th</sup> -Friday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Give Big</b>	One Valley Community Foundation's Give Big Gallatin Valley is a 24-hour celebration of giving. Give Big begins at 6pm on May 6 <sup>th</sup> and ends at 6pm on May 7 <sup>th</sup> . Support your favorite nonprofits during this 24-hour giving frenzy!
	Sunday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mother's Day Take &amp; Bake Brunch (Fork &amp; Spoon)</b>	As always, 100% of proceeds and gratuity will directly support Fork & Spoon's mission to provide delicious food to everyone in the Gallatin Valley, regardless of means. Visit <a href="http://forkandspoonbozeman.org">forkandspoonbozeman.org</a> to order.
June	The growing season	<b>Grow-A-Row</b> 	As you start to plant your garden, consider adding a row or two for the food bank! Fresh produce is an essential component of a healthy diet but is not always accessible to someone on a tight budget. Please wash or rinse any excessive dirt from the produce. Our warehouse is open from 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday. Donations can be accepted anytime during those hours.
	All Summer	<b>Garden Workshops &amp; Volunteer Opportunities</b>	GVFB needs help planting and maintaining our gardens. Details in the works! Check our website for the most current information.
	Monday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Summer Lunch Begins</b>	Summer Lunch is free for any child 18 and under. We have meal sites across the valley. Meals served follow USDA nutrition guidelines and are super tasty! Find out more: <a href="https://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org/get-help/summer-meals/">https://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org/get-help/summer-meals/</a>



# Food & Nutrition 101

Formerly GVFB 101, we are expanding this section to encompass the broad role HRDC's Food & Nutrition programs have in our community.

Do you have a food bank in Belgrade?	Unfortunately, our Mobile Service held at Peace Lutheran Church has been postponed until further notice. We are actively exploring ways to better serve the Belgrade community and are open to suggestions.
What are our most common referrals?	We often refer people to HRDC's Housing & Energy programs, the Bike Kitchen, Bozeman Help Center, and Love Inc., to name a few.
What are HRDC's Food & Nutrition Services?	HRDC's Food & Nutrition efforts serve 1 in 6 in Gallatin County. Programs include Fork & Spoon, Senior Groceries, KidsPack and Summer Lunch, and our three food banks: Gallatin Valley, Headwaters Area, and Big Sky Community Food Bank.

## Fundraising Success! >>> Pack the Sack for KidsPack

Pack the Sack is a fundraiser that helps support our KidsPack program, which ensures that all kids have access to food over the weekend and return to school each Monday ready to learn.

In 2019 Healthy KidsPack and Bozeman Schools Foundation came together to pursue Pack the Sack after identifying a need for education in the community around childhood hunger and the resources that exist in Bozeman. Our 2020 inaugural year raised \$11,834!

This year, thanks to the efforts of the Bozeman Schools Foundation and \$10,000 from Montana Rib and Chop House, we raised over \$28,000 to support the nutritional needs of area children.

We are beyond elated. Thank you to Bozeman Schools Foundation for leading the charge to ensure that kids have enough food to learn and grow.



GVFB and Bozeman Schools Foundation staff celebrating!



### Contact us!

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