



FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMS OF HRDC

A N N U A L R E P O R T

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

I often refer to our work as invisible. The struggles our customers face and overcome are invisible to most and often, held in silence. It is not commonplace to talk about being worried about how you are going to feed your family at the water cooler. We are not good at asking for help.

Nobody wants to be hungry. But everybody wants to pay their rent or mortgage. And here, in this valley, doing so often means that you are doing so at the expense of other necessities. Whether that is food or medication or snow tires, something is being spared. Even with the swift local recovery among most sectors, some sectors are lagging behind, leaving many in our community with lingering financial challenges.

Struggles are hard and they are real. But they are often invisible. You cannot see hunger. But it is prevalent in our community. That is why we bring you this report, to celebrate our work to alleviate hunger across the valley. Often it is only food a family needs to overcome their struggles however if the struggles are greater, we are always here to connect them to the supports that are available. We believe in the strength of our customers to achieve greater stability. We are so glad to be a part of the community and the vehicle that connects people that want to help with the people who need it.

A full belly is a bright start to a new day. A good nights' sleep. Comfort. So simple and so critical at the same time. We are proud of our work across our Gallatin Valley, Headwaters Area and Big Sky Community Food Banks, our Fork & Spoon Restaurant, our new Mighty Spork and our efforts to bring added nutrition to our most vulnerable community members, children and seniors. And we are grateful to each and every one of you, for making our work possible. Thank you for another year of support and advocacy.

Thank you for making sure nobody goes to bed hungry.

Heather Grenier, Chief Executive Officer & President, HRDC



Instilling Hope

Developing Resources

Designing Solutions

Changing Lives

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

A YEAR IN REVIEW: INNOVATION, RESILIENCE, & COMMITMENT

Food Banks are fascinating places where we see hope, despair, panic, peace, and the human condition unfiltered. This is a daily experience and the only thing predictable is that it will be unpredictable. As I reflect on the year, I never dreamed we would operate outside in the elements for 15 months of drive-through service. I couldn't imagine our regular volunteers not being a part of our daily experience. I never thought I would see so many of our customers living in their cars. Yet, all those things occurred.



Pre-Packed Carts for Drive-Thru Distribution

Being innovative was a necessity to meet the need so we called on our partners and set out to work. We made over a thousand calls to help set up vaccination appointments for our customers who wanted them. We delivered 908 grocery boxes to those who were quarantining or were afraid to get out. We set up 23 mobile pop-up pantries that helped normalize the act of picking up food and as a result helped over 2,800 households, many of these folks were new to us. We



Mobile Pop-Up Pantry

We provided over 31,000 Summer Lunches that contained both breakfast and lunch to children at 12 locations. We served over 25,000 to-go meals! Our Mighty Spork food truck was born through a COVID stimulus grant and allowed us to take our work on the road.

Fundraising seemed daunting in the middle of the pandemic. We also wondered if the support of the initial pandemic response would be available for our traditional year-end giving. In November of 2020, amid spiking COVID cases we opted to take Huffing For Stuffing to a virtual format. We were thrilled that our community stood by us and kept their holiday tradition

of generosity and exercise, in some instances states away. Can the Griz was different and though we could not bring in the amount of food we have in the past our financial support was our highest year to date. Donations for our services to address hunger grew. None of our services would be possible without the passion and strength of our staff, the compassionate volunteers, our committed donors and of course our customers who just keep trying despite high housing costs and barriers that are hard to imagine. We are in this together and I am grateful for another year of meeting the needs and solving the challenges that come our way.

Thank you for reading our annual report and take care,

Jill Holder, Food and Nutrition Director, HRDC

25,509 Meals provided by
Fork & Spoon

15,943 Food boxes distributed
by HRDC's food banks

3,381 Bags of Commodity
groceries given to
low-income seniors

1,978,256 Pounds of food
distributed to area
families, nonprofits, and
other HRDC programs
such as Fork & Spoon,
Blueprint and KidsPack





BOZEMAN, MT

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

10,829 Individuals received groceries from GVFB this equals 34,502 instances that customers received a five day supply of food

11,796 Food Boxes were provided

1,834,867 Total pounds of food distributed



GVFB provides food to our customers and serves as a food hub for our community. As a hub, we serve as the receiving warehouse for area partners including area food banks. We also provide food to other nonprofits who need food for their customers, such as Family Promise, or for events, such as the Help Center's Run For Your Life. GVFB also acts as a food pantry with a store open for shopping Monday-Friday.

Soaring housing prices in Gallatin Valley have only heightened the need for access to nutritious food.

GVFB was able to reopen our store to client choice, in-person shopping on June 23rd. This meant transitioning to a safe and empowering shopping experience for clients.

7,443 Average pounds of food distributed to families everyday

983 Households received help each month

852 Households received help for the first time

PROGRAM UPDATES

GVFB is home to several supplemental programs aimed to fill in the gaps for vulnerable **community** members. This includes our Childhood Nutrition Programs, Healthy KidsPack and Summer Lunch, and the Senior Grocery Program or Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

417 Seniors in total received monthly Senior Groceries

31,848 Meals provided to area children this past summer (June-August) at **12** sites across the valley



9,602 KidsPacks distributed to an average of 400 children every Friday at **32** sites in Southwest MT

Mobile Units and Deliveries:

Our service method pivoted to increase our home delivery program in the effort to meet people where they were. These requests came from families and individuals in quarantine, homebound customers, and folks with transportation barriers. Overall, deliveries increased by 200 percent. Mobile Units, typically Farmers Feed Families boxes, were distributed on 23 different instances in Bozeman, Belgrade and Clarkston. These mobile units allowed us to serve 2,874 households with 75,431 pounds of food.



908 Food Boxes delivered to people's homes

FOOD RESCUE

The food rescue program allows us to distribute nourishing food to our customers and keep food out of the landfill. Changes in the food supply system with new grocery stores opening in Bozeman meant maneuvering a changing food landscape.

In 2020-2021, the food rescue program collected 765,326 pounds of food from area grocery stores, bakeries, and farms. This number is lower than in years past due to the decision to focus our efforts on nutritionally valuable foods and to stop collecting bakery sweets. During this fiscal year, Gallatin Valley Food Bank distributed 1,845,886 pounds of food. Out of the total, 195,527 pounds went to area non-profits, The Fork & Spoon, CSFP, and KidsPack.



765,326 Pounds of food collected from area grocery stores, bakeries, and farms

GARDENS

GVFB manages The Story Mill Learning Garden as well as gardens at the property on Bond Street. In its second full growing season, The Story Mill Learning Garden really bloomed and came to life this year. The different partners within the garden also came to life this year with strong teams, including BYEP, Gallatin Valley Farm to School, Bozeman Parks and Recreation, and the Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative. The food forest received a lot of labor from the various groups of volunteers that came through to pull weeds, hand water, and sheet mulch. While there is still much work to be done, we saw real growth and progress throughout the space this growing season. The GVFB garden's greatest success was the hoop house! We have declared this year the "Year of the Tomato!"

629 Pounds of produce from the GVFB and Story Mill Learning Gardens distributed through the store

1,083 Volunteers helped pulling weeds, mulching, watering, and harvesting





BIG SKY, MT

821 Individuals received help from BSCFB

1,104 Food Boxes distributed

34,684 Pounds of food distributed

Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB), based in Big Sky, provides emergency food assistance, a clothing closet, and service navigation to area residents. BSCFB has grown into a resource hub for locals.



Sarah, Operations Manager, coordinated with community partners to connect customers to services including behavioral health and rental assistance as well as access to the COVID vaccine. BSCFB numbers were down slightly compared to previous years due to COVID and housing prices. Large employers were not hiring at full capacity and those looking to earn their living in Big Sky are unable to afford to live in town anymore. In May, BSCFB opened its doors to customers again after only offering a pre-packed, drive-thru service. Summer 2021 marked the first time BSCFB distributed Summer Lunch. Fork & Spoon's food truck, The Mighty Spork, and Take & Bake program were a hit at the Big Sky Farmer's Market. These efforts were fruitful for Fork & Spoon as well as the Big Sky community.

41 Food Boxes delivered to those in quarantine

205 Households received help for the first time

736 Volunteer hours donated to BSCFB

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.



3,538 Individuals received help from HAFB

3,033 Food Boxes provided

245 Percent increase in food boxes distributed from year prior



108,706 Pounds of food distributed

177 Households received help for the first time

852 Volunteer hours donated to HAFB

Growth in the Three Forks area, due to the high housing costs elsewhere in the valley, has brought more need to HAFB's doors. A highlight of the past year was delivering food boxes to Clarkston. From distributing Farmers to Families produce boxes at fishing access points to beginning to understand the need of the population HAFB is serving in Clarkston, it has been a gratifying journey. HAFB saw double the Thanksgiving Box distribution from the previous year. In April, HAFB celebrated the first anniversary of their new building.

FORK & SPOON

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.

After a long hiatus due to COVID, and a lot of to-go containers, the Fork & Spoon opened their doors to the dining room in June. Having customers enjoy a meal on site was a welcome change for staff and volunteers alike. Volunteers were slower to return and staffing shortages made the amount of programming that is run out of the Fork & Spoon a challenge.



FORK & SPOON

Owned and Operated by  HRDC



25,509 Hot meals were provided

7,170 Meals delivered during the height of the pandemic

1,607 Volunteer hours donated to Fork & Spoon

GOOD FOOD DOES GOOD

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A highlight of the year was the expansion of Fork & Spoon's social enterprise model to include The Mighty Spork Food Truck and Take & Bake Program.

Take & Bake: During the height of the pandemic, we all recognized that we were tired of our own cooking. We also recognized there was a market for take and bake that would do good. Launched in February 2021, the Take & Bake ordering system opened once a week for pick-up the following week. Folks choosing to fill their freezers and feed their family members, friends, and guests with Take & Bake meant that net revenue went right to The Fork & Spoon!

The Mighty Spork: The first pay-what-you-can food truck in Montana hit the road in Summer 2021. Created with a grant from COVID Business development funds, The Mighty Spork brings healthy and delicious meals to areas across HRDC's service area. The Mighty Spork is used in many different ways: it acts as a tool for promoting community spirit, it can be rented for social events, and acts as mobile outreach for HRDC's Food and Nutrition Programs.

(def) Social Enterprise: a business or organization whose profit supports the common good. Traditional business strategies are applied to generate sustainable income and profit, which in turn are reinvested into the organization to advance a chosen social mission.



MAP OF CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION



Summer 2020

GVFB's home delivery program grows rapidly. This includes providing groceries for individuals and families in quarantine.



Fall 2020

Farmers Feeding Families boxes are distributed across Gallatin Valley with great success.



Winter 2020

Drive-Thru distribution becomes challenging as customers, volunteers, and staff are forced outside during the coldest months of the year.



Spring 2021

Spring for Food and Carve Out Hunger offer a needed sense of normalcy. 22,622 pounds of food is collected.



Early Summer 2021

The quantity of deliveries we were making becomes unsustainable. In response we implement more mobile distributions.



June 23rd

The store opens for in-person shopping for the first time in 15 months. We were ecstatic to reintroduce the client choice model.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are vital to alleviating hunger in Southwest Montana. That's what made it so difficult to ask volunteers to stay home for their own safety during the height of the pandemic. We welcomed back many returning volunteers during the spring and summer of 2021.

A three-year comparison of volunteer hours for all of HRDC's Food and Nutrition Programs shows a decrease of 51 percent. This is not a reflection of volunteer dedication or interest, simply a representation of the changing circumstances we navigated.

31,467 Total hours donated 2018-19

29,196 Total hours donated 2019-20

15,539 Total hours donated 2020-21

HOURS BY PROGRAM/EVENT 2020-21:

- GVFB: 9,714
- FORK & SPOON: 1,607
- SUMMER LUNCH: 1,300*
- BSCFB: 1,160
- KIDSPACK: 357
- HAFB: 852
- HUFFING FOR STUFFING: 9, due to a virtual event
- SENIOR GROCERY DRIVERS: 360

*hours from 2021 Summer Season



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jody McDevitt has served on the Gallatin Valley Food Bank Advisory council for 23 years. You may know her as the co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church or perhaps you have read her guest column in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Her words of compassion, social justice and contemplation in her column were comforting in a chaotic world. Jody brought this same quiet sense of justice to our Advisory Council and her voice will be deeply missed. Jody has moved to be closer to family. I know that we are just a few of the many that will miss her words and presence to help us navigate this beautiful, painful, inspiring, and confused world.

We feel privileged to have your wisdom and leadership for the past 23 years. Thank you, Jody for reminding us to take pause, be grateful and to care for one another.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

To improve our services our organization is working hard to be more inclusive to those who English is not their first language or those that are Limited English Proficient (“LEP”). Equal access to HRDC programs is fundamental to the legitimacy of our commitment to community. Steps we are taking include: teaming up with Montana Language Services and utilizing some exceptional volunteers who are fluent in Spanish. Jon Kudrna (a double agent serving as Warming Center Recovery Specialist) started volunteering for GVFB in the depths of the pandemic and then helped us launch our mobile outreach in one of our local mobile home parks. Together with Reyna Velazco, who also jumped in to help GVFB in the past year, made our mobile outreach this summer a huge success. We now have many families joining us here at the Food Bank because of their efforts. Now, especially on Tuesday evenings, our intake volunteer Ann Peterson and Reyna team up to deliver a welcoming service. Thank you to these three outstanding volunteers who have opened doors for many.



FOOD & NUTRITION STAFF

GVFB:

Back Row, Left to Right:
 Evie Gray, *Garden Manager*
 Chloe Loeffelholz, *Outreach Coordinator*
 Lyra Leigh-Nedbor, *Child Nutrition Programs*
 Kyla Crisp, *Food Rescue Coordinator*
 Donovan Glasgow, *AmeriCorps VISTA*
 Jill Holder, *HRDC Food & Nutrition Director*
 Front Row, Left to Right:
 Laura Stonecipher, *Programs Manager*
 Nick Savage, *Warehouse Coordinator*
 Jon Horn, *Operations Manager*
 Becki Cook, *Service Navigator*
 Not pictured: Jennifer Treff, *Data Entry and Reception*
 Katharine Sutphen, *Volunteer Coordinator*



HAFB:

Left: Kathy Thompson, *Operations Assistant*
 Right: Kim Gelder, *Operations Manager*

BSCFB:

Left: Laine Hegness, *Operations Assistant*
 Right: Sarah Gaither, *Operations Manager*



F&S:

Left to Right:
 Jennifer Treff, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 Leah Smutko, *Head Chef & FOH Manager*
 Jacqui Colt, *Catering Chef and Events Coordinator*
 Rick Hilles, *Program Manager*
 Not pictured:
 Louisa Bryson, *Catering Assistant*
 Allie Zanieri-Hale, *Evening Lead*
 Rachel Ariaz, *Evening Lead*
 Zach Brown, *Evening Lead*
 Hannah Larson, *Evening Lead*
 Britta Binde, *Evening Lead*

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

All of our food banks benefit from community input and guidance. Our advisory council members represent members of the community. They attend monthly meetings, drive trucks, answer phones, stock shelves, and advocate for our programs. Their leadership helps guide our next steps as we grow. Even over Zoom, the passion and expertise of our board and advisory council members shines through.



HRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

BSCFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Pam Rempt
Leslie Piercy
Diane Bartzick
Jeremy Blyth
Laine Hegness
Robert Gerard Koehler
Christine Lugo-Yergenson

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	

HAFB ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chuck Wambeke
Aimee Jones
Gene Townsend
Lamont Kotter
Kevin King

THANK YOU

PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

1982

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.



..... **1985**

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

2001

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



..... **2005**

Expansion added to Bond Street building to accommodate the growing needs of our community. This increases our space to 5,000 square feet.

2012

With a 35% growth in need we begin utilizing off-site storage as well as mobile refrigeration. Space constraints are felt by customers, staff, and volunteers.



..... **NEXT UP**

Our new Food Resource Center! A consolidation of all Food & Nutrition Services and allied HRDC offices to improve the customers' experience.