



WELCOME-BIENVENIDOS

FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMS OF HRDC

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 — JUNE 30, 2024





At HRDC, we envision a place where poverty has no impact because opportunities and quality of life are equally afforded to everyone. **The mission of our Food & Nutrition programs is to improve food security in Southwest Montana. We believe no one should go to bed hungry.** 🌱



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DEAR FRIENDS,

This fiscal year marked a big transition: we are officially in our new home at HRDC's Market Place! No longer are we moving food from the warehouse to offsite storage and back. We can purchase food in bulk and share with the Headwaters Area Food Bank and Big Sky Community Food Bank, increasing efficiencies and saving on costs. No longer are the Fork & Spoon staff shuttling food from across town. While I am thrilled with our capacity and efficiency, I get the most emotional about our new sense of community. By being housed together, we now define every sense of community: location, interests, goals, and teamwork. In HRDC's latest needs assessment survey, respondents spoke of a lack of social connections. It is in this new home that we will build connections more than ever before.

Compared to the last fiscal year, the Gallatin Valley Food Bank saw a 13% increase in shopping experiences. However, when we compare January to June—after we moved into Market Place—shopping increased to 21%, reflecting the growing need within our community and our strengthened ability to serve people in our new location. The Fork & Spoon has also seen a similar increase: 7% over the fiscal year but closer to a 10% increase in the first six months of 2024. This trend is mirrored across the state. A recent survey of 97 Montana food banks revealed that 84% of them experienced an increase in service utilization.

Moving into this new year, we will continue to improve on what we have built. I am proud that we have piloted four Lunch and Learns for our customers, staff, and volunteers, with more programming on the horizon. We have built a community space that welcomes not only our customers, but other businesses and nonprofits, creating a revenue stream to help us continue our work. Eleven businesses have rented kitchen space at the Fork & Spoon, allowing us to serve as an incubator for new businesses in our area. Most important is the ability for our customers to access all HRDC services under one roof. The less time people spend in crisis, the easier it is to move into stability.

Thank you for being interested in our work. Please share what you learn in this report with a friend. I look forward to sharing upcoming programming and opportunities!

Take Care,



Jill Holder
HRDC Food & Nutrition Director

HRDC's Market Place
206 E Griffin Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715



FIVE YEARS IN REVIEW

| Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total individuals | 11,355 | 8,271 | 7,838 | 9,512 | 11,615 |
| Total food boxes | 13,921 | 11,796 | 13,688 | 17,532 | 19,897 |
| Total pounds distributed | 1,897,653 | 1,834,867 | 1,519,283 | 1,667,276 | 1,720,251 |
| Households receiving help for the first time | 1,450 | 852 | 886 | 1,190 | 1,735 |
| Total Kids Summer Lunch meals* | 27,864 | 40,716 | 31,848 | 22,366 | 33,534 |
| Total Healthy KidsPacks | 11,101 | 10,104 | 11,407 | 16,552 | 22,652 |

*Meals distributed only during the first summer of the fiscal year

| Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB) | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total individuals | 821 | 821 | 883 | 1,908 | 1,938 |
| Total food boxes | 1,355 | 1,104 | 1,944 | 3,493 | 3,557 |
| Total pounds distributed | 51,156 | 34,684 | 37,226 | 59,491 | 68,627 |
| Households receiving help for the first time | 127 | 111 | 448 | 627 | 664 |

| Headwaters Area Food Bank (HAFB) | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total individuals | 428 | 502 | 520 | 617 | 715 |
| Total food boxes | 878 | 3,033 | 2,533 | 2,581 | 2,431 |
| Total pounds distributed | 35,546 | 108,706 | 95,558 | 84,937 | 84,670 |
| Households receiving help for the first time | 78 | 68 | 68 | 22 | 102 |

| Fork & Spoon | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total meals served | 25,186 | 25,509 | 22,177 | 28,377 | 30,644 |
| Average production cost per meal | \$16.82 | \$21.02 | \$17.75 | \$17.92 | \$17.97 |

FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

1,869,713

Pounds of food distributed
by HRDC food banks

25,885

Food boxes* provided by
HRDC food banks

50,643

Summer meals** and
KidsPacks provided to
children in Southwest MT

30,644

Hot meals provided by the
Fork & Spoon at a pay-
what-you-can cost

23,948

Volunteer hours donated
to HRDC Food and
Nutrition programs

596,877

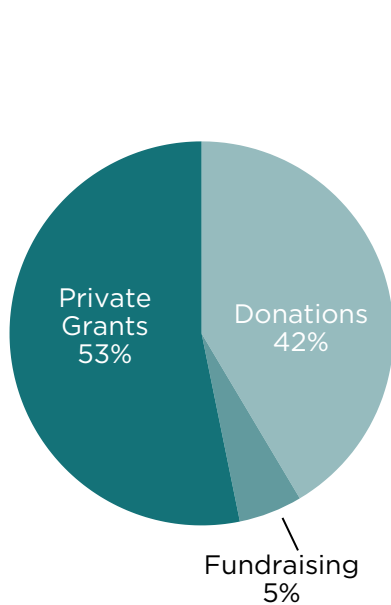
Pounds and dollars
donated during Can
the Griz 2023

*A food box represents a five-day supply of supplemental groceries

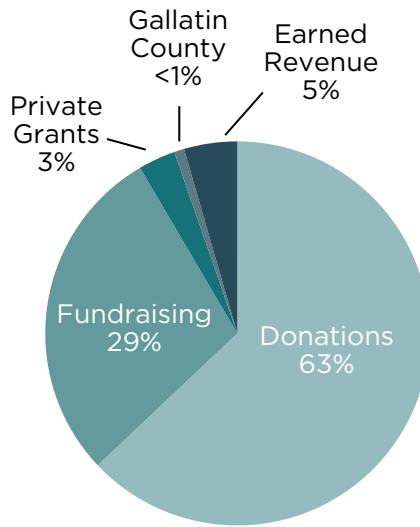
**Indicates the 27,991 Summer Lunch meals distributed during the fiscal year 2023-2024



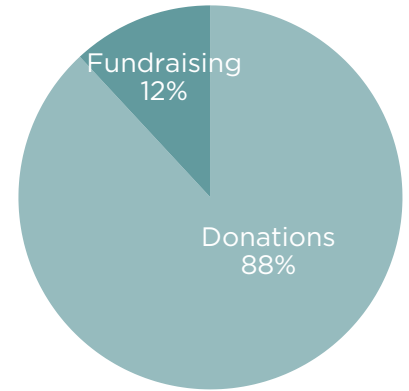
REVENUE SOURCES



Big Sky Community Food Bank

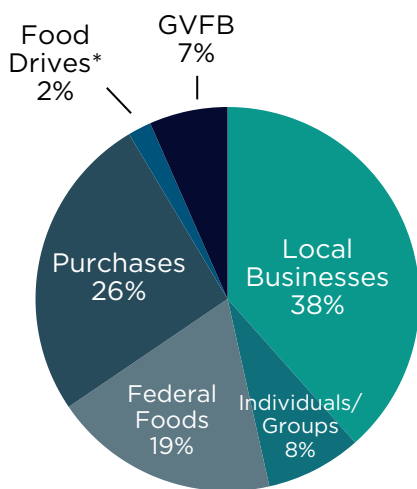


Gallatin Valley Food Bank

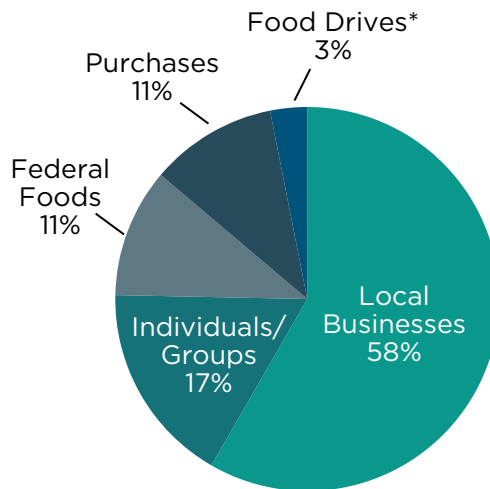


Headwaters Area Food Bank

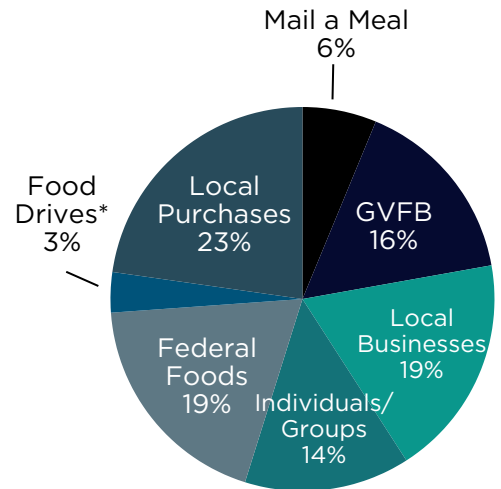
FOOD SUPPLY SOURCES



Big Sky Community Food Bank



Gallatin Valley Food Bank



Headwaters Area Food Bank

**Food drives appear underreported due to individuals, groups, and businesses donating within that category.*



OUR NEW HOME



Since moving to **HRDC's Market Place** in December of 2023, we have seen our longtime vision come to fruition. Customers and volunteers have shared that our new home is more comfortable, more respectful, and easier to navigate. Staff feedback notes the increased efficiency and safety of the systems we have developed and improved upon here. Operating out of a shared space means increased collaboration between HRDC programs and departments—an invaluable change that will positively impact our community for years to come!



All photos on this page: Townsend Collective



We asked our team to describe our new home.
Here is what they said...



GALLATIN VALLEY



Gallatin Valley Food Bank's (GVFB) mission is to improve food security throughout Southwest Montana. We know nutrition is vital for everyone in our community and we act as the crucial link between food and the people who need it.

The majority of our customers are based in Bozeman and Belgrade. Around 20% of our customers are children and 21% are seniors.

1,720,251

Total pounds of food distributed

Last FY: 1,667,276

19,897

Food boxes distributed

Last fiscal year: 17,532

7,258

Average pounds distributed per day

Last FY: 6,669

1,658

Average food boxes provided per month

Last FY: 1,461

11,615

Individuals served

Last FY: 9,512

1,735

Households received help for the first time

Last FY: 1,190



Our customers have been deeply impacted by the high costs of food, housing, and gas. Many have also been impacted by the decrease in federal programs that were available at the height of the pandemic. In our new home and with greater capacity, we are able to help more people than ever before. Over the past year, over 4,000 new customers have used the GVFB, making up 36% of the individuals we served.

Our new building has improved access not only to GVFB services, but to all other HRDC programs, giving us more ways to help ensure our customers never have to choose between gas and basic needs like nutritious food, electricity, or affordable housing. We could not do so without our local partners, donors, and creative programming to assist the most vulnerable populations; including children, seniors, and our growing Latino/Latinx community.



PROGRAM UPDATES



FOOD RESCUE

932,316

Pounds of food rescued from area grocery stores, bakeries, farms, and other businesses

Last FY: 905,977

85,599

Pounds distributed as compost or animal fodder for local farmers

Last FY: 73,887



CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

33,534*

Free Summer Lunch meals provided to kids in the community

Summer 2022: 22,366

**Total meals in summer 2023*

22,652

KidsPacks distributed to students during the school year

Last FY: 16,552



SENIOR NUTRITION

Senior Groceries (also known as CSFP) are supplemental foods distributed to seniors in Gallatin, Park, and Madison counties each month.

236

Individuals received Senior Groceries each month on average

2,827

Total Senior Groceries distributed



LEARNING GARDEN

Together we grow community. Our community partners are Buffalo Nations, Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (MIFSI), Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Bienvenidos, and City of Bozeman Recreation.

409 Pounds of produce distributed from the Learning Garden at Story Mill Park to the GVFB store

Second photo: Bozeman Daily Chronicle



NOURISHING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



Last July, we were the recipients of a brand new refrigerated Food Rescue van through Whole Foods' Nourishing Our Neighborhoods program. We use the colorfully wrapped van to rescue food from Bozeman Whole Foods and local stores and businesses every week day. Whole Foods has also hosted several "Stuff the Van" events where Bozeman team members fill the van with both fresh and nonperishable food.

**94,277 Pounds donated
by Whole Foods**

VOLUNTEERS @ GVFB

14,870

Total volunteer
hours donated to
GVFB-operated
programs

11,836

Store and
Warehouse

714

Healthy
KidsPack

1,051

Kids Summer
Lunch

444

Senior Groceries
(CSFP)

359

Garden
Programming

466

HRDC's Huffing
for Stuffing



GVFB Highlight: Rick Cameron

Rick is a person who is always there when you need him! He has served as an Advisory Council member for over 15 years, hiring most of our senior staff. As a business partner, he has stored and helped hand load many turkeys during the holiday season—up to 20,000 pounds in 2013! He has been first on call for refrigeration issues, providing support and expertise so we can store food for our customers. As if all of these things weren't enough, he also volunteers every Wednesday; stocking our store, sorting Food Rescue donations, packing Senior Groceries crates, and more. Rick is a steadfast friend to our staff and his fellow volunteers and we are so grateful for all he does.



THREE FORKS



A PROGRAM OF  HRDC

Headwaters Area Food Bank (HAFB), located in Three Forks, serves the west end of Gallatin Valley. HAFB provides food assistance, distributes senior groceries, and partners with other organizations to meet the needs of area residents. HAFB serves customers in Gallatin, Madison, Broadwater, and Jefferson counties. Serving the most rural areas with a focus on Harrison and Clarkston, our customers tend to be families and seniors—23% are under age 17 and 31% are seniors.

84,670

Total pounds of
food distributed

Last FY: 84,937

2,431

Food boxes
distributed

Last FY: 2,581

575

Food box
deliveries made
to Harrison and
Clarkston

HAFB works hard to engage the community. Whether it is collecting food at the rodeo, trick-or-treating at the food bank, or photos with Santa, we make sure the community knows we care. Other events focus on partnerships, such as “Socks For Seniors”, where we fill socks with personal care items for our young-at-heart customers. We also partnered with First Security Bank to provide Christmas gifts for families. No giving season would be complete without mentioning Town Pump and their “Be a Friend in Deed, Help Those in Need” match campaign. In the Spring we celebrated by filling our raised beds with vegetables and flowers thanks to the help of the Gallatin Gardeners Club. We were thrilled to see plants added when we weren’t looking!

HAFB was approved for a TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant to improve our rural outreach by building a better receiving dock for large deliveries. The USDA Local Food Purchase Grant has helped us stock all of our food banks with local produce. HAFB’s local food purchase partner is Good Mama Farm in Harrison. Working together, we bring local, nutritious food to our customers.



HEADWATERS AREA HIGHLIGHTS



The Halloween trick-or-treat event in Three Forks brought many to the food bank and served as an open house.



Photos with Mr. & Mrs. Claus brought in much-needed holiday food and good cheer for the holiday season!

VOLUNTEERS @ HAFB



956

**Total hours
donated by HAFB
volunteers**

HAFB Highlight: Aime'e Jones

Aime'e has been a volunteer at HAFB for nearly ten years. She also serves on HAFB's Board of Directors. Aime'e volunteers every Tuesday from 10 to 2 and plays a huge part in our program's success. She is ALWAYS there when we need her, whether that is buying items HAFB is low on or physically gleaning potatoes for our Thanksgiving boxes. We love Aime'e!



BIG SKY



Big Sky Community Food Bank (BSCFB) enhances the food security, health, and dignity of our neighbors living and working in Big Sky. BSCFB is a resource hub that provides many services; including emergency food assistance, a computer lab, and a washer/dryer. With the rise in housing costs, fewer employees can live in Big Sky and are moving to Gallatin Gateway, Belgrade, and even Bozeman. Those served in Big Sky tend to be working. Around 13% are age 17 or under and 8.4% are age 55 and over.



68,627

Total pounds of food distributed

Last FY: 59,491

3,557

Food boxes distributed

Last FY: 3,493

1,077

Households served

Last FY: 989

1,938

Individuals served

Last FY: 1,908



BSCFB helps to build and support the wellness programs at work in the broader community. We have helped increase access to mental and behavioral health resources through more case management time, more collaboration with other nonprofits and community leaders in Big Sky, and advocacy for public dollars into this space.

We are continually looking for ways to better serve our growing Spanish-speaking, senior, LGBTQ+, and other unique populations. Unique approaches include a gleaning operation at the Farmers Market and produce and thrift store vouchers to help people make ends meet.



BIG SKY COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



SixDegrees Resource Kits
with SixDegrees and Spanish Peaks Community Foundation

This year, Spanish Peaks Community Foundation partnered with SixDegrees to source and pack 1,000 resource kits for BSCFB and our community! The kits include personal hygiene items, first aid kits, socks, shelf-stable food, and other essentials. The Big Sky pack was SixDegree's fastest to date—1,000 bags were packed in less than 45 minutes! Sponsors included Bombas, Dr. Bronner's, Aunt Fannie's, and Meditac.



Food Recovery Internship
A partnership with MSU, Big Sky SNO, and YESCompost

Bukola Fagbemi, originally from Nigeria but a visiting scholar from Western Illinois University, joined the team to assess Big Sky's food waste stream and create interventions to preserve more healthy food by diverting items to the food bank. She created several resources, including food recovery guidelines for our kitchens, grocers, property managers, and housekeepers. She was also instrumental in publishing our first short video about food donation and recovery in Big Sky!

VOLUNTEERS @ BSCFB

586 Total hours donated
by BSCFB volunteers

BSCFB Highlight: Dean Nally

Dean has been a dedicated volunteer at the Big Sky Community Food Bank since 2015. Dean not only does our Friday pickups from grocers and donation barrels around Big Sky each week, he is also the coordinator of our Crockpot donation program through Ace Hardware. Dean is deeply involved in the Big Sky community through his work and involvement with housing issues through his owner's association. Dean has helped BSCFB in innumerable ways over the years, from food delivery to events, to advocacy, to staff support. He has always made himself available to help out in whatever way he can. Dean is 'retiring' from his volunteer work this year, but we want to thank him for his dedication, consistency, and support all these years.



FORK & SPOON

Fork & Spoon is Montana's first and only pay-what-you-can restaurant. We focus on creating homegrown, scratch-made cooking using locally sourced ingredients whenever possible. Everyone is invited to join us for a delicious evening meal at a price they can afford.

The Fork & Spoon was originally the Community Cafe, founded in 2012 by HRDC and a group of churches committed to helping our community. In 2017, the Cafe transitioned to what is now the Fork & Spoon. Now, 80 to 200 customers come to the restaurant every week night for great food and a warm welcome. After moving into Market Place, we have seen a 10% increase in customers and anticipate this number will continue to grow.

Look on the horizon for new programming at the Fork & Spoon coming soon.

30,644

Meals served

Last FY: 28,377

\$17.97

**Average production
cost per meal**



Owned and Operated by HRDC

**Good Food
Does Good**

Background photo: Townsend Collective



VOLUNTEERS @ FORK & SPOON

Like other HRDC Food & Nutrition programs, the Fork & Spoon has a small staff and depends on volunteers to prepare food, wash dishes, serve up orders, and deliver them to our patrons. This year we are highlighting Fork & Spoon cashiers, who are the first people our customers interact with. They greet everyone with compassion and acceptance while sometimes having to deal with stressful situations. We are so grateful for their dedication to our community.

7,536

**Total hours
donated by Fork &
Spoon volunteers**



Tanya Cunningham

Tanya cashiers for us once a week and always brings her calm presence and beautiful smile. She is also a pro at doing the dishes! She is the volunteer coordinator for the Bozeman Dharma

Center who are here once a month. She always gets a great group of volunteers, even employees from her husband Peter's company!



Thad Orosz

Thad has volunteered as the coordinator for the Holy Rosary for several years. He now volunteers at least once a week in the cashier position along with Holy Rosary once a month. He even fills

in when we are short on volunteers. Also, his smile is contagious!



Amy Strom

Amy is another forever cashier! If she's not here at least once a week, we miss her! Amy is so gentle and sensitive to all our patrons and our staff, always offering up encouragement. When

she's not volunteering as a cashier, she shows up on days she knows we're short on volunteers. We love that she has even brought her daughter and son to volunteer. It really is a family affair!



Joe Bernhardt

Joe has been a cashier for forever it seems! He doesn't like to miss his shift and loves to come in costume for holidays. When he is at the front we all know everything will run smoothly. Joe is

our gentle giant. He also has his daughter, Grace, volunteer each week. We love them!



HRDC FOOD & NUTRITION STAFF

This page features current and former staff.



Headwaters Area Food Bank

Left to right:

Emily Smith, *Operations Manager*
Kathy Thompson, *Operations Assistant*



Big Sky Community Food Bank

Left to right:

Laine Hegness, *Operations Assistant*
Candice Brownmiller, *Operations Assistant*
Sarah Gaither Bivins, *Operations Manager*



Fork & Spoon

Top photo, left to right:

Katie Wasilewski, *Sous Chef*
Aaron Knoebel, *Executive Chef*
Mary Arkins, *Evening Lead*

Bottom photo, left to right:

Hunayf Pate, *Executive Chef*
Eric Sellegren, *Kitchen Assistant*
Jim Dean, *Evening Lead and Sous Chef*
Andy Galloway, *Program Manager*
Rachel Ariaz, *Food Truck Lead*
Arielle Adams, *Program Assistant*
Jennifer Treff, *Front of House Coordinator*



Gallatin Valley Food Bank

Front Row, left to right:

Margaret Davies, *Senior Groceries/Store Coordinator*
Ali Thornton, *Programs Manager*

Back Row, left to right:

Emma Smith, *Childhood Nutrition Program Coordinator*
Rachel Salang, *Outreach Coordinator*
Jill Holder, *HRDC Food & Nutrition Director*
Amanda Brown, *Data Entry Specialist*
Kyla Crisp, *Program Coordinator*
Nick Savage, *Warehouse Coordinator*
Laura Stonecipher, *Administrative Assistant*
Jon Horn, *Operations Manager*
Jess Heagler, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Chris Boklovoy, *Warehouse Assistant*

Not pictured:

Kennison Spiering
Olivia Smart
Lyra Leigh-Nedbor



ADVISORY BOARDS

HRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Scott Malloy | Scott MacFarlane |
| Linda Young | Kris Moos |
| Steven Klein | Penelope Pierce |
| Mitch Bradley | Peter Schmidt |
| Bruce Grubbs | Amy Stix |
| Gene Townsend | Billie Warford |
| Pete MacFadyen | Jessica Willmarth |

BSCFB ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jeremy Blyth
Lizzie Peyton
Lucia Damberg
Christine Lugo-Yergenson
Ben Keefe
Diane Bantzick

GVFB ADVISORY COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Dick Dowdell | Justin Varley |
| Judy Mathre | Mitch Bradley |
| Melissa Meredith | Rick Cameron |
| Joe Sofianek | |

HAFB ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chuck Wambeke
Aime'e Jones
Gene Townsend
Kevin King

This report includes fiscal year data for the **Food & Nutrition** programs of **HRDC**. **HRDC** is a community action agency that instills **hope**, develops **resources**, **designs** solutions, and **changes** lives. Our goal is to impact our community in positive ways that allow anyone to move out of challenge and crisis and into a state of thriving. Learn more about our 50 programming initiatives and wrap-around services at thehrdc.org



HRDC
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY

