



# HUNGER CONNECTION

## Responding to Rising Need

Delivering with Dignity Across Milwaukee



The Farm Prepares for the Winter Season



School Meals Are a Win for All Children



Holiday Cards by Local Artists Help Feed Families

**Freezing temps, wind or snow, Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to healthy food obtained with dignity and endures the elements to serve our community. No matter the weather, we work to prevent hunger by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger-free tomorrow.**

Help Food For Families Finish Strong!



# Food for Families

There's still time to make a difference this Food For Families season! Supporters, both large and small, have rallied together to host both traditional and virtual food drives across our community, but we're not done yet. We still need your support to ensure that local kids, families, and seniors have the festive and healthy foods they deserve.

Increasing need and rising food costs have challenged the safety net in our community like never before – now is the time to give. Let's join together to raise food for hungry families across Milwaukee. Be generous this holiday season and help another family enjoy a memorable meal with your gift: [www.HungerTaskForce.org/food-for-families](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/food-for-families).



BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AT JOHNSON CONTROLS, WHOSE COMPANY-WIDE VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE RAISED

## \$7,700

TO SET THE TONE THIS SEASON!

Register your Virtual or Traditional Food Drive today at: [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org)



*Make the holiday season brighter for those in need – your support can make all the difference!*



## Food For Families highlights!

This Food For Families season, a full slate of generous organizations have stepped up to host virtual and traditional food drives.

After three seasons of virtual food drives, the Wehr Nature Center in Franklin continued their long-standing tradition of support by bringing back the traditional food drive to their autumn event and raised hundreds of pounds of healthy food.



Marian Milwaukee kept their virtual food drive tradition going strong. Their employees help purchase festive holiday foods, and the company amplifies their giving with a match of every gift.

Widespread Panic shared their virtual food drive with traveling fans all over the country and raised nearly \$7,000 during their run of concerts at the Riverside Theater.





# Network Partner Highlight: Vivent Health



Vivent Health is more than just a healthcare provider; it is a holistic “medical home” offering primary care clinics, pharmacies, food and nutrition resources, and an array of support services, all under one roof. Vivent recognizes that health is intrinsically linked to access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food, a belief echoed by Kelli Hilt, Director of WI Food and Nutrition Services at Vivent Health: “We believe that food is an integral part of healthcare and see it as a basic need.”

The enduring partnership between Hunger Task Force and Vivent Health, which began in 1990, has played a pivotal role in the success of their food pantry. Vivent Health’s pantry serves 335 households and over 420 individuals every month, thanks in part to the invaluable support provided by Hunger Task Force.

June 2023 marked a significant transformation for the Vivent Health food pantry. This year, Vivent moved to a new, larger space and transitioned to a “client choice pantry” model. This change grants clients the autonomy to choose their food, giving them a sense of dignity and control over their experience. The pantry now mirrors a grocery store, fostering a more welcoming and respectful environment. “Food choice

**“We believe that food is an integral part of healthcare and see it as a basic need” says Kelli Hilt, Director of WI Food and Nutrition Services at Vivent Health.**



increases autonomy and makes people feel more welcome in the pantry,” says Hilt.

Vivent Health’s partnership with Hunger Task Force represents a comprehensive approach to health. By addressing not only medical needs but also the fundamental right to access healthy, culturally appropriate foods, they have become a vital resource for the community. Vivent Health’s commitment to choice, dignity and compassion is a testament to their dedication to improving the lives of Milwaukee families.



## Meet Jennifer!

### Food Team Welcomes New Site Developer

Hunger Task Force is excited to announce that Jennifer Immler has taken on the role as a Site Developer on the Food Team! For nearly 14 years, Jennifer has provided exceptional service as a FoodShare Advocate at Hunger Task Force. Now, she’ll be using her skills and experience to support our local food pantry, soup kitchen and homeless shelter partners. Jen will be working with these organizations to build their capacity, ensure they have healthy and culturally appropriate food resources, and help them serve families in their neighborhoods with a high level of dignity.



# Winter at The Farm: The Season of Planning and Preparation

As the harvest wraps up, the Hunger Task Force Farm's essential work continues in the chilly Wisconsin climate. Though the majority of fields have been "put to bed," produce production continues in The Farm's hoop houses (yes, we grow crops in the winter!). Pruning orchards is also a big job during the cold months so that apple and pear trees are more fruitful next growing season.

Planning and feedback from the families we serve is an important part of The Farm's winter work. Our Farm team and Food Department work together to survey our local food pantries and meal programs to ensure that we are providing culturally appropriate produce that is of the highest quality and meets the needs of our diverse communities. The Farm also plans out all the seeds, fertilizer and equipment purchases for the upcoming year so that we can take advantage of seasonal discounts.



Now is a great time to make an end-of-year gift to help The Farm start the 2024 growing season on a strong note. For more information on how to support The Farm, please visit: [www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate/farm/](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate/farm/).

## The Farm 2023 Season Highlights Include:

**Record Year!**

**Beans**  
**23,944 lbs.**

**Cabbage**  
**85,012 lbs.**

**Corn**  
**110,765 lbs.**

**Collards**  
**20,791 lbs.**

**Tomatoes**  
**25,675 lbs.**



# School Meals Ensure That Every Child is Ready to Learn

School meals play an important role in helping ensure that every child starts school ready to learn. Hunger Task Force works to increase participation in federal nutrition programs in our schools through outreach, organizing, education and by eliminating hurdles standing between kids and access to nutritious, free school meals. School Nutrition plays an important role in student health and academic achievement, and fighting childhood hunger contributes to student success in and out of the classroom.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an opportunity that allows high poverty schools to provide free meals—both breakfast and lunch—to all students without having to collect school meal applications. By choosing CEP, schools are instantly freed from the burden of collecting lunch money and

filing lunch applications. All kids are fed the same meal and it's a win for all.

Hunger Task Force and local school meal advocates have been hard at work promoting CEP and creating pathways to participation for eligible families and Wisconsin school districts. We salute districts like Sheboygan Area School District, Kenosha Unified School District, Cudahy High School, School District of Janesville, Menasha Joint School District, and many other districts who have adopted the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and taken the single greatest step towards eliminating child hunger in their communities.

For more information or to learn about Hunger Task Force's school meal advocacy, visit [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org).



Arnoldo (Senior)



Fatima (Junior)



Itzel (Sophomore)



Natalee (Freshman)

## Hunger Task Force Partners with Local Students to Improve Quality of School Meals

Hunger Task Force is dedicated to bolstering access to healthy school meals for local students. We firmly believe that nourishing young minds and bodies through nutritious school meals is a cornerstone of their well-being and development. Hunger Task Force is proud to announce our inaugural partnership with Cristo Rey Jesuit High School! Cristo Rey boasts an innovative, nationally acclaimed work-study model that affords students the opportunity to offset a portion of their educational expenses by engaging in entry-level positions within local organizations.

Joining Hunger Task Force for the 2023-24 school year are Arnoldo (Senior), Itzel (Sophomore), Natalee (Freshman) and Fatima (Junior). Together with the Hunger Task Force Child Nutrition Organizer, the students will be working on projects that advance quality, awareness and participation in school meals across local Milwaukee schools.

# Exciting Winter Events!

This December, join Hunger Task Force and our partners for laserlight rock shows, ham-tastic fundraisers, black tie galas and more as we work together to end hunger during the holidays.

## December: Lend a Helping Ham



All December, Meijer is back to Lend a Helping Ham along with 102.9 The HOG and community partners. This hamtastic program puts holiday hams on the dinner table for families across Milwaukee. Hams can be purchased for \$15, and Meijer and others will be matching donations throughout the month. Tune in to 102.9 The HOG to hear all the details and more. You can keep our big freezer stocked by donating online at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) or drop off a ham at 5000 W. Electric Avenue.

## December 27: Trans-Siberian Orchestra



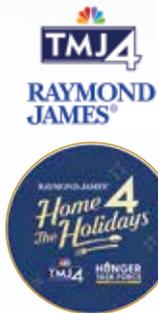
Cap off your holiday celebration with a fantastic rock show, complete with lasers, pyrotechnics and ballads. Trans-Siberian Orchestra returns to Fiserv Forum for two shows on December 27! This is one spectacular holiday tradition you do not want to miss, with a matinee and evening performance to accommodate all schedules. Grab your tickets now, knowing \$1 from each ticket benefits Hunger Task Force and Milwaukee's hungry.

## December 16: Feed Milwaukee Gala



One of Hunger Task Force's longest running holiday fundraisers—the Feed Milwaukee Holiday Gala—returns to Turner Hall on Saturday, December 16! This event started 20 years ago in a college apartment and continues to raise significant funds and awareness for local hunger relief. Stop by to party down and get an early visit with Santa and Rudolph!

## December: Home 4 the Holidays



Home 4 the Holidays is back all December long with Raymond James and TMJ4! The original Virtual Food Drive gives you the opportunity to donate from the comfort of your home and provide festive and nutritious holiday meals for families. Also stay tuned to TMJ4 for details on a very special food and fundraiser on Wednesday, December 20, live from the television studio.

## Holiday Cards by Local Artists Help Feed Families

Hunger Task Force is continuing the annual tradition of offering beautiful, one-of-a-kind cards for the holiday season – featuring original artwork from local artists on each card! When you choose to purchase and send these unique cards, you are making a difference. 100% of proceeds from Hunger Task Force Holiday Cards will be used to fight hunger in Milwaukee.

Cross an item off your list and order yours today! Holiday Cards are on sale through December 31, 2023. For questions, to place an order by phone, or to customize your order for a large group or corporation, contact Hunger Task Force at 414-777-0483.

Special thanks to our 2023 Presenting Sponsors:



Scan the code to order your Holiday Cards thru Dec. 31st!



# Event Highlights & Memorable Moments



5000 W. Electric Avenue  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219  
Phone 414.777.0483

Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to healthy food obtained with dignity. We work to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger free community tomorrow.

## OUR CORE VALUES

DIGNITY | JUSTICE | EQUITY  
COMPASSION | STEWARDSHIP

Hunger Task Force, Inc. is a charitable, 501(c)3 organization. Our Tax ID is 39-1345847.

Thanks to Burton & Mayer who donated printing to offset the cost of creating this newsletter.

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1. Hunger Task Force and Johnson Controls team up to launch the Food For Families annual holiday campaign, spreading the spirit of giving back.
2. Hunger Task Force welcomed visitors from No Kid Hungry to our West Milwaukee headquarters. The national organization directly supports Hunger Task Force's child nutrition advocacy work in Milwaukee and across the state.
3. In partnership with the Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotions Board, Hunger Task Force hosted a tasting event with Wisconsin's Dairy Farmers and Cheesemakers, including winners from the 2023 Blue Ribbon Dairy Products Auction at the Wisconsin State Fair.
4. Supporters of the food bank and members of the Legacy Society joined Hunger Task Force for an evening event filled with tours, remarks and a delicious menu prepared by award-winning Chef Justin Aprahamian from Sanford Restaurant.
5. Hunger Task Force welcomed Judge Derek Mosley, Director of the Lubar Center for Public Policy Research and Civic Education at Marquette University Law School, to Hunger Task Force for a special training on recognizing and understanding unconscious bias.

# HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

[www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org)

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## Make Your Year-End Gift!



**2023 is nearly over, but there is still time to make your year-end gift and help Hunger Task Force makes its goal to help feed families. Hunger Task Force must raise just over \$1.5 million in these last few weeks so we can keep our commitments to the Milwaukee community. Help us make that goal to feed kids, families and seniors!**

If you have already made your gift, thank you! If not, you can make a tax-deductible, year-end gift by placing a check in the enclosed envelope or by scanning this handy QR code to donate by December 31.



**[www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate)**