



HUNGER CONNECTION

Leading with Strength

Hunger Task Force Welcomes Matt King as New CEO



Bay View Food Pantry Expands Fresh Offerings Through Gardening



Exploring the Impact of the Hunger Task Force Farm From Above



"Milwaukee Model" Unites Community for a Hunger-Free Summer

A Letter from the CEO

“Thank you for standing with us in the fight against hunger. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many.”

- Matt King, CEO



Greetings from the first days of summer! We’ve made it through another winter and a particularly wet spring here in Wisconsin. As the warm sun brightens our days, Hunger Task Force is excited to share the latest news and updates from the field.

In this newsletter, you’ll read inspiring stories, see the impact of your contributions and learn about the exciting events and festivals on tap. We also celebrate two of our most impactful innovations: Summer Meals and The Farm!

The Milwaukee Summer Meals Collaborative has kicked off and is feeding kids at a critical time when childhood hunger peaks. We’re working together with our partners across Milwaukee at over 170 sites to make sure kids have breakfast, lunch and dinner while school is out.

The Hunger Task Force Farm is also in full swing, providing fresh, nutritious produce for our local pantry and meal programs. Our dedicated farmers and volunteers are working tirelessly to ensure that local families and seniors have access to healthy and culturally appropriate food.

Thank you for standing with us in the fight against hunger. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of many. Your compassion and generosity help us not only fill plates but also foster a sense of hope and stability for those we serve.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MK'.

Matt King, CEO





Network Partner Highlight:

Bay View Community Center Food Pantry

“Everyone has a right to fresh, healthy food,” says Chad VanDierendonck, Bay View Community Center Food Pantry Manager. “Being able to select your own produce helps dignify the experience of coming to a food pantry and we want folks to know we really care about them.”



The Bay View Community Center (BVCC) Food Pantry, a long-time partner of the Hunger Task Force, serves more than 300 households each month. While the gardens at BVCC are a recent addition, offering fresh food has always been a priority for the Center’s food pantry. “Everyone has a right to fresh, healthy food,” says Chad VanDierendonck, Food Pantry Manager. “Being able to select your own produce helps dignify the experience of coming to a food pantry and we want folks to know we really care about them.”

The Community Center’s gardening initiative started small with just a few raised beds for herbs. Over time, volunteers and community members transformed a neglected area west of the building into a vibrant garden space. Today, BVCC’s gardens grow more than two dozen varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs including cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, kale, strawberries, thyme, garlic and onions. The gardens have also fostered a sense of community, with neighbors donating surplus produce from their own gardens.

The Food Pantry supplements its garden produce with hundreds of pounds of fresh produce from the Hunger Task Force Farm. This partnership allows BVCC to plan its gardening efforts effectively and provide a broader variety of fresh foods. “The Farm helps prioritize growing certain things,” says Chad. “Then we can focus on expanding the variety of fresh produce for our pantry customers.” Recognizing the cultural needs of the local community, the gardening team has tailored their crops to include preferred peppers and herbs.

Fresh produce and herbs from BVCC gardens are distributed through the food pantry and a roadside stand outside the center. To support the BVCC or learn more about their gardening efforts, visit bayviewcenter.org.





HOOP HOUSES

In our hoop houses, special enclosures to extend the growing season, we grow crops directly in the ground using drip irrigation for precision watering and cover cropping to enhance soil health.



DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN

In the demonstration kitchen, our Gardeners prepare delicious meals. This hands-on experience helps to make healthy choices for their families.



NATURAL AREAS

The 100-acre natural area at The Farm, all within the Root River Watershed, comprises 43 acres of oak savanna, 32 acres of wetland and floodplain forest and 25 acres of prairie.



GREENHOUSE

In our greenhouse, we grow more than 200,000 plants each season. The Farm uses a dosatron nutrient delivery system for precise fertilization and a sun-activated shade cloth system to protect young plants.



An aerial view of the Hunger Task Force Farm reveals a stunning mosaic of productivity, cultivation and land stewardship across its expansive 208 acres in Franklin, Wisconsin. Central to The Farm is our iconic red barn, demonstration kitchen, Harvest Haus, Visitor Center, greenhouse and hoop houses that support year-round farming operations. During the growing season, nearly 6,000 volunteers work alongside our dedicated farmers help produce 600,000 pounds of healthy produce for the community.

Check out the Hunger Task Force Farm from above and explore the collective efforts and dedication that go into feeding our community with fresh, nutritious produce.

EDUCATION KITCHEN

In the demonstration kitchen, local students participate in the Farm-to-Plate program learn and prepare delicious and nutritious recipes. This hands-on experience empowers them to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.



SCHOOL GARDEN

The School Garden has 28 raised garden beds and provides local students with hands-on learning experiences in growing and caring for 21 culturally relevant fruits, vegetables and herbs.



VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center, formerly a historic grainery, welcomes 6,000 volunteers annually. It houses offices for farmers, community facilities and serves as a training, meeting and community space.



HARVEST HAUS

All fruits and vegetables harvested at The Farm are washed, packaged, stored and delivered Free & Local from the Harvest Haus. It is their final stop before reaching the community.



ORCHARDS

The Farm has over 800 trees that grow 20+ kinds of apples and pears. Each season, The Farm produces over 30,000 lbs. of fresh fruit to distribute free of charge to local families and seniors.



Uniting for a Hunger-Free Summer: The Milwaukee Model in Action

School's out, and summer is here! Hunger Task Force, alongside our many local partners, is thrilled to announce the return of free and healthy summer meals for children and teens across Milwaukee County.



Text **FOOD** or **COMIDA**
to **304-304**
OR
visit our interactive map on
[www.HungerTaskForce.org/
summermeals](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals) to find the nearest
summer meals site.

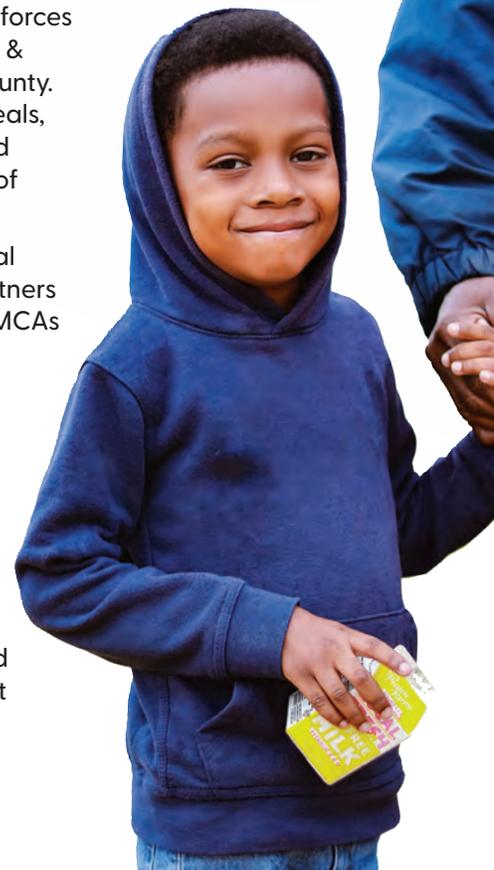
With childhood hunger peaking during the summer months, our collaborative efforts become all the more crucial.

At the heart of this initiative is the “Milwaukee Model,” pioneered by Hunger Task Force, which brings together various agencies, organization and nonprofits to coordinate efforts, outreach and funding support. This collaborative model works to ensure that no child in our community goes hungry during summer break.

More than 20 youth-serving organizations, city and county parks and school districts are joining forces this year to organize more than 170 “Meet Up & Eat Up” meal sites throughout Milwaukee County. These sites will not only provide nutritious meals, but will also offer structured educational and recreational programs – making them hubs of summer fun and learning.

The collaborative effort extends beyond meal provision. The “Meet Up” aspect involves partners Milwaukee Recreation, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs and churches – engaging children in various recreational and educational activities. On the other hand, the “Eat Up” aspect sees partners – like Centers For Independence (CFI) and school districts preparing and serving nutritious meals directly to children.

Through this county-wide collaboration, we anticipate serving over 400,000 meals to Milwaukee’s children this summer thanks to the support of partners No Kid Hungry and Kohl’s. Families can easily locate their nearest meal site by texting **FOOD** or **COMIDA** to 304-304 or visiting our interactive map on www.HungerTaskForce.org/summermeals.



Event Highlights & Memorable Moments



1. Join Hunger Task Force at summer ethnic festivals for exciting admission promotions and summer fun – all while supporting families in need. Check out our Facebook page for details and join us in making a difference in our community.
2. Throughout the spring and summer months, local classrooms in our Garden-to-Plate Program enjoy field trips to the Hunger Task Force Farm in Franklin to explore the natural areas and oak savannah, make healthy recipes in the demonstration kitchen and see how we grow nutritious food for the community.
3. Maxie's Annual Derby Day Party for Hunger Task Force in May raised more than \$17,000 for Milwaukee's Free & Local food bank. The event included a 50/50 raffle, Derby-inspired menu and best dressed/best hat contest.
4. Join Voices Against Hunger, the Hunger Task Force's advocacy group, to push for social policies that prevent hunger and provide access to nutritious food. As a member, you'll stay informed about critical anti-hunger campaigns and influence policy through various advocacy actions. Learn more and join Voices Against Hunger today: www.HungerTaskForce.org/voices
5. Join Hunger Task Force and Piggly Wiggly for our signature Opening Day partnership at the Wisconsin State Fair! Donate two cans of healthy fruits or vegetables, or make a cash donation for a \$5 ticket.

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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

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Double Helping for Hunger

SARGENTO

Hey, batter batter! The Milwaukee Brewers and Sargento are once again teaming up to support hungry families in Milwaukee.

Every time the Milwaukee Brewers hit a double during the regular season, Sargento will donate \$200 to Hunger Task Force. It's a win-win for Wisconsin's favorite baseball team and our neighbors in need throughout Milwaukee! Your donation, alongside Sargento's support, helps feed hungry children, families and seniors in Milwaukee.

Step up to the plate and feed your hungry neighbors by visiting:
www.HungerTaskForce.org/double-helping

