



HUNGER CONNECTION

Strong in the Face of Need

**Hunger Task Force Leads Bold
Response to Growing Need**

Host a Drive and Help
Raise Funds and Food
for Families



Advocates Connect
Families to Food
Resources at New Center



Rising Costs Drive More
Families to Seek Hunger
Relief Support



A Letter from the CEO



“With the federal budget bill now passed, our work pivots to shoring up resources for our local network and making sure clients have the information they need to navigate an evolving landscape of programs and services.”

- Matt King
CEO, Hunger Task force

At Hunger Task Force, we believe bold action is required when our community faces unprecedented need. This summer, historic flooding in Milwaukee left thousands in crisis. Widespread power outages left many without the ability to feed their family. The flood also significantly damaged crops at The Farm, disrupting food production at a critical time. But in the face of hardship, something remarkable happened: our community rallied together. Volunteers, neighbors and partners stepped up to make sure families didn't go without food.

During those same weeks, our team of advocates served a record number of people, helping thousands secure the resources they needed to put groceries on the table. Their dedication, coupled with your generosity, embodies the resilience and compassion that define Wisconsin.

Last month, we celebrated six months at our Southside Community Resource Center, a hub of connection, empowerment and service for families who need it most. This milestone is a testament to what we can achieve together.

With the federal budget bill now passed, our work pivots to shoring up resources for our local network and making sure clients have the information they need to navigate an evolving landscape of programs and services. We are committed to ensuring that federal policy changes don't become local hardships.

As the demand for food assistance grows, Hunger Task Force is committed to leading the charge – ensuring that healthy food is accessible for every person in need. Your support, whether through giving to our Food For Families campaign, volunteering or joining Voices Against Hunger, makes this bold response possible.

With gratitude,

Matt King
CEO, Hunger Task Force

WAYS TO GIVE

There are a variety of ways to support our mission and make a difference for local families in need this year. Learn more at www.HungerTaskForce.org/ways-to-give.

Gifts of Cash

Cash gifts give Hunger Task Force the best buying power to purchase food in bulk.

Scan to Donate Now!



Adopt-a-Crop

Take your support of the Hunger Task Force Farm to the next level through an online donation.

Scan to Learn More!



Gift of Stock

Donate gifts of stock, mutual funds, IRAs and other securities or property to Hunger Task Force.

Scan to Learn More!



Planned Giving

Include Hunger Task Force in your estate plans and support our mission into the future.

Scan to Learn More!





Network Partner Highlight

Good Samaritan Outreach Center Food Pantry

“With the food prices as high as they are, it’s a relief to our clients to be able to come in and select an array of healthy foods to stock the shelves and fridge this season thanks to Hunger Task Force.”

– Shari Rozdzialowski, pantry director at Good Samaritan Outreach Center Food Pantry

For 40 years, Hunger Task Force and the Good Samaritan Outreach Center Food Pantry have partnered to help make eating healthy more attainable for families in Milwaukee by providing a diverse array of perishable and nonperishable healthy foods free of charge. Currently, Hunger Task Force supplies 60% of all food available at the pantry.

“A lot of our clients work for low wages and rely on FoodShare to purchase the groceries they need,” said Shari Rozdzialowski, pantry director at Good Samaritan Outreach Center Food Pantry. “With the food prices as high as they are, it’s a relief to our clients to be able to come in and select an array of healthy foods to stock the shelves and fridge this season thanks to Hunger Task Force.”



Good Samaritan Outreach Center Food Pantry receives culturally diverse and healthy food from Hunger Task Force to meet not only the dietary preferences of guests



but supply them with the nutrients they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle. All food received from Hunger Task Force falls into one of five categories – fruits, vegetables, dairy, grains and protein.

Just this last year, Hunger Task Force provided nearly 65,000 pounds of food to the pantry for families in need, which includes nonperishable items and fresh produce grown on the Hunger Task Force Farm.

“Many of our clients cannot afford fresh produce due to the high costs, so they really appreciate having a good selection at our pantry,” Shari shares. “Especially for families during the school year, tomatoes, apples and pears are extremely popular and fly off of our shelves once we receive them.”

Hunger Task Force works diligently to ensure seniors and families can receive emergency food with dignity, on the day they need it and in the neighborhood they live in.



Fresh from the Fields

Hunger Task Force's Farm grows nearly half a million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables annually – a lifeline for the community and a welcome addition to our food bank's offerings. On The Farm, over 70 varieties of 28 different crops are cultivated to ensure a well-rounded selection of healthy food for families in need.

Last spring, the federal government terminated the Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) program, a program Hunger Task Force administered to purchase produce from Wisconsin farmers and provide those healthy foods to families facing hunger. This program was particularly important to small farmers because it helped them have a guaranteed market for a portion of their crops. What's more, many impacted farmers had already purchased their seeds for this growing season before the program was canceled.



In response to this federal funding loss, Hunger Task Force launched the **Farm to Food Bank Fund** to keep its commitment to these farmers and so their produce could be distributed to our network of pantries. A generous gift of \$65,000 from Congregation Emanu-El B'ne



Jeshurun's Salinsky Program to Feed the Hungry led the way. "It's really important that we support our larger community so we can move people and families forward and reduce barriers to healthy food," said Reenie Kavalur, administrator of the CEEBJ Salinsky Program to Feed the Hungry. "Through our fund, we consistently look at who needs food and how we can support them in whatever way we can."

The Farm to Food Bank fund is 100% community supported. All donations enable Hunger Task Force to support local agriculture by purchasing a diverse array of fresh produce that is not grown at the Hunger Task Force Farm and that appeals to the many cultural and dietary preferences of the children, families, seniors and veterans we serve through our local network. The Fund also plays a key role in supporting additional produce purchases, particularly in the wake of August flooding in the Milwaukee area that caused crop loss at the Hunger Task Force Farm. Gifts from donors ensure The Farm remains a consistent source of fresh food for our community.



Questions about the Farm to Food Bank Fund or interested in donating to the Hunger Task Force Farm? Contact Kim Muench, Development Director at Hunger Task Force, at kim.muench@hungertaskforce.org.



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Food For Families Returns to Meet Growing Community Need

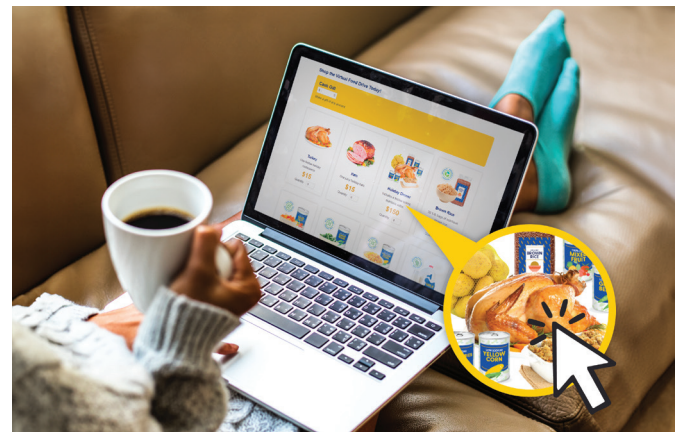
For over 40 years, Hunger Task Force's Food For Families campaign has been a cornerstone of Milwaukee's holiday season, bringing the community together to support neighbors struggling with hunger.

Today, that need is greater than ever. Rising costs for housing, heating and groceries are putting enormous pressure on local families and seniors, and Hunger Task Force now serves more than 50,000 people each month. With food pantries experiencing steady increases in traffic, a strong Food For Families campaign is essential to ensure kids, families and seniors remain fed and our food bank stays well stocked.

There are many ways to join the effort. One of the easiest and most impactful ways, beyond simply making a cash gift, is through hosting a virtual food drive. This online platform allows corporations, schools and community groups to create customized donation pages where supporters can make a donation for Hunger Task Force to purchase healthy food. Hunger Task Force's buying power allows us to purchase food by the pallet or truckload and stretch every dollar further, maximizing your gift.

This holiday season, we invite you to partner with us in

feeding our neighbors. Whether by organizing a virtual food drive, making a personal gift or encouraging your company to get involved, every contribution strengthens our ability to meet rising community needs.



We are deeply grateful to our sponsors at Johnson Controls, our donors, community partners and volunteers who have sustained this effort for decades. With your continued generosity, Milwaukee can live up to its tradition of giving, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry this holiday season.

Host a Food For Families Drive!



Register your virtual food drive at www.HungerTaskForce.org or contact Mardi Smirl at mardi.smirl@hungertaskforce.org for guidance and support.





Impacts of the Federal Budget Bill on Wisconsin Families

This past summer, the President signed the “One Big Beautiful Bill” into law. The new federal budget contains many cuts and program changes to SNAP – known as FoodShare in Wisconsin – that will increase hunger in our local communities. SNAP is the first line of defense against hunger and provides buying power for food for low-income families.

Some of the bill’s new measures include:

- **Eligibility changes that will significantly decrease the number of vulnerable Wisconsinites who will be able to receive food benefits**
- **Elimination of nutrition education, which equals a \$467,000 funding loss for Hunger Task Force’s program**
- **Increased state administrative and benefits costs, which could lead to further program cuts at the state level**

Our focus now turns to shoring up resources for the local pantry network and our programming, as well as advocacy efforts for new funding opportunities at the state and federal level. Stay tuned for these opportunities and join our Voices Against Hunger citizen advocacy group to support these efforts!



Celebrating Six Months at the Southside Community Resource Center



In March, Hunger Task Force proudly opened the doors to our new Southside Community Resource Center at 802 W. Historic Mitchell Street. Six months later, FoodShare Advocates have seen a steady increase in clients from diverse backgrounds, representing 23 languages.

With double the client stations, Milwaukee seniors, individuals and families can check their FoodShare cases online, connect directly with DHS or meet privately with staff. Our expanded facility also includes a larger family waiting area and a dedicated play and learning space for children, ensuring a welcoming environment for all.

Managing nearly 700 client interactions each month, our team assists with applying, renewing or updating FoodShare benefits, completing six-month reports, requesting replacement benefits, filing fair hearings, submitting verification and getting help with Quest cards. Beyond FoodShare, we provide help with Forward Health, connect clients to both Hunger Task Force and external programs and interpret important mail and deadlines.

This permanent, expanded space has transformed the way Hunger Task Force deliver services, offering dignity, efficiency and accessibility while ensuring more neighbors can access healthy food and critical resources.

More Ways to Give Back This Fall!



1. **Zurn Elkay Turkey Ticker Challenge:**
The Turkey Ticker Challenge is back! Throughout November, Zurn Elkay will be matching all online turkey AND frozen turkey donations. It's never been easier to put a gobbler on a family's Thanksgiving dinner table.



2. **CBS 58 Drive Thru Thanksgiving Food Drive:**
CBS 58 and the Brewers Community Fund are once again teaming up to host our community's largest single-day food drive at American Family Field. Drive thru on Friday, November 21 with healthy canned foods and frozen turkey donations.



3. **WISN 12 Food For Families Drive:**
Just in time for Thanksgiving, WISN 12 will partner with Hunger Task Force on November 25 & 26 for the annual Food For Families Phone Bank. Call in and make a gift over the phone!



4. **Holiday Cards:**
Share season's greetings and end hunger with Hunger Task Force Holiday Cards! Featuring local art and customizable messages, 100% of proceeds feed families. Pre-orders available online now!



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

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West Milwaukee, WI 53219
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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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PACK *the* PANTRY this October!

Hunger Task Force invites you to Pack the Pantry and help families in our community who are struggling more than ever.

Rising inflation and higher living costs are pushing more neighbors – especially seniors and families with children – toward food insecurity. With your generous support, we can continue to serve as a safety net for our network of local food pantries, meal sites and shelters. Together, we can make sure no family goes hungry. Presented by our friends at Waterstone Bank, this campaign is your opportunity to give generously and help us Pack the Pantry!



**Help Pack the Pantry
by Donating Online!**

