



HUNGER CONNECTION

Ending Hunger Through Community Support

Serving Milwaukee's Most Vulnerable



Supporting Indigenous
Elders with Healthy,
Culturally Significant Food



Food For Families
Stretches Your Generous
Holiday Donations



Keeping Nutrition
Education Strong in Our
Community Despite Cuts



A Letter from the CEO



"I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your partnership and commitment to feeding kids, families and seniors in our community."

- Matt King
CEO, Hunger Task force

As we approach the end of the year, I'm reminded of how special this season is – a time to gather, share a meal and connect with loved ones.

At Hunger Task Force, part of our mission is to ensure that every family has the opportunity to experience that same joy, without the stress of an empty table.

I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your partnership and commitment to feeding kids, families and seniors in our community. Because of your continued support, Hunger Task Force is able to meet the growing need for food assistance at a time when many are struggling to make ends meet.

This year, cuts to vital nutrition programs, rising costs, reduced federal resources and a government shutdown have placed added strain on families and seniors. Each month, Hunger Task Force serves more than 50,000 people through our network of pantries and programs, a number that has grown by over 35% since the start of the year. Despite these challenges, our mission remains strong because of a community that stands together.

Thank you for trusting Hunger Task Force to carry out this important work with dignity and compassion. Your support helps bring nourishment and hope to our neighbors throughout the holidays and into the new year.

Humbly,

Matt King
CEO, Hunger Task Force

Winter Events

This winter, join Hunger Task Force and our partners for ham-tastic fundraisers, laser light rock shows and more as we work together to end hunger during the holidays.

December: Home 4 the Holidays

Home 4 the Holidays is back all December long with Raymond James and TMJ4! Donate from the comfort of your home and provide festive and nutritious holiday meals for local families.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/home-4-the-holidays



December: Lend a Helping Ham

This December, 102.9 The HOG is again sponsoring the Lend a Helping Ham program and partnering with Meijer to provide holiday hams for families. Drop off a ham or purchase one online for \$15.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/hams



December 27: Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Cap off your holiday celebration with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's spectacular rock show at Fiserv Forum on December 27! \$1 from each ticket benefits Hunger Task Force and Milwaukee's hungry children, families and seniors.



Holiday Season: Holiday Cards

The holiday season is here! Support Free & Local while you check an item off your to-do list. Original artwork from Wisconsin artists is featured on each card.

www.HungerTaskForce.org/holiday-cards





Hunger Task Force Supports Indigenous Elders with Healthy, Culturally Significant Food

In Native communities, the concept that “food is medicine” is widely held. This understanding is critical given that Indigenous people across the county face disproportionately high rates of food insecurity. For urban Native communities in Milwaukee, challenges are often compounded by limited access to affordable, healthy food and reliable transportation.

Hunger Task Force is supporting the wellness of Indigenous elders by prioritizing access to nutritious food and options that honor their heritage through two key programs – Stockbox and the Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box. These initiatives reflect the concept of food sovereignty, giving people the power to choose what they eat, know where it comes from and keep it connected to their culture.

Known locally as Stockbox, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides income-eligible aging adults with a monthly box of nutritious, non-perishable food.

Rebeca Delgado, 67, of the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe, has received Stockboxes since 2018. “The Stockbox really helps me budget, and I know I can rely on it every month,” she says. Managing diabetes, she especially appreciates the inclusion of fresh fruits and vegetables from the Hunger Task Force Farm during the summer. Rebeca also receives the Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box.

The Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box Program provides culturally familiar foods, sourced from a mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers, directly to tribal elders. The program currently serves over 170 low-income tribal elders in the Milwaukee area monthly.

The program provides Hunger Task Force with a unique opportunity to source local, culturally responsive foods.

“It has allowed Hunger Task Force to build new partnerships with local and Indigenous growers,” shares Kyle Buehner, Food Procurement Manager.

“[The Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box program] allows indigenous vendors showcase their products, and these boxes have gotten so much positive feedback!”

– Jodi King, Indigenous Diet & Wellness Coordinator at Oneida

The program sources items from 40 small, local producers, including 22 tribal producers from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. Distribution sites include the Ho-Chunk Nation Milwaukee Branch, the Southeastern Oneida Tribal Services (SEOTS) office, Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center and the Indian Council of the Elderly.

Since its inception in July 2024, thousands of Tribal Elder Traditional Food Boxes have been distributed and \$285,535 has been invested in sourcing local and culturally familiar foods.

“I’m glad our elders can enjoy healthy, local products,” shares Jodi King, Indigenous Diet & Wellness Coordinator at Oneida. “[The Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box program] allows indigenous vendors showcase their products, and these boxes have gotten so much positive feedback!”

By facilitating access to both the Stockbox and the Tribal Elder Traditional Food Box, Hunger Task Force achieves more than monthly access to nutritious food. The programs ensure elders receive culturally affirming options that uphold their traditions and empower them to live with dignity.



Farm Season Wrap Up



In 2025, the Hunger Task Force Farm grew and distributed nearly 350,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for local families and seniors facing hunger. The Farm is Hunger Task Force's largest single source of fresh food and provides culturally responsive produce based on the feedback of the families we serve.

The Farm achieved record harvests of lettuce, bok choy and jalapeño peppers this season, along with staples like tomatoes, greens, zucchini, cucumbers and our first-ever crop of celery. In addition to these, more than 20 other varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables were grown and harvested throughout the season.

The late season was a challenging one for our Farm. The August storms, which caused significant damage and flooding across our community, washed out several fields. This resulted in about a 25% loss of our annual projected crop yield. Our farmers responded quickly by re-planting greens with short growing windows and doubled down on strong season-end harvests for our

corn, apples, pears, peppers and squash with the help of community volunteers. Nearly 5,000 volunteers supported The Farm from spring to harvest.

This winter, Hunger Task Force is also purchasing more produce using donor dollars to further extend the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables for our service network before the 2026 growing season starts up in a few short months. This investment is part of our commitment to providing fresh, healthy produce to our community year-round.



You can help The Farm start the next growing season strong right now! Make a gift to Hunger Task Force's Adopt-a-Crop program as we start to purchase seeds and supplies for 2026.



Helping Milwaukee Families Connect, and Stay Connected, to FoodShare

This year, the Hunger Task Force FoodShare Outreach Team helped more than 18,000 people across Milwaukee County apply for, renew and manage their FoodShare benefits.

Whether meeting clients at Alicia's Place, the new Southside Community Resource Center, or out in the neighborhoods, the team ensures families stay connected to the food resources they depend on.

Reflecting the diversity of Milwaukee, the team speaks ten languages and provides culturally responsive support that builds trust and breaks down barriers. By focusing on education and follow-up, they've helped families keep their benefits active and reduced interruptions in service, making sure fewer people face gaps in access to food.



Meet the Team!



Ruth Aviles
FoodShare Advocate



Paw Boe
FoodShare Advocate



Armando Hernandez
FoodShare Advocate



Mar Mar Lin
FoodShare Advocate



Alexia Lopez
FoodShare Advocate



Margarita Matteson
FoodShare Advocacy Analyst



Abigail Sanchez
FoodShare Advocate



Qadir Shah Hotak
FoodShare Advocate



Menickalay Smith
FoodShare Advocate



MaiDoua Vang
FoodShare Advocate



Lia Wilson
FoodShare Advocate



Fue Xiong
FoodShare Advocate Supervisor

Not pictured: Tammy-Jo Keen, FoodShare Advocate Supervisor

Nutrition Education Stays Strong

Hunger Task Force's commitment to our community's health extends far beyond the nutritious food we distribute to local families. Our team provides a robust nutrition education program which teaches kids, families and seniors about healthy eating, cooking, shopping on a budget and much more.



Our program was previously funded by a federal nutrition grant. However, all federal funding for nutrition education was eliminated following the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill last summer. This resulted in a \$467,000 funding loss for Hunger Task Force's program. Despite the loss, we remain committed to our team and program because we believe it is essential to the health of our community. Through the support of local donors, we are seeking opportunities to grow the program in new and innovative ways.

This fall, our nutrition educators have been hard at work planning for the school year program, as well as educational opportunities in the community, within the pantry and meal program network, and at the McCarty Education Kitchen at our headquarters.

Give the Gift of Healthy Food During Food For Families



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As the year draws to a close, families across Milwaukee are facing unprecedented challenges. We've seen a 35% increase in need compared to last year. Rising costs for groceries, rent and utilities are forcing more families to make impossible choices.

Funds raised through Food For Families make a powerful impact at Hunger Task Force. By purchasing food in bulk – often by the truckload – we are able to secure nutritious items at significantly lower prices than those found at the grocery store. This smart, cost-effective approach ensures that every dollar is stretched to feed more people in need. Your generosity helps provide wholesome, holiday meals to families who rely on our network of local food pantries, meal sites and homeless shelters across the community.



Make your Food For Families gift today:
www.HungerTaskForce.org/food-for-families.



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

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1. Hunger Task Force welcomed nearly 200 supporters for an event celebrating our mission to end hunger in Milwaukee. Guests enjoyed an evening of socializing, live music, refreshments and cuisine crafted by Sanford and Black Shoe Hospitality.
2. In October, Hunger Task Force hosted the Hunger Relief Federation Summit in Green Bay. The Summit brought together over 115 anti-hunger leaders from 32 Wisconsin counties to collaborate on strategies to end hunger across Wisconsin.
3. Hunger Task Force is proud to celebrate Brian McCarty's recent *Philanthropist of the Year Award* from the Association of Fundraising Professionals SE WI Chapter. His support of our Community Nutrition Program and generous gift to the McCarty Education Kitchen have made a lasting impact on local families.
4. Hunger Task Force was honored to join Sargento Cheese for their Day of Action in Green Bay, celebrating the Touchdowns for Hunger season! For 23 years, Sargento has teamed up with the Green Bay Packers, donating \$2,000 to fight hunger for every touchdown scored during the regular season.



www.HungerTaskForce.org

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Make Your Year-End Gift!

The best way to help? Make a gift. A cash donation is the most effective way to support Hunger Task Force. Your gift allows us to purchase healthy food and deliver it free of charge to families in need. Every dollar makes a difference. As we prepare for a new year, your generosity ensures that families won't have to choose between food and other essentials.

We are down to the wire. With only a few weeks left this year, your year-end gift is essential to keep the pantry shelves full for the thousands relying on Hunger Task Force. 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 at www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate by December 31.



Scan the QR code to donate at www.HungerTaskForce.org/donate by December 31 and help us reach our goal!

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