



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

**HUNGER
CONNECTION**

HungerTaskForce.org

**MATCH
MADNESS
MAKE
TO END HUNGER**



**DOUBLE DOUBLE
YOUR DONATION!**

2

Hugs and High Fives
at St. Hyacinth!

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Sherrie Tussler:
20 Years of Leadership

4

Leave a Legacy at
The Farm

“I NEVER TIRE OF RECEIVING SOLID HANDSHAKES, ‘HIGH FIVES’ AND SINCERE HUGS WHEN PEOPLE REALIZE THEY ARE GETTING HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD. IT’S THE BEST KIND OF THANKS!”

~ STEVE POLLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ST. HYACINTH FOOD PANTRY



Hugs & High Fives All Around!

Steve Pollack, along with wife Gail, have been key players at St. Hyacinth Food Pantry for the past two years. This highly-rated site continues to set high standards, with major improvements like moving to 100% Client Choice (a grocery-shopping model) and acting as a pilot site for MyPlate pantries.

“It’s our incredible volunteer corps that makes it happen,” shares Steve of the pantry’s success. “It’s like a machine, the way everyone works together. Hunger Task Force provides significant food resources, cash grants and great advice; other suppliers like the West Allis Farmer’s Market, Food For The Hungry and many local grocers offer healthy food; and our volunteers are the cream of the crop.

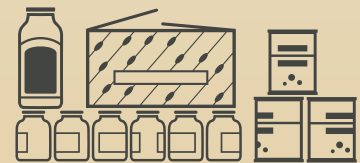
“Clients have shared time and again how safe, respected and dignified they feel at St. Hyacinth. Those comments mean so much to us. That’s why Gail and I do this work.”

1998 Year service began with Hunger Task Force

2300 Number of individuals served monthly; of this approximately 40% are children

200 Number of Stockboxes served to seniors each month

26 Number of families provided with infant formula on a monthly basis



Welcome, Bethany!

After three short months, new Community Network Dietitian Bethany Soderlund has already proven herself to be a great asset to the Hunger Task Force team. Bethany oversees agency-wide MyPlate efforts, encouraging healthier eating for our clients within the food pantry network, and teaching hands-on nutritional education to 80 Milwaukee Public Schools students each week. Welcome aboard, Bethany—or as she’s known to her students, Miss Blueberry!

>> **Contact Bethany Soderlund, Community Network Dietitian, for more information at Bethany.Soderlund@HungerTaskForce.org.**



SHERRIE TUSSLER:

20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, INNOVATION AND ADVOCACY

“IT’S NOT SO MUCH THE NONPROFIT PIECE THAT GETS ME EXCITED AS MUCH AS WORKING AS AN ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OR NOT TREATED FAIRLY. IT’S BEING THE VOICE IN THE ROOM FOR THOSE WHO NEED HELP. IT’S MAKING SURE PEOPLE HAVE BASIC NEEDS WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS THINKING ABOUT THEM.”

~ SHERRIE

This year marks Sherrie Tussler’s 20th year as Executive Director of Hunger Task Force.

For the past two decades, Sherrie has assured a strong and steady voice for the hungry. She is Milwaukee’s tireless social justice advocate—always the first to speak up for families, children and seniors who can’t speak for themselves. She is the rare Executive Director who is just as likely to be seen leading a press conference as she is unloading trucks at food drives in sub-zero temperatures.

Sherrie’s leadership has also paved the way for countless innovations in the field of hunger relief. She has transformed Hunger Task Force from a warehouse full of food into an innovative force against hunger, which now includes a 208-acre urban farm, a grocery store on wheels and a nationally-recognized summer meals program for kids.

We’re proud of her and the way she rolls up her sleeves and kicks a** for the hungry every day. Congratulations, Sherrie! Thank you for your service to our community.

Plant a Tree: Leave a Legacy



Back in 2006, we asked our donors to plant a tree and leave a legacy at the Hunger Task Force Farm, a request that resulted in nearly 200 new apple trees! Those trees have now matured and produced more than 50,000 pounds of apples for local families in need. With a new open area for another orchard,

we're once again reaching out to the community to help invest in the future. There are many reasons to plant a tree: to remember a loved one, to celebrate a child's birth or to celebrate Earth Day. A donation of \$75 will plant a tree and feed families for years to come.

>> **Leave your legacy! Contact Sarah Anderson at The Farm today at Sarah.Anderson@HungerTaskForce.org.**

VOLUNTEERING AT THE FARM : DIG IN FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Every growing season, Hunger Task Force depends upon the support of community volunteers to ensure that local families have access to fresh produce. Volunteers support every aspect of the operation at The Farm in Franklin, from seed to table. Individuals, families, corporate groups and churches are all welcome!

No previous farming experience is required...just a willingness to get your hands dirty for a good cause. Sign up to become a volunteer online at www.HungerTaskForce.org/farm.

>> **Contact Sarah Anderson, Farm Community Development Officer, for more information about volunteering at Sarah.Anderson@HungerTaskForce.org.**

MATCH MADNESS MKE TO END HUNGER

DOUBLE DOUBLE DOUBLE

MATCH MADNESS MKE WILL HAVE YOU SEEING DOUBLE THE DONATIONS!

From March 1-11, all donations to Hunger Task Force will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, thanks to a group of matching donors. They've stepped up to put food on the table for kids...now it's your turn.

There are three slam dunk ways to donate:

1. **Donate online at HungerTaskForce.org or place your gift in the attached envelope and send it to Hunger Task Force by March 11.**
2. **Stop by Hunger Task Force in person and make a donation. Tell us you want your donation matched.**
3. **Call our phone bank at 414.777.5801 on March 8. Volunteers will be standing by live from CBS 58 to take your donations over the phone.**



And, as if you needed another reason to get your donation doubled, all funds raised through Match Madness MKE will be used to feed kids in our local community.

For more information on Match Madness MKE and how you or your company can get involved, please call Jonathan Hansen, Director of Development, at 414.238.6476.

Cousins Subs Statewide Food Drive Three-Peat!



For the third year in a row, Cousins Subs is stepping up to lead a statewide food drive in support of Free & Local partners across Wisconsin!

From March 1-31, all those who donate three healthy, nonperishable food items at any Wisconsin-based Cousins Subs will receive a special BOGO offer on a tasty Cousins sub, as well as other great offers.

All donations stay in these local communities and will benefit Free & Local food pantries and food banks, including Hunger Task Force.

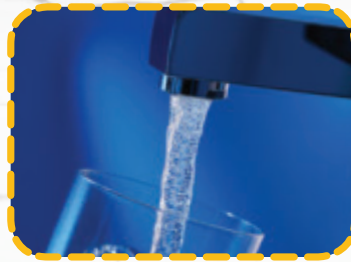


AT RISK FOR LEAD?

Paint ↘



Water ↘



Soil ↘



LEAD EXPOSURE IS A SERIOUS HEALTH CONCERN IN MILWAUKEE. HUNGRY CHILDREN ABSORB LEAD FIVE TIMES FASTER THAN WELL FED CHILDREN.

Many of the families Hunger Task Force serves live in homes where children are exposed to lead in the water, paint, soil or environment. To combat this rising issue in our community, the Milwaukee Nutrition & Lead Task Force was formed in February 2017, comprising more than 40 local, state and federal organizations who want to help keep families in Milwaukee safe.

The task force developed an educational campaign entitled “Well Fed Means Less Lead” to provide outreach education to thousands of families by ensuring that people learn how to identify lead in their home, understand how to avoid lead exposure and know how a diet high in key nutrients can help mitigate lead absorption.

Eating a healthy, balanced diet that contains good sources of iron, vitamin C and calcium can help protect families and children protect against lead exposure.

Are you at risk for lead? Check out GetWellFed.org to learn more.

IRON



- Red Meat • Fish • Beans
- Lentil • Iron-fortified Cereals
- Spinach

VITAMIN C



- Oranges • Berries • Tomatoes
- Bell Peppers
- Dark, Leafy Greens

CALCIUM



- Milk • Yogurt • Cheese
- Kale • Turnip Greens
- Calcium-fortified Juices



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

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Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to adequate 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.

Hunger Task Force, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, or disability, or any other category protected by law.

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

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ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

RALLYING FOR CHANGE

Every day, more than 80,000 kids in Milwaukee rely on school breakfast and lunch to provide a significant portion of their daily nutrition. When it comes to school meals, quality is just as important as nutrition. So when AJ, a senior at North Division High School, was asked about an opportunity to improve the quality of school meals, he knew he couldn't sit on the sidelines. As a student, he was in a unique position to understand the food kids crave and to advocate for change, so he jumped right in.



"MOST STUDENTS DON'T EVEN HAVE FOOD IN THE HOUSE, SO THEY COME TO SCHOOL LOOKING FOR SOMETHING GOOD THAT CAN SATISFY THEM THROUGH THE DAY."

- AJ

AJ organized and rallied students to attend hearings and lobbied school board members to take food quality seriously. He accomplished what every advocate strives to do: help other people walk a mile in your shoes.

At a final school board meeting, AJ shared his story of relying almost entirely on school meals and what that means to a child when all you have to eat is cold pizza or an unknown sandwich. AJ spoke of the pain he felt when he didn't have anything in his stomach before taking a test. His testimony helped pass a School Board Resolution to improve the quality of school meals, that tens of thousands of kids depend on every day. AJ's advocacy helped ensure a healthier, tastier meal for future students.



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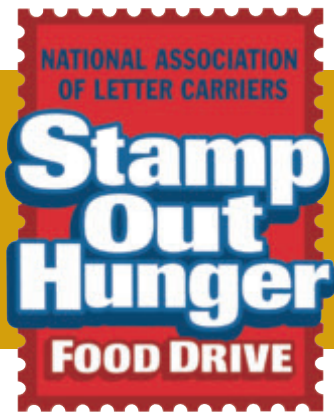


youtube.com/hungertaskforce



Make a donation online: HungerTaskForce.org

SAVE THE DATE:



SATURDAY, MAY 12

The nation's largest single day food drive is right around the corner! Watch for those special donation bags in your mailbox in early May. Fill that bag with healthy nonperishable foods and leave it out for your local letter carrier to pick up on Saturday, May 12!

