

HUNGER TASK FORCE
FREE & LOCAL

HUNGER CONNECTION

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* HUNGER TASK FORCE IS MILWAUKEE'S FREE & LOCAL FOOD BANK

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dear Friends:

I haven't seen you for some time. We have not exchanged stories of this crazy 2020. We have not shaken hands or hugged. We have all been working in our segregated worlds, missing the fun times, the social engagements, the live music and the laughing out loud.

Finding hope in these days has been difficult for many and I am regularly asked where hope went. I usually smile—under my mask—because I know people can see me smile with my eyes. Hope is right here with us. It is found in the bit of help offered by a stranger, the outpouring of generosity by people of means and the words of encouragement shared when people feel like they have had just too much.



Hope is contagious and people want to get it!

Hunger Task Force has supported Milwaukee and communities across Wisconsin during this pandemic. We are proud to say that food supplies have reached small and large towns, Tribal Nations, the rural poor and communities of color—equalizing access to emergency food during this crisis.

The Dairy Recovery Program that we established in June to assist Wisconsin farmers is still making an impact, ensuring that families in need receive milk, cheese, yogurt and cottage cheese through the holidays.

Please know this year we have doubled and re-doubled our efforts to invest your contributions to feed the hungry and to support Wisconsin farmers. If you are able to help, please, join our cause.

Happy Holidays and be well!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ST'.

Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director





Food for Families

Virtual Food For Families Enters the Home Stretch

THIS YEAR, WE'VE ALL HAD TO CHANGE THE WAY WE DO THINGS, FROM WORKING REMOTELY TO VIRTUAL SCHOOL.

At Hunger Task Force, one of our big changes was launching the first-ever Virtual Food For Families. Local need has never been greater, and virtual food drives have been a safe and innovative way to help Hunger Task Force purchase and deliver food to families, kids and seniors.

To date, 170 organizations—from local businesses, schools and places of worship—have stepped up to host virtual Food For Families food drives. But there is still much work to be done and we need your help. Get your virtual food drive registered today and gather your family, friends and co-workers to help raise funds at:

www.HungerTaskForce.org/give/.



We understand this time of year gets busy, so here are two more quick and easy ways you can support Hunger Task Force this Food For Families season:



Make a safe and secure cash gift online at www.HungerTaskForce.org



Place a check in the enclosed envelope and mail it to Hunger Task Force

>> Contact Jonathan Hansen, Director of Development, at (414) 238-6476 or jonathan@hungertaskforce.org if you have any questions about making a gift to Hunger Task Force.



Start Your Engines: A Moment of Pure Joy

REFRIGERATED TRUCKS AND VANS WERE PROVIDED TO KEY HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION MEMBERS STATEWIDE TO AID IN ADDITIONAL FOOD TRANSPORTATION NEEDS DURING THE PANDEMIC.

On Thursday, October 29, it was overcast and rainy with a frigid chill in the air. But the weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the 12 emergency food partners who had driven—some through the night—for a special celebration unlike any other.

**"TODAY, A NATION WAS FED.
THE SPIRITS OF OUR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED AND
WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL."**

As part of a \$2.2 million grant Hunger Task Force received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 12 organizations from across Wisconsin were chosen to receive brand new vehicles to transport food to their communities.

Hunger Task Force organized a key-gifting ceremony to present the keys and bow-wrapped refrigerated trucks and vans to members of the Hunger Relief Federation of Wisconsin to help build capacity and deliver Wisconsin-based food products to their communities. The Federation is a coalition of 117 free, local and independent food pantries and

emergency feeding organizations representing all 72 Wisconsin counties and 10 Tribal Nations.

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes and Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley joined Hunger Task Force to distribute the keys, exchange smiles behind their masks and take photos with the food pantry directors from across the state as they excitedly revved their new vehicles' engines for the first time.

"Today, a Nation was fed," said Marlon Skenandore of Oneida Nation, echoing the words of other Tribal leaders. "Today, we were not overlooked or put last in line. The spirits of our community members have been lifted and we are extremely grateful."

During the past several months of the pandemic, need has continued to increase throughout Wisconsin. Since April, Hunger Task Force has distributed 3,722,717 more pounds of food than in the same period in 2019 – an increase of more than 72%. Additionally, the Hunger Relief Federation has received and distributed just over 3 million pounds of Wisconsin milk, cheese and dairy products to families statewide, as well as nearly 11 million pounds through the Farmers to Families Food Box program.



RECIPIENTS OF THE NEW VEHICLES INCLUDE:

- BEYOND BLESSED PANTRY
- CRUSADERS OF JUSTICIA
- FOOD PANTRY OF WAUKESHA CO.
- HUNGER TASK FORCE OF LA CROSSE
- KENOSHA CO. FOOD BANK
- LAC DU FLAMBEAU FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
- MUKWONAGO FOOD PANTRY
- ONEIDA NATION EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY
- RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA FOOD DISTRIBUTION
- SHARING CENTER, INC.
- SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FOOD BANK
- WAUSHARA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

>> To help Hunger Task Force continue this important work statewide, donate to the COVID-19 Emergency Response fund online at www.HungerTaskForce.org.



Home 4 the Holidays!

THE ORIGINAL VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE IS BACK!

Raymond James and TMJ4 are teaming up with Hunger Task Force to turn your online gift into festive foods during the 5th annual Home 4 the Holidays campaign. Pick and choose from juicy hams to a full holiday spread—there's a full menu of options and you never have to leave your favorite chair!

During a winter where staying home keeps us all healthy and safe, pick Home 4 the Holidays as your virtual food drive of choice to support local Milwaukee families. Make your virtual gift today at www.HungerTaskForce.org/give/H4tH.



Holiday Cards!



A personal touch at the holidays is more important than ever this year, and Hunger Task Force has got you covered! Our annual holiday cards are for sale, offering three unique designs from a diverse group of local artists. 100% of proceeds from card sales help feed local families. Choose your special holiday greetings and place your order today at www.HungerTaskForce.org.

>> Order your Holiday Cards online at www.HungerTaskForce.org thru Dec. 31.



Thanksgiving Amidst a Pandemic

HUNGER TASK FORCE PROVIDES HOLIDAY HELP FOR LOCAL SENIORS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.



Back in March, at the very beginning of the pandemic, the City of Milwaukee closed 13 area public senior centers. More than 8,000 seniors relied on these senior sites, where they would pick up their Stockbox filled with healthy, nonperishable foods each month.

In response, Hunger Task Force began offering drive-thru distributions at all 13 public Stockbox sites. Seniors could drive-thru the parking lot with their windows up and their trunks open, keeping themselves and Hunger Task Force staff safe and socially-distant. In addition to the Stockbox, seniors also receive plenty of fresh items, including milk, meat, cheese and fresh produce from the Hunger Task Force Farm.

Kathy and Betsy are two regulars who visit Clinton Rose Senior Center on Milwaukee's north side. They became fast friends when they met as neighbors years ago, and they've been through a lot together. The two women only started receiving the Stockbox since the pandemic, because it has been more difficult to make ends meet. At the November Stockbox distribution, Kathy and Betsy also received a frozen turkey (each!) to help make Thanksgiving a little better.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THANKSGIVING IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR, TO BE HONEST," SAID BETSY. "LIKE MOST PEOPLE, WE'RE JUST TAKING IT DAY BY DAY."

"It's been a difficult year, that's for sure," said Kathy. "I lost my husband earlier this spring, so I know Thanksgiving is going to be tough. It's incredible to get a turkey today so I cook all his favorites."

Like many local seniors—and all of us—Kathy and Betsy are doing the best they can as we look ahead to a long winter. Their friendship keeps them optimistic and looking forward to a new start in 2021.



6,094

TURKEYS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE HUNGER TASK FORCE NETWORK (FOOD PANTRIES, SOUP KITCHENS, HOMELESS SHELTERS AND SENIOR CENTERS)

10% INCREASE SERVICE TO SENIORS

SEPTEMBER THRU OCTOBER:



8,096



8,911





THANK YOU!

FOR STANDING STRONG WITH HUNGER TASK FORCE!

Local need has been greater than ever this year.
Hunger Task Force is grateful to the Milwaukee community
and beyond for the tremendous support during tough times.

From online contributions to the gift of a stimulus
check in the mail, each and every donor has made a
huge difference in the fight against hunger.

Thank you to our amazing supporters for standing
strong with Hunger Task Force!



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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 Make a donation online:
HungerTaskForce.org



Make Your Year-End Gift

2020 will be over before you know it. But there is still time to make your tax-deductible, year-end gift to feed hungry families. Hunger Task Force needs to raise \$3,105,535 by December 31 to make sure everyone from kids to seniors has healthy food on the table—help us hit our goal!

YEAR-END FUNDRAISING GOAL:

\$3,105,535

\$3,105,535

\$2,989,499

\$2,500,000

\$2,000,000

\$1,151,500

\$1,000,000

\$750,000

\$500,000

\$250,000



>> Make your year-end gift today by placing a check in the enclosed envelope or by donating online at www.HungerTaskForce.org.