

ANNUAL REPORT



**PANDEMIC PIVOT:
LEADING AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE**



HUNGER EMERGENCY RE



"...OUR
CREATIVITY AND
'LET'S GET
IT DONE'
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THEY NEEDED."



SPONSE IN A PANDEMIC

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the outset of the pandemic, a friend reached out to see what Hunger Task Force was doing. My response was to reassure him: “We were made for this work.”



Little did I know just how hard the work would be. After sending our volunteers home and directing many of our staff to work remotely, we still needed to get the food where it was needed most. This meant parking lots across town as well as rural communities across Wisconsin. It meant sourcing and delivering food to meet a doubling of demand.

This has been a year of strength, fortitude and reassurance. As the days turned into weeks—and then into months—our creativity and “let’s get it done” attitude assured that seniors, children, people of color and the newly unemployed

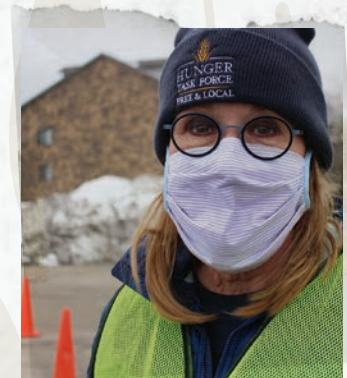
got the help they needed. People not just in Milwaukee but all throughout the state were given free emergency food, and then assisted with finding long-term support through the FoodShare and Pandemic-EBT Programs.

The assurance we have offered, smiling through our masks, has made a huge difference for the hungry, scared and lonely people we help. After months of greeting the same folks, we have gotten to know their stories and their hardships. The food we give truly matters, but our dependability has had an important impact in a time where little seems stable.

Your support of Hunger Task Force helped fuel our abilities. Know that we are thankful for your well wishes! Early on, someone put up a Heroes Work Here sign at our front gate—an emotional gesture for all of us. Looking around at our staff, I am proud and thankful. They are, indeed, heroes.

Thank you for helping us be the Hunger Task Force.

Sherrie Tussler
Executive Director



RESPONDING TO INCREASED

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged Hunger Task Force and the emergency pantry network in ways we never could have imagined.

When the pandemic hit in March, local food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters suddenly needed to pivot to outdoor, curbside or walk-up service.

Many pantries needed to close down due to limited volunteer resources and increased need. At one point, the pantry network was operating at 53% capacity. With program closures and many folks out of work seeking help, pantry visits increased by 30% during the months of April and May.

Hunger Task Force responded to the crisis just as quickly. We launched an interactive



"During a pandemic year when so many of our outreach guests suffered additional food hardships, Hunger Task Force again proved its true partnership spirit. Hunger Task Force was there for us with extra food, patience as we struggled with shut-downs, and great moral support. On behalf of all those that we have been able to serve, THANK YOU."

**- Rosemary Murphy, Manager
All Saints Catholic Church
Food Pantry**

map of all available pantries and services in Milwaukee County. Our team provided daily on-the-ground support, monitoring, PPE and emergency orders so that partner programs could continue to serve. To provide more food to families in need, Hunger Task Force developed the "Family Box," which contained enough healthy

foods to feed a family for a week. Our staff spent the earliest weeks of the pandemic building a supply of 20,000 boxes, which were distributed to pantries throughout the pandemic until more programs were able to re-open and the network stabilized.

Through the toughest of times, Hunger Task

Force and our pantry network stood together. The network persevered under the stress of the pandemic, and families, kids and seniors always received the help they needed.



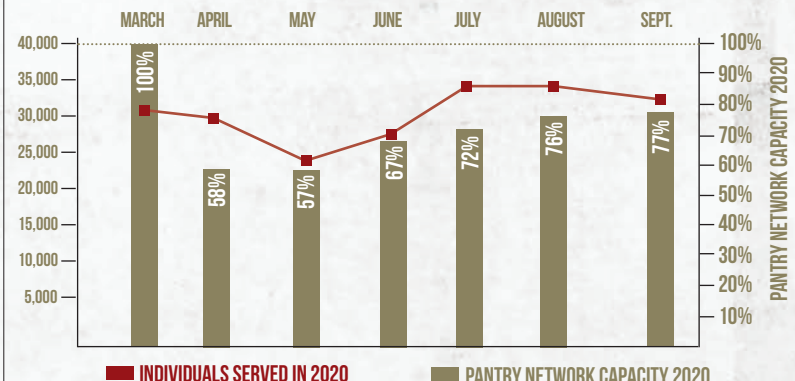
At year's end, Hunger Task Force distributed nearly 13 million pounds of food to our local network—3 million more pounds of food than last year, or the equivalent of 78 semi-truckloads.



20,000 FAMILY BOXES DELIVERED

HUNGER TASK FORCE CREATED FAMILY BOXES AS A RESPONSE TO CONCERNS THAT THE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NETWORK WOULD BE CRUSHED FROM INCREASED NEED. BOXES PROVIDED HEALTHY FOOD FOR A FAMILY FOR ONE WEEK.

Even as pantry networks were operating at nearly half-capacity, the number of individual served increased



★ PANTRY NUMBERS DECREASED IN MAY AND JUNE WITH THE INCREASE OF EMERGENCY FOODSHARE BENEFITS FOR THOSE TWO MONTHS.

ASED NEED WITHIN THE NETWORK



**13 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED**

TO HUNGER TASK FORCE'S NETWORK.



THAT'S NEARLY

**30% MORE FOOD
THAN 2019**



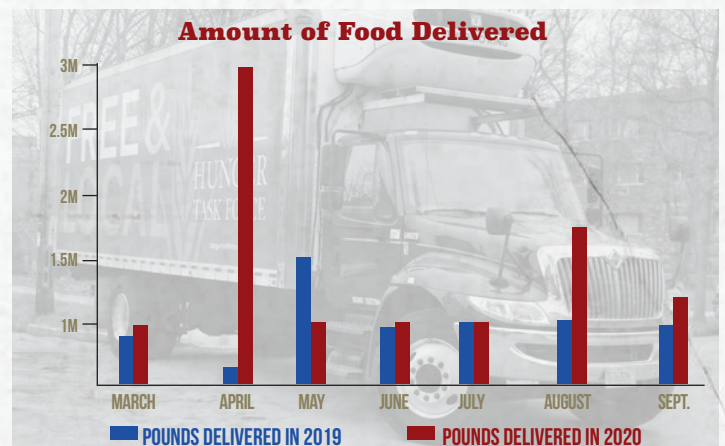
MEETING SENIOR NEED

In late March, 13 public senior centers closed down due to the pandemic. Hunger Task Force serves over 8,000 seniors each month through the Stockbox program, and we quickly changed tactics to provide food to this vulnerable population.

To ensure seniors' safety, Hunger Task Force began drive-thru distributions at all Stockbox sites. These drive-thrus were contactless with no paperwork. Hundreds of vehicles drove through some of our community's largest senior centers, and Hunger Task Force staff were there to fill trunks with Stockboxes as well as milk, meat, cheese and fresh produce from the Hunger Task Force Farm. The Mobile Market

continued to make its monthly stops, and we helped seniors shop for their own groceries.

Hunger Task Force also coupled several large distributions—including a July distribution in the Miller Park parking lot that served nearly 2,000 seniors!—with \$25 Senior Farmers Market Vouchers. These key resources helped seniors stay healthy and safe.



STRONG ADVOCACY LE

Ending future hunger is possible in Wisconsin when existing and fully-funded federal nutrition programs are well run and accessible.

Take the FoodShare Program for instance. This program provides funds on a debit card that people can use at the grocery store to buy foods that respect their diet,



religion, health and culture. Prior to the pandemic, Wisconsin established the lowest possible household payment, had work requirements and was screening

folk for addiction disorders. Single adults lost their benefits altogether, and seniors received \$16 a month in help. Often times the welfare office was behind on processing applications, answering the telephone or responding to people with little or no money for food.

Since the pandemic work requirements have been lifted, the welfare office has become “virtual,” waiving in-person interviews. The highest maximum allotment has been paid, giving seniors receiving \$16/month up to \$204/month in food buying help. Streamlining the process has helped many, and Hunger Task Force has been present as an active lobbyist for these simplifications.

When schools closed and later stayed closed, families who relied on free or reduced-price school meals scrambled to feed school children from home. When Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response (CARES) Act, Hunger Task Force partnered with Wisconsin's Department of Health Services and Department of Public Instruction to provide education and outreach about a new federal nutrition program to feed kids

MAY

JUNE

JULY

ADVOCATING FOR EMERGENCY FOODSHARE BENEFITS RESULTED IN MORE FOOD BUYING POWER

SENIORS RECEIVING \$16/MONTH QUALIFIED FOR

\$204/MONTH

called Pandemic-EBT. This program provides food buying power on a debit card used at the grocery store. As a stay-at-home response, weekly, bilingual webinars were held for advocates and families alike to provide real-time answers to questions about Pandemic-EBT statewide.

**350,000
CHILDREN**

**AND THEIR FAMILIES
RECEIVED BENEFITS
TO REPLACE MISSED
SCHOOL MEALS**



AFTER THE PANDEMIC HIT IN MARCH

**OVER
93,000**

**ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
ENROLLED FOR FOODSHARE
(SNAP) BENEFITS**

LEADS COVID RESPONSE

IN LATE MARCH, HUNGER TASK FORCE PUT TOGETHER AN ONLINE MAP OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD RESOURCES TO SHOW MORE THAN 180 SERVICE POINTS OF EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRIES, SCHOOL DISTRIBUTIONS, MEAL SITES, STOCKBOX DISTRIBUTIONS AND MOBILE MARKET STOPS. THE MAP WAS UPDATED DAILY AND HAS BEEN VIEWED NEARLY 223,000 TIMES.

180
SERVICE POINTS
OF EMERGENCY FOOD
DISTRIBUTION SITES



223,000
NUMBERS OF VIEWS
BETWEEN
MARCH - SEPT. 2020.



Providing critical, timely information on emergency food availability was a true hallmark of our advocacy work this year. Early and quickly, Hunger Task Force established an on-line interactive map that offered real time information on the locations and operating hours of pantries and schools that remained open in service to the community. This required daily and weekly in-person check-ins with these organizations—many opening and closing as COVID exposures occurred.



TWO NEW FEDERAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS—
PANDEMIC-EBT AND EMERGENCY FOODSHARE—PROVED
CRITICAL FOR FAMILIES STRUGGLING DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.
HUNGER TASK FORCE CONDUCTED OUTREACH TO OVER

225,000
FAMILIES ACROSS WISCONSIN TO
ENSURE THEY GAINED ACCESS
TO THESE PROGRAMS



HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION



PROVIDING HUNGER RELIEF STATEWIDE

HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN

FREE | LOCAL | INDEPENDENT

Hunger Task Force organizes the Hunger Relief Federation, a diverse group of Free & Local anti-hunger partners across Wisconsin. The federation represents food banks, food pantries, Tribal Nations and other non-profit organizations that impact anti-hunger work in their community. COVID-19 increased food insecurity in every corner of our state, and many groups joined the Federation to get help with food, funding, and support to build their capacity to serve.

Hunger Task Force directed donor resources for the rescue of Wisconsin dairy products and arranged the logistics of the Dairy Recovery Program beginning in April. Later when the USDA created a Farmers to Families Food Box Program, Hunger Task Force leveraged relationships with

food aggregators to deliver full truckloads of food to Wisconsin communities every week. Altogether, 3,417,092 pounds of milk, cheese and yogurt were purchased from Wisconsin dairies and dairy cooperatives and delivered to local communities. Similarly, 14 million pounds of food boxes were leveraged to assist emergency food distributions for the rural poor, seniors, people of color, migrants and immigrant families and indigenous people.

As lead applicant for CARES Act funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, Hunger Task Force received \$12.2 million dollars in capacity building grants and Wisconsin Food Products funds. Large delivery trucks, cargo vans, fork trucks and pallet jacks were deployed so the members could manage food distributions more effectively. Ultimately, Wisconsin products including dairy, beef, pork, apples, cherries, potatoes, beans, corn, peas, pheasants, bison and elk were purchased and delivered to local communities to provide

IN 6 MONTHS THE HUNGER RELIEF
FEDERATION MEMBERS ALSO
DISTRIBUTED

3,417,092 POUNDS

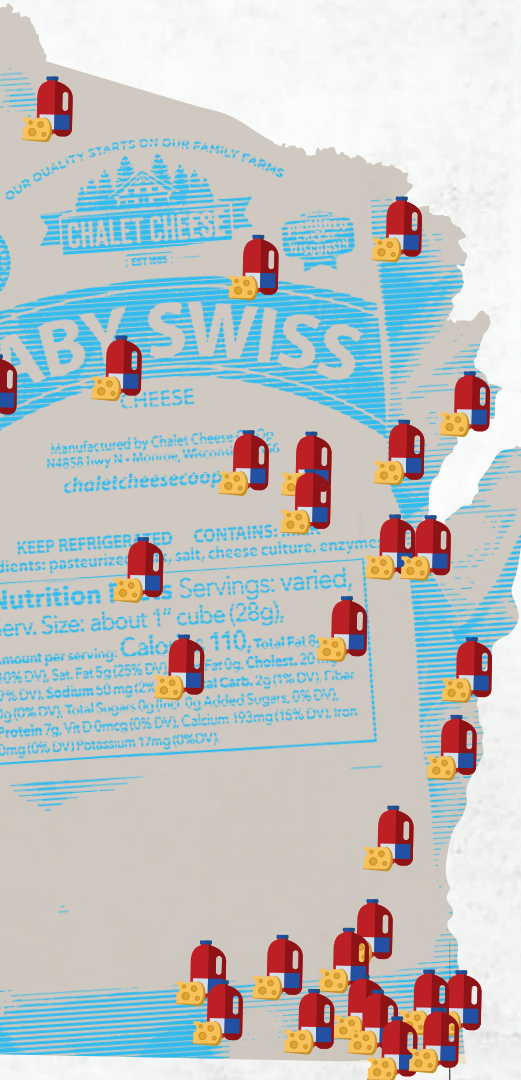
OF MILK, CHEESE AND
YOGURT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES
STATEWIDE AS PART OF
HUNGER TASK FORCE'S DAIRY
RECOVERY PROGRAM

emergency food relief for households impacted by job loss and school closures.

Looking forward, Hunger Task Force will continue to provide leadership, strategic support and direct help as needed to sustain the partnerships we have built and the effectiveness of each group in service to the hungry.



ATION OF WISCONSIN



SINCE THE START OF THIS PANDEMIC, THE FEDERATION HAS GROWN BY

132% AND NOW INCLUDES 116 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS SERVING 72 COUNTIES AND 10 TRIBAL NATIONS

TRIBAL NATIONS: BAD RIVER BAND OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS | HO-CHUNK NATION | LAC COURTE OREILLES BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN | LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS | MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN | ONEIDA NATION | RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS | SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY | SAINT CROIX CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN | STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE COMMUNITY



50
FEDERATION MEMBERS

RECEIVED NEW TRUCKS, COOLERS, GENERATORS AND FREEZERS TO SUPPORT THE GROWING NEED AND OPERATIONS

HUNGER TASK FORCE HELPED TO COORDINATE DISTRIBUTION OF

9,195,280

POUNDS OF FOOD BOXES STATEWIDE THROUGH THE USDA FARMERS TO FAMILIES PROGRAM THROUGH ROUNDS 1 & 2, WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOURMET GORILLA & GORDON FOOD SERVICES



HUNGER TASK FORCE ALSO SUPPORTED FREE & LOCAL PARTNERS LOCALLY WITH

\$332,949

IN COOLERS, FREEZERS AND EQUIPMENT TO ORGANIZATIONS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY



FARMING IN A PANDEMIC

ENSURING FRESH PRODUCE FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES

In spring 2020, as The Farm prepared for another season and COVID-19 cases in the state started to rise, Hunger Task Force chose to cancel all volunteer activities in the interest of public health and safety. More than 6,000 annual volunteers form the backbone of the labor force at the Hunger Task Force Farm. Without volunteers, a small group of seasonal Farm hands were hired to assist full-time Farm staff in the significant task of managing the approximately 200 acres of crops and natural areas that make up The Farm.

Despite these challenges, and with a lot of hard work, the Hunger Task Force Farm had an extremely productive season, growing and distributing almost 600,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2020! This milestone year was especially



notable in that eight Farm staff and five farm hands did the work normally carried out by more than 6,000 volunteers.

Farm staff took advantage of good weather whenever possible, working early mornings, late nights and most weekends to ensure crops at The Farm would grow and be harvested on schedule. Fortunately, 2020 was one of Hunger Task Force's highest yield totals on record, in spite of the bare bones team. That yield included new records in acorn squash, cabbage, cucumbers and lettuce.

For the entire team at The Farm, the 2020 growing season was the most challenging Hunger Task Force has faced. It was also a crucial year for families throughout Milwaukee, with record need throughout the spring and into the summer and fall. It was especially gratifying to have celebrated such a successful harvest during a year where the need was also so great.

The Farm pushed through the challenges of the 2020 season, but also eagerly awaits the return of volunteers as soon as it is safe to do so.



DESPITE THE LOSS OF VOLUNTEERS,
HUNGER TASK FORCE FARM PRODUCED

**600,000+
POUNDS**
OF FRESH, NUTRITIOUS
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
TO FEED THE HUNGRY



— KEEPING IT FRESH



**20,000+
BINS**

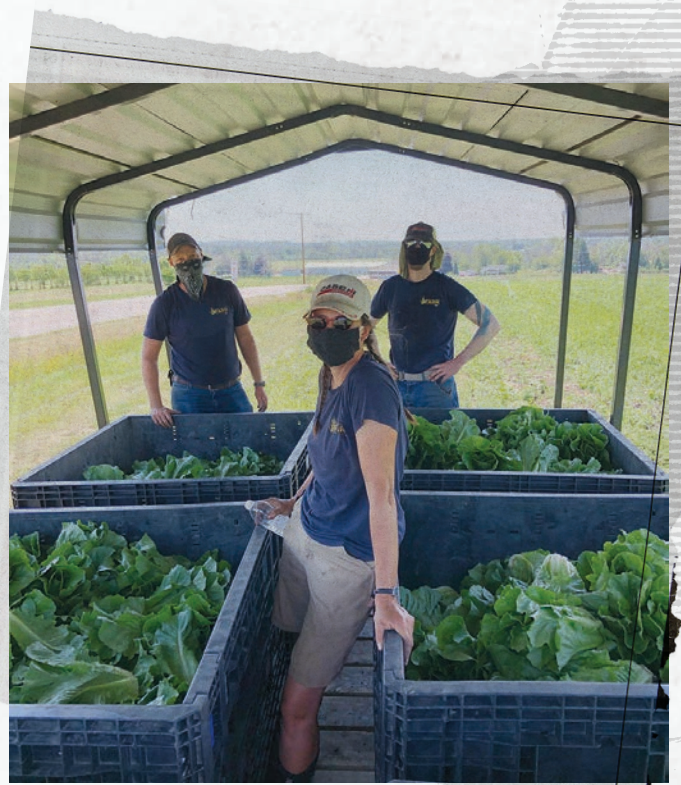
**OF WISCONSIN-GROWN
PRODUCE**

"The 2020 growing season was one of the most uniquely challenging seasons we have encountered as a team. While the growing conditions created an abundant harvest, the absence of volunteers due to the pandemic created a significant labor gap.

Meanwhile, the need in our community was greater than ever.

It required an extraordinary commitment from our staff to get it all done, and I couldn't be more proud of them."

- MATT KING
Farm Director



70 ACRES

**WERE PLANTED AND
HARVESTED BY A MERE**

**13 FARMERS
AND FARM HANDS**



22 TYPES

**OF FRESH FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES HARVESTED
AND DISTRIBUTED
TO FAMILIES IN NEED**

COMMUNITY STANDS STRONG WITH

Hunger Task Force needed the support of the local community more than ever in 2020. The generous and heartfelt response to the challenges of the pandemic was more than we ever could have imagined.

Thousands of individuals supported Hunger Task Force in 2020. With an average gift of \$75, this support ranged from online donations through our COVID-19 Response webpage to the gift of a stimulus check. Local foundations and corporations stepped up to make leadership gifts which purchased full truckloads of food and supported distribution costs so food could be delivered free of charge to families in need.



"During this time, our partnership with Hunger Task Force has been critical. As we have had to navigate changes in how we serve our neighbors, Hunger Task Force continually provides the guidance and resources that we need to do this effectively and safely. As need has increased in our community, we have been able to remain open and serve our neighbors well in no small part due to the support we receive from Hunger Task Force."

- CATIE BOON
Church Engagement and City Outreach Coordinator

Anthem.

ANTHEM ESTABLISHED A NEW SIGNATURE PARTNERSHIP AND HELPED KEEP THE MOBILE MARKET SERVING FOOD DESERTS THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC



WISN 12 HOSTED A MONTH-LONG ONLINE DRIVE IN APRIL WHICH RAISED OVER

\$666,890

FROM NEARLY

7,000 VIEWERS



The Windhover Foundation

AdvocateAuroraHealth

THE WINDHOVER FOUNDATION AND ADVOCATE AURORA HEALTH SUPPLIED THE VERY FIRST BATCHES OF PPE AT THE START OF THE PANDEMIC TO HUNGER TASK FORCE TO PROTECT STAFF AND CLIENTS



CENTRAL STANDARD DISTILLERY CRAFTED A VODKA-BASED DISINFECTANT—TO HELP, NOT TO DRINK—FOR HUNGER TASK FORCE



WITH HUNGER TASK FORCE

HUNGER TASK FORCE IS THANKFUL FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION THAT CAME TOGETHER TO HELP US STAND STRONG AND FEED LOCAL FAMILIES DURING THE PANDEMIC.



OUTPOST NATURAL FOODS, SARGENTO AND MANY MORE MADE LEADERSHIP GIFTS TO PROVIDE MILK, CHEESE AND YOGURT THROUGH THE DAIRY RECOVERY PROGRAM.



CITY LIGHTS BREWING CRAFTED "ESSENTIAL PILSENER" AND PROCEEDS FROM BEER SALES SUPPORTED HUNGRY FAMILIES



SARGENTO CHEESE DONATED 6 MASSIVE TRUCKLOADS OF CHEESE STICKS IN MAY AND JUNE, WHICH AMOUNTED TO ALMOST

750,000 POUNDS
OR 15.8 MILLION STICKS
OF CHEESE



LIKE MOST EVENTS, MILWAUKEE'S SUMMER FESTIVALS WERE CANCELED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC AND HAD TO PIVOT. BOTH SUMMERFEST AND STATE FAIR PULLED TOGETHER TO PARTNER WITH HUNGER TASK FORCE FOR DRIVE-THRU DONATION EVENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR TICKETS TO THE 2021 EVENTS.

SUMMERFEST
MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN

8,600 POUNDS
OF FOOD DONATED!

**WISCONSIN
STATE FAIR**
Presented By
U.S. Cellular

\$26,000 AND
4,500 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED!

FEEDING THE MOST VULNERABLE

100%
OF YOUR DONATION
FEEDS YOUR
COMMUNITY

Hunger Relief Fund of Wisconsin is a federation of anti-hunger agencies working to provide nutritious food to those who need it most: families, kids and seniors. This year, the Hunger Relief Fund played a crucial of support during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing funds for the purchase of food, distribution and emergency operations. Hunger Task Force is the

**HUNGER
RELIEF FUND**
OF WISCONSIN

volunteer administrator of the Hunger Relief Fund through both staff and services, and raised money for member charities through public employee giving campaigns. There are no membership fees or service charges required of member agencies, meaning that 100% of your donation feeds your community.

DAIRY RECOVERY PROGRAM

A CRITICAL LIFELINE

Hunger Task Force initially committed \$1M to purchase Wisconsin dairy products, thanks to generous community support. Dairy farmers statewide received a fair price for their milk, and the Dairy Recovery Program played a crucial role in helping some Wisconsin dairy cooperatives avoid bankruptcy.

Not only did Hunger Task Force distribute the milk and cheese locally, but worked with the Hunger Relief Federation of Wisconsin to distribute the dairy products to emergency food organizations statewide.



With the immediate success and appreciation from hungry families of the program, Hunger Task Force committed a second \$1M to the Dairy Recovery Program in July 2020. This supplemental pledge was possible due to the continued overwhelming support of local donors, and added more whole milk; gouda; baby swiss; and cheese curds, shreds and slices to the Dairy Recovery Program offerings.

In addition to supplying local families with a bevy of dairy products in the midst of the pandemic, the Dairy Recovery Program also provided critical support to many local Wisconsin dairies and cooperatives, some of whom would not have been able to stay afloat. Wisconsin dairy companies like



Chalet Cheese Cooperative, Cedar Grove Cheese, Yodelay Yogurt, Sassy Cow Creamery, Rolling Hills Dairy Producers and Marieke Gouda were among these groups.

Amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic, the Dairy Recovery Program provided a lifeline for local dairy farmers while also supporting hungry families statewide by providing fresh Wisconsin milk and cheese to families in need.

AT THE END OF MAY, THE \$2 MILLION SUPPORTING THE WISCONSIN DAIRY RECOVERY PROGRAM SUPPORTED THE PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF MORE THAN

40,800 GALLONS
OF MILK AND

127,250 POUNDS
OF CHEESE TO FAMILIES
IN NEED STATEWIDE



2020 TOTALS

276,969
GALLONS OF MILK

762,482
POUNDS OF CHEESE

358,704
POUNDS OF YOGURT

98,406
POUNDS OF COTTAGE CHEESE

GRAND DAIRY TOTAL:
3,640,682 POUNDS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CONTRIBUTIONS		
Individuals	\$6,583,361	19.29%
Foundations	4,878,816	14.29
Corporations	2,782,079	8.15
Hunger Relief Fund of Wisconsin	208,877	0.61
Organizations	401,283	1.18
Bequests	129,875	.38
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	14,984,291	43.90%
EMERGENCY FOOD	13,402,756	39.27
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	5,197,280	15.23
OTHER	544,899	1.60
TOTAL:	34,129,226	100.00%

EXPENSES		
PROGRAMS		
Food Programs	\$23,506,801	93.21%
Advocacy Program	697,082	2.77
TOTAL PROGRAMS:	24,203,883	95.98%
Fund Development	1,014,110	4.02
TOTAL:	25,217,993	100.00%
END OF YEAR NET ASSETS:	\$21,854,524	

REVENUE BY SOURCE



OPERATING EXPENSES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Zeka President Quarles & Brady	Patrick J. Byrne Treasurer Erica P. John Fund	Todd Adams Rexnord Corp.	Jeffrey S. Manby Kohl's Department Stores (retired)	Amy Mutziger Johnson Controls, Inc.	Steve Palec Irgens	S. Edward Sarskas Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
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HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

HungerTaskForce.org



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. Our core values are justice, compassion, stewardship and dignity.