

HUNGER TASK FORCE  
FREE & LOCAL

# HUNGER CONNECTION

HungerTaskForce.org | Fall 2021

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

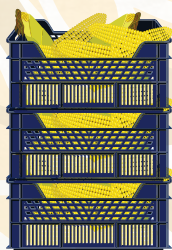
# Harvest Season *on the farm*



## Harvest season is at its peak at the Hunger Task Force Farm!

Since late May, the Farm team has been working hard to make sure a bounty of fresh, locally grown produce has been available at local food pantries and senior Stockbox distributions.

Harvest highlights include:



**CORN:**  
34,000 pounds



**CABBAGE:**  
27,000 pounds



**SQUASH:**  
25,000 pounds



**TOMATOES:**  
11,000 pounds

While we are harvesting this year's crops, you can help Hunger Task Force get a strong start on the 2022 growing season by making a gift to help us purchase seeds, fertilizers and supplies. We get discounts when we buy early, so your gift can stretch the impact from seed to table!

**>> Visit [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) to make your season-end Farm gift today.**

## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

After missing them dearly in 2020, our team was thrilled to welcome back volunteers to The Farm in 2021!

Over 1,000 volunteers have worked side-by-side with our farmers this season, supporting every facet of The Farm from planting to harvest. This has included multiple groups from Farm Signature Sponsor Harley-Davidson, First Midwest Bank, Physicians Realty Trust, Enerpac and Molson Coors.



## Network Strong

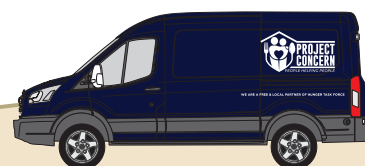
### Hunger Task Force and our network of partner food pantries weave together a safety net of support for local families.

For the past 18 months, this network has operated resiliently through curbside, outdoor and no-contact distributions, and will continue to do so into the fall. Right now, our food bank is providing significant amounts of healthy foods—including freshly harvested Farm produce, milk and cheese—to over 23,000 people each month at local pantries. Pantry visits are expected to climb into the cold winter months, but Hunger Task Force and our partners will work side-by-side to ensure all are served with dignity.



## Building capacity

This fall, an extra \$500,000 of funding through The Emergency Food Assistance Program was made available to build capacity in the emergency food network so programs could take on more food and operate safely during no-contact distributions. Hunger Task Force invested 100% of these federal funds into our network, purchasing over 600 items including transit vans, refrigeration, freezers, pallet jacks, racking, PPE supplies and tables.



# Senior Spotlight: Elizabeth

## For Elizabeth, getting to the grocery store was becoming a challenge.

Relying on a cane for mobility, her shopping trips were a significant hardship. “I get to the grocery store about once a month because getting around is so hard for me.”

Originally from Georgia, the 63-year-old moved to Milwaukee with her son in 2018. Her role as a mother is intertwined with her added responsibility as caregiver—her son requires the use of a wheelchair and depends on her for assistance.

In August, Elizabeth saw a Facebook post about Stockbox DoorDash—a program providing income-eligible seniors with a free box of food delivered right to their door—and signed up for the extra help.

“Three days after finishing my application – ding-dong – there was my box! The whole process was super easy.” She was surprised by not only how much food was in the box, but also by the quality and variety of the healthy foods.

The food Elizabeth receives in her Stockbox each month will help stretch her monthly budget, plus ease the burden of difficult trips to the store. She admits her generation strives for independence and was raised to make do with what they have. “I think seniors are hesitant to ask for help and don’t want to feel like a burden. I would tell them, for me, signing up was a no-brainer.”



“ Three days after finishing my application—ding-dong – there was my box!  
**The whole process was super easy.** ”

## Taking Stockbox to the Next Level!



“Dasher” Driver Dionna

Seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. The Stockbox program provides a free healthy box of food to low-income seniors each month, and Hunger Task Force’s Senior Services outreach team has kept the pedal to the metal, boosting program enrollment from 8,000 to nearly 10,000 seniors this fall. Hunger Task Force also expanded our Stockbox distributions to Fond du Lac, Shawano, Winnebago, Portage and Washburn counties. Stockbox now serves a total of 18 counties across Wisconsin and continues to expand.

To best serve homebound seniors, Hunger Task Force partnered with United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County and DoorDash to create “Stockbox DoorDash.” This innovative new program delivers healthy boxes of food right to the doorsteps of local seniors, with an enrollment of up to 2,000 seniors!



# Food for Families

## Milwaukee's Signature Holiday Tradition of Giving Continues Going "Beyond the Box"

Last year, the Food For Families campaign made one of its most historic pivots by going virtual. This year, Hunger Task Force and our sponsors at Johnson Controls are using successful lessons learned to again offer a full slate of Virtual Food Drive options to keep families fed and our community safe.

Local need remains high in the lingering pandemic. Many nutrition program benefits for families, kids and seniors will be ending before the end of the year. This year's Food For Families campaign will be more important than ever—we need to make sure local food pantries and meal programs are stocked with healthy food and ready to serve families in need during difficult times.

Johnson Controls will once again be leading the way as sponsors for the 16th consecutive year. The local corporation will be kicking off the campaign with a company-wide virtual food drive and is calling on businesses, groups, schools and families to step up this season to support families. Check out the next page to learn how you can support Food For Families!

### Food Donations

This year, we are asking folks to donate cans of low-sodium vegetables and fruit in 100% juice, two important healthy items for our food bank's supply. These food items can be dropped off at our new building at 5000 W. Electric Avenue in West Milwaukee. Please contact Kyle Buehner, Community Relations Manager, at 414.238.6473 for details on food drive registrations.



# Families

## Beyond the Box!



## Top Two Ways to Donate to Food For Families

SPONSORED BY

Johnson Controls



*Customized with your name and private link*



### 1. Customized Virtual Food Drive

First launched in 2020, the Virtual Food Drive has quickly become the easiest and most popular way to support Food For Families. Businesses and groups can create a customized Virtual Food Drive web page, complete with company or organization logo. This will be your private link to share with colleagues or friends, so you can set up goals and fundraising competitions. The Virtual Food Drive web page will include a full menu of healthy and festive items that you can put on a family's table with the click of a button. It's great for organizations with employees working remotely, and at the end of your drive we can tally up your generosity and give you a report!

>> Register your Virtual Food Drive today at [www.HungerTaskForce.org/food-for-families](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/food-for-families)

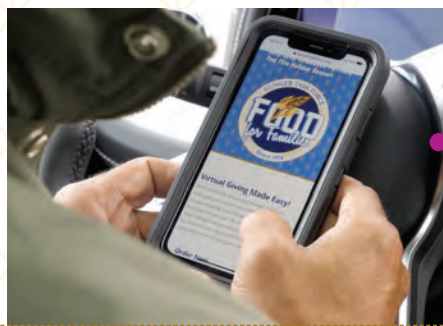
### 2. Cash Donations

This time of year gets really busy, so if you don't have time to organize a Virtual Food Drive, the quickest and easiest way to support Hunger Task Force is to make a gift online at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope. We'll use gifts to purchase healthy foods and deliver them to the hungry free of charge!



**Scan to Register Your Drive!**

*Simply Scan with Your Smart Phone to Get Started*



>> Register your virtual food drive at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org).

# Get Excited for Fall Events!

This fall, Hunger Task Force and our partners are offering an exciting mix of in-person and virtual events to support hungry families.

## November: Zurn Turkey Ticker Challenge



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



## November: WISN 12 Food For Families Drive



Just before Thanksgiving, WISN 12 will be teaming up with Hunger Task Force for the annual Food For Families fundraising drive. Stay tuned to WISN 12 for details on how you'll be able to support local families.



## November 19: CBS 58 Drive Thru Food Drive



CBS 58 and the Milwaukee Brewers are once again teaming up to host our community's largest single-day food drive at American Family Field. Drive through with your food and frozen turkey donations and receive great prizes and giveaways.



## November 25: Turkey Trot



Before you sit down to Thanksgiving dinner, lace up your shoes for the annual Turkey Trot 5K/8K Run & Walk along Milwaukee's lakefront. Donate to Hunger Task Force on your registration form!



Sargento and the Green Bay Packers are taking to the Frozen Tundra to raise funds for the hungry. Every Packers touchdown this season means a \$1,300 donation to Hunger Task Force from Sargento.

GO!  
PACK  
GO!



>> Be sure to check [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) for updates on these events, programs and more this fall!

# Advocacy's Impact

Throughout the pandemic, Hunger Task Force has been a relentless advocate for nutrition programs that feed kids, families and seniors.



## BIG WIN FOR WISCONSIN KIDS

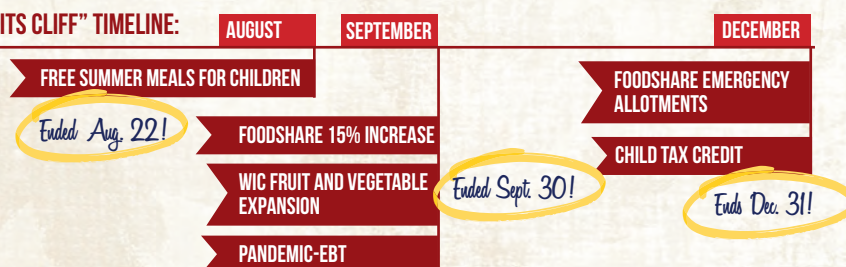
ONE OF HUNGER TASK FORCE'S LARGEST ADVOCACY EFFORTS THIS YEAR FOCUSED ON PANDEMIC EBT. THIS NEW NUTRITION PROGRAM PROVIDES FOOD-BUYING POWER TO FAMILIES WITH KIDS WHO MISSED SCHOOL MEALS AS A RESULT OF VIRTUAL LEARNING.

OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS HELPED ENROLL NEARLY 300,000 KIDS IN THE PROGRAM WITH BENEFITS TOTALING \$210 MILLION!

These programs—coupled with Hunger Task Force's strong emergency food response—are the true way to end hunger, and one of the big reasons pantry numbers have decreased significantly during the last year.

For example, FoodShare enrollment has increased by 31% statewide since the pandemic began. Programs like Free Summer Meals and Pandemic EBT connected hundreds of thousands of kids to meals in safe settings. Most recently, updates to the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan will also increase the amount of FoodShare families and seniors receive on a monthly basis.

### "BENEFITS CLIFF" TIMELINE:



Many of the programs and emergency benefits that were implemented during the pandemic are projected to end soon, resulting in a "benefits cliff." Hunger Task Force anticipates increased need as families who struggle with hunger will turn to food pantries for help. As advocates, we will continue to fight for strong public policies that take families out of food pantries.

## HUNGER RELIEF FUND OF WISCONSIN

**100%**  
OF YOUR GIFT  
GOES DIRECTLY TO  
YOUR CHARITY OF  
CHOICE!

The Hunger Relief Fund of Wisconsin is coalition of more than 20 food banks, food pantries and anti-hunger organizations in Wisconsin. Choose the Hunger Relief Fund on your workplace giving forms this fall, knowing that 100% of your gift goes directly to your charity of choice—no admin fees!

Contact Alyson Herdeman at 414.238.6479 to have the Hunger Relief Fund included on your workplace giving form.



HUNGER TASK FORCE

FREE & LOCAL

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Phone 414.777.0483 | Fax 414.777.0480

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](http://HungerTaskForce.org)

# Holiday Cards Are Here!



## Get a start on the season and order your holiday cards online!

The annual Hunger Task Force Holiday Card program is a special tradition for thousands of local individuals and businesses. These cards offer a warm, personal touch for your season's greetings, with 100% of proceeds feeding the hungry in our community.

>> Order your Holiday Cards online at [www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org) Oct. 1 – Dec. 31.