

HUNGER HERALD



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

SPRING 2017

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Filling Empty Bowls

Augusta students partner with FMP in support of hunger relief.

For nine years, Augusta High School art teacher Karen Clark has engaged students and community members to make bowls for Feed My People's (FMP) annual Empty Bowls fundraiser. "In class we talk about how the money raised buys food and some of that food comes to Augusta to help families," Clark shared. "Our community supports our students and by making bowls we are helping to support our community."

Empty Bowls' attendees receive a soup meal and a donated bowl to take home, with all proceeds going to help "fill the bowls" of low-income residents. Each year at the event, rows of tables are supplied and resupplied with handcrafted bowls, like the ones made by the Augusta

students. The bowls are made of clay or wood and come in all sizes and colors. They come from pottery studios, schools, workshops, and universities across west central Wisconsin and find their homes with community members who support hunger relief efforts.

As a teacher, Clark sees the effect hunger has on youth. Over 50% of students in the Augusta Area School District qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program. Students in the ceramics class might know classmates or they themselves might be a part of a family who visits the Augusta Area Food Pantry or participates in the Augusta Backpack Program. Both programs partner with FMP to receive the majority of their food. *Continued on page 7.*

"Our community supports our students and by making bowls we are helping to support our community."

Karen Clark,
Augusta High School
Art Teacher

“Health issues are intertwined with basic needs — You can’t treat one without addressing the other.”

Dr. Michele Bauer,
Group Health Cooperative

Markquart Motors Helps Families in Need

The Markquart Gives Back campaign once again supported area nonprofits serving those in our community who struggle with basic needs. \$15,000 was raised to support Feed My People programs. Thank you Markquart for your partnership in making our community a better place to live!

CVA Sing Concert

March 5, 2017
2 PM and 7 PM

“For the Beauty”
Benefits Feed My People
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Eau Claire

Group Health Cooperative Connects Food Insecure Individuals with Resources

The Food as Medicine program is gaining momentum.

Feed My People continues to take a leadership role in the Food as Medicine partnership with a goal of improving community health by increasing access to nutritious food. Momentum is growing with the initiative as more and more organizations are taking the next step to connect individuals with the resources they need.

As a member of this partnership, Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire has expanded the need assessments they do with their members to help identify food insecurity. “We realize that if individuals are worried about where they are going to sleep or if they have enough to eat – if they have these stressors in their life, we are never going to get to a point where we are helping them manage their diabetes, their asthma, or heart condition,” shared Dr. Michele Bauer, Chief Medical Officer. “We knew food insecurity was a problem but didn’t realize how significant an issue it was until we attended the Food as Medicine meetings and started asking the questions.”

By building rapport with the individual, Health Management staff is able to create a safe environment for people to share their needs. When issues are identified staff is able to connect individuals with appropriate resources including Feed My People’s partner food pantries and FoodShare application assistance program.

Recognizing the impact hunger has on the health of local families, Food as Medicine partners are finding new ways to educate and connect individuals to the resources needed to support a healthy lifestyle. Bauer shares the belief that it’s crucial to treat the individual as a whole. “Health issues are intertwined with basic needs — you can’t treat one without addressing the other.”

Message from FMP’s Director

Connecting with you in a personal way is so important to us.

Spring is a time of renewal. I invite you to join me at two events that I find rejuvenating. The first is Empty Bowls on March 2. We expect 2000 of you to flow through the dining hall at some point during the day. Each year I find attendance at this level energizing. It is such a tremendous demonstration of a community that cares for its neighbors. I hope that is your experience, too.

I am also recharged by Feed My People’s annual Open House, this year on April 6. It allows me to view our work in a new light. Many people enjoy seeing racks of food reaching the 20’ ceilings, our fleet of trucks, and our freezer that is larger than a house. They appreciate learning about our network of donors, agency partners, and volunteers and the intricacies of the food bank system. Folks return to talk with staff, board members, and active volunteers and report that they always learn something new. I hope to see you once or twice in the upcoming weeks. Connecting with each other reminds us how strong we are together!

Emily Moore, FMP’s Executive Director



Community Perspective: Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College President

Students can face many obstacles to success while working toward their degrees. Sadly, sometimes the most basic needs can become seemingly insurmountable barriers.

A broken-down car is an inconvenience and an expense to anyone, but to a student struggling to make ends meet it can become the tipping point that leads to dropping out, jeopardizing hopes for the future.

And, yes, even having enough food to eat can become a major obstacle, sometimes forcing a student to choose between education expenses and meals. Hunger can also cause problems with performance in the classroom, putting students further at risk.

At Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), these problems can be particularly acute, as we have a high percentage of non-traditional students who have been out of high school for some time and often already have families to support. At CVTC, 29 percent of our students have at least one child and 17 percent have two or more children. Food security then becomes an issue not just for the student, but for family members the student supports.

I am proud of how the entire CVTC family has come together to support students in need, so want of basic needs or unexpected financial crises do not lead to students risking the long-term success that a good education can provide. In November 2015, working with the Feed My People Food Bank, the CVTC Foundation established a food pantry on campus.

The CVTC family has strongly supported the pantry. Students, employees, and even CVTC retirees help staff the pantry, and student organizations hold food drives to help keep it stocked. Financial donations from organizations as well as CVTC faculty and staff help leverage more food for the pantry through the Feed My People Food Bank.

Sadly, food security will continue to be a problem for too many in our society. But by working together, we can help those in need and keep them working toward a brighter future.

Bruce Barker,
CVTC President



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Becky Wurzer
Business Manager,
JAMF Software

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Coordinator, ECASD

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US Bank

Cheryl Thiede,
Senior Director of Social
Services, AIDS Resource
Center of WI



Engaging Teens for Change

Feed My People learns from area youth.

Addressing hunger issues for local children has long been and will continue to be a priority at Feed My People (FMP). 40 percent of those we serve are under the age of 18 and yet to lump together the needs and solutions for children and teens does not always work.

Teenagers occupy a unique space in our society. While still learning, growing, and developing, there is an emerging expectation of adult responsibilities. Specifically in low-income families, teens play a larger role in acquiring and managing food resources and yet teen hunger is an area often overlooked.

In fall of 2016, Feeding America released a nationwide study to document how teens experience food insecurity, what strategies they use to survive, and what barriers they face. This study prompted FMP to take a closer look at our strategies to serve these students by coordinating focus groups. This year FMP will continue to dig deeper to better understand how teens cope with food insecurity and how hunger assistance programming can be tailored to better serve them.

In the month of December, teens from a variety of backgrounds met with us to help us better understand their perspective. Thanks to our partnership with Blugold Beginnings, students were in a comfortable setting and able to talk openly about their feelings surrounding food insecurity, coping strategies, and local food assistance resources.

Here are just a few of the experiences they shared:

STRESSING ABOUT MONEY

“My mom didn’t have enough to pay rent and went to a food pantry. I was stressed because I was thinking about us not having enough money for everything.”

WANTING OTHER TEENS TO KNOW HOW HUNGER FEELS

“A lot of other students don’t understand not having food at home, so it’s not just adults that need education on teen hunger, but other teens.”

LACKING ENOUGH FOR ALL

“When you have a lack of food, not just for teens, it is hard to share among your family, especially if you are very low income.”

HEARING THE STRUGGLES

“At my house my mom doesn’t have enough money to get food because it is me and my brother and his girlfriend and his baby. My mom is always complaining because she doesn’t have enough money to get groceries and stuff because the money goes out in like one day.”

FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR SIBLINGS

“Feeding a newborn or even a toddler is extremely hard and very expensive. Some teens don’t want to eat, because they feel the responsibility put on them to be cheap about what they can eat.”

SEEING HUNGER DIFFERENTLY

“I have actually volunteered at The Community Table. We served over 200 people that day. There were so many that needed it and then there were people that I believed wouldn’t need it, but I was surprised when I heard their stories.”

Serving Local Teens

Hunger assistance programs that work well with younger children are not always the answer with teens.

FMP is committed to strengthening current relationships to develop strategies and new approaches that offer food assistance in a private, dignified way that will benefit not only the students but their families.

Some of these strategies include:

Expanding access to food in area middle and high schools by strengthening current distribution channels and adding school food pantries.

Building stronger relationships with community organizations across our service area that focus on serving teens to learn how FMP can better support their programs and the youth they serve.

Educating teens about resources that are available for them and their families.

In the upcoming year, we will share more about our partners who are dedicated to serving teens and the new strategies we implement together.

HUNGER Bites
Challenge Met for the Match Campaign!

1,100 DONORS • \$76,361 RAISED
505,444 MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Thank you to Charter Bank and all those who made this possible.

OPEN HOUSE Thursday, April 6
4:30 - 6:30 PM
at Feed My People Food Bank
2610 Alpine Road in Eau Claire

Take a tour and enjoy refreshments. See what's new at the food bank.

Filling Empty Bowls (Continued)

Throughout the semester students learn different techniques used to make bowls from clay and are encouraged to make and donate as many bowls as they can. One student who proudly showed off her yellow pinch pot shared, "It's a chance to give back doing something I enjoy." Clark also hosts a bowl throwing event each year. Community members come together for the event to try their hands at the wheel with all bowls being donated to FMP.

Last year, over 35 schools, universities, and artistic organizations across our service area joined together and donated over 1,500 bowls to address local hunger and fill empty bowls. Share a meal with us at Empty Bowls on March 2, 2017 at Florian Gardens and see all of the unique bowls on display, including the yellow pinch pot!



Memorials & Honorariums Given Between November 1 and December 31st

Memorials

Abbey K. Russell
Agnes & Francis Oleson
Al & Meta Tonoli
Alice McCorison
Alice Zwiefelhofer
Andrea Popko (18)
Anne Mooney
Arnold & Nina Kressin
Arnold Anderson
Arnold "Arnie" Prissel (2)
Art & Millie Szotkowski
Arvin Thompson
Barb Lilly
Becky Zimmerman
Benjamin Thompson (2)
Bernard Ruzga
Betty Buchmann
Betty Johnson
Beverly Ann Koenig
Bill Berman (2)
Bill Flaten
Bill Rice
Bob & Sandy Adams
Bonnie & Ray Coequyt
Buck Kistner
Carol Vedra
Camille Holden
Charles Lasker
Cheryl Holt
Christopher Iannone
Clyde Fenner
David Beck
David Gilbertson
David W. Landgraf
Deke & Angie Sosalla
Dick Aaron (2)
Donald Lipsy

Donald Mousel
Donna Stromwall
Doris Johnson
Dorothy C. Holm (2)
Dorothy Crowell
Dr. John J. Flynn
Duane A. Matye
Edward & Ruth Sheedy
Elizabeth Johnson (2)
Elizabeth King
Elnora Bowman
Elsie & Richard
Emil & Mary Ferguson
Emily M. Loew
Ernest "Pete" Mickelson
Ethel Nelson
Fred Steffen
Gary & Patricia Gosnell
Gene Grassi
Gerry Lampman
Gertie Bauer, for Always
Keeping Us Fed
Glen & Chloe Woodcock
Glenn Niemuth (2)
Greggie and Nikki
Gwen Anderson
Harold O'Donnell (10)
Harry Kanikula (2)
Helen Dattler
Howard & Loretta Buhrow
Howard Olson
Jake Mikkel Brown
JDF
Jean Eyestadt
Jeff Suezfer
Jerry Jacobson
Jim Haley
Jim Olson
Jim Schlewitz

Jodi R Nelson
Joel Jacobi, Sr.
Joey Henning
John
John B. Pearson, Jr. (2)
John Fetting
John Harter (2)
John Lau
John Nevicosi
Julie Lokken
June Gunnes (2)
June Walker
Kathy Economoli
Kenneth Canfield
Kenny Nardinger
Kevin Withey
Kristi Brummond
Leo Court
Lester Thomley
Lexie
Linda Loomis
Lois Helgestad (2)
Mabel Gorell
Makena Marie Thesing-Ritter
Margaret & Alden Hillstead
Margaret Balow
Marvin Kilty
Matthew DeGrood (2)
Merna & George Johnson
Michael J. Linnell
M-P-S Komro
Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Heine (2)
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Perkiser (2)
Mr. Anthony Anzalone
My Daughter, Beth Camdall
My Friends & Relatives
My Grandparents, Frank & Laina (2)
My Grandparents, Norbert

& Angie Berg
My Grandson, Elliott
My Husband
My Mother, Thora Framsted
My Parents, Bernie & Catherine Stackhouse
My Sisters
My Uncle, Jim
My Wife, Janice Gubrud
Myron "Mike" Rossow
Nancy Byers
Natalie Linse
Neulen Johnson
Norbert Winarski
Norman & Cora Hovland
Octavia & Edmund Piotrowski
Oliver Kaylor
Our Parents
Our Parents, Ron & Dee
Hillestad
Patricia Hawkins
Patricia Metcalf
Pete Mickelson
Quiton Kragness (10)
Raymond & Millicent Tollefson
Raymond Prissel
Raymond Sorensen
Reynolds Tomten (2)
Rhonda Blomquist
Richard "Dick" Aaron
Richard "Dick" Ermatinger
Richard & Marian Duesterbeck
Richard Bilse
Richard K. Jorgenson
Richard Peterson
Robert Bricco
Robert & Vera Daniels
Robert Anderson
Roger Kressin

Roger Pierce
Rollie Smith
Ronald Berg
Ronald & Deloras Hillestad
Ronald Oleson & Lorraine
Wendt
Ruby M Jermstad
Ruby Retzloff
Russell Johnson
Ruth Perkins
Shaun R. Starck
Shelly Bowman
Stephanie Geske (2)
Suzanne Exley
Ted Peters (6)
Teddy & Harry Vincent
The American Dream
The Democracy of the USA
Thomas Greenlee
Thorwald Olson
Tim O'Connell
Tom Dickert
Tom Larsen (2)
Vern Smith
Verna Hanson
Vernon Schroeder
Vernon Smith
Vic Grosvold
Victor A. Gray
Virginia Rohlfs
Viviane Hebert
Wayne (Weiner) Tronrud
William Gautsche, Jr.
Wilma Mousel
Zechariah Keith Fredrickson

Honorariums

Aeryn's Birthday
Alex's Birthday
Amazing Lefse

Arne & Phoebe Peterson
Barb & Jim
Barron Electric Cooperative
Barry & Lupe Bolding
Bill Dresden's 100th Birthday
Brian & Rita Henry
Carol Cutsforth
Carol & Cheryl Cutsforth
Christmas (3)
Chuck & Linda Morreale
Chuck Stoke's Birthday
Clark Electric Cooperative
David Landre's Birthday
David, Lynn & Samuel Nelson
Debbie Konkel
Deirdre Jenkins
Denis West & Nuto Farms
Don & Sue Torgerson
Doro/Northland Company
Dr. Marjorie Smelstor
Emilie Anderson
Family Health Secion, WI
Division of Public Health
Feed My People Food Bank
Fred & Kathy Kohout
Fredel Family
FrontLine
My Granddaughters
Gabby & Audrey
Gerdes Family
Gregg & Emily Moore
Helen Kanikula
Hillary Rodham Clinton (2)
Jack & Vivian Vaudreuil
Jackson Electric Cooperative
Jeanette Kelly
Jesse and Hayley Vetsch
Jesus our Savior (2)
Jim Poeschel
John & Diane Josephakis
John Dickey's retirement
Judi Anibas

Jump River Electric
Cooperative
Just Dance
Kara & Aaron Thompson
Karen Vought
Karl & Elissa Suechting
Kathy Van De Loo's Birthday
Kaye Natzke & Mark
Schwalenberg's Wedding
Keith Jones
Larry & Pam Teasdale
Larry Everson
Larry the Biker
Lillian Allen
Local Electric Cooperatives
Manz Elementary Retired
Teachers
Mark & Mary Robarge
Martha & Michael Sawyer
Mary Richmond
Mike & Elise Piraino
Mike, Kelsie, & Kevin Nelson
Mike Perry
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Baumgardner
My Godchildren
My Grandchildren (2)
My siblings for Christmas
Nancy Coddington
Nancy O'Neill
Neal Benham, DDS
North High Christmas Auction
& Jim Jeffries' Classes
Our Fallen Police Officers
Our Grandsons Evan & Aiden Niccum
Our Grandsons Joshua & Josiah Korpi
Prarie Ridge Early
Learning Center
Parser Mary Ann Conklin
Pastor Mary Ann Bowman
Paul & Deb Joncas

Paula Uthall
Peg Williams
Price Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Reann Felix
Rick & Carol Olson
Robert & Sherri LeDuc Family
Rose Willi's Birthday
Ryan & Shanna Waite
Sojourner House
Spirit of Christmas
Stella Clark
Stephen Perkiser (2)
Steve & Janine Ostedt
Steve & Lori Scott
Steve Rohrscheib
Susan Fleig's Birthday
Suzanne Becker (2)
Tanner & Jasey Gingras
Taylor Electric Cooperative
Teachers Everywhere
Teresa & Diane
The Birth of Jesus Christ
The Wonderful Staff & Volunteers of Feed My People
Thanksgiving
Thomas Sahr's Board Service
Those in Need
Thursday's Table,
Congregational Church
Todd Hehli
Tom Kolb
Tony Sedesky
Vince & Julie Maro
Wayne & Kathryn Erickson
Weekend Kids' Meal Volunteers
Zach Halmstad



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

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EMPTY BOWLS

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

11:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM

**THE FLORIAN GARDENS
2340 LORCH AVE, EAU CLAIRE**

DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
OR ONLINE AT FMPFOODBANK.ORG**