2020 Annual Report

Feed My People Food Bank:
Ending Hunger in West Central Wisconsin
**Feed My People**

**President’s Message**

**MOVING FORWARD STRONG**

For every eight pounds going out the doors of Feed My People (FMP) in 2020, one pound was heading to a Pop-Up Food Pantry. These distributions give us the ability to supplement the important work our partners are doing by expanding reach in cities including Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, and also swiftly entering communities with pressing need. This is especially crucial in rural areas with greatly limited resources like Augusta, Cadott, Eleva, Fall Creek and Humbird. The past year has taught us that hunger overtakes lives quickly and it has no regard for who it affects. By rolling into a town with a truck full of pre-packaged food and a small crew of volunteers, we can distribute groceries directly to residents. Families struggling amidst job loss, educational disruptions, and health concerns can simply drive to a parking lot in their local community to pick up some much-needed food that day. Because hunger doesn’t wait, neither will we.

It is crucial that Feed My People can remain as nimble in 2021 as it did in 2020. So much of what was accomplished last year was directly fueled by a historic rise in giving. This immense generosity meant we could meet the growing need felt across all 14 counties we serve in. We heard from so many families visiting one of our Pop-Ups or a hunger-relief partner that not only had they never been in a position of need before, but that they never expected they would.

We’re not out of the woods yet. As our small towns and cities in west central Wisconsin slowly recover from the effects of the pandemic, the urgent need of hunger goes on. By pressing into this ongoing crisis with the simple gesture of a bag of food, we can help alleviate what’s hurting today so other challenges can be addressed tomorrow. We’re thankful for the tangible action our community took to passionately serve our neighbors during the worst of the pandemic. In 2021 and beyond, we are relying on that same spirit of giving to help us to not only fuel recovery, but to be robustly ready for any challenge down the road.

*Sincerely,*

2021 Board of Directors

**MONETARY SUPPORT**

- 71% Contributions
- 18% Grants
- 7% Agency Share
- 4% Other

**RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION**

- 96% Program Services
- 2% Management & General
- 2% Fundraising

To view the entire 2020 financial report for Feed My People, please visit fmpfoodbank.org/about_us/financials_and_accountability.phnml
RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS

The turbulence of 2020 meant we needed to roll out more food to more families, using new strategies for safe delivery. Thanks to our partners, volunteers, and donors, we rose to the challenge and distributed more groceries than ever before.

1.7 million more pounds of food was distributed in 2020 to those in need than in 2019. This is a 27% increase, reflecting the exponential rise in families experiencing food insecurity in west central Wisconsin.

Feed My People heard from many families experiencing food insecurity for the first time. According to Feeding America, nearly 2 in 5 people coming to food pantries are first-time visitors.

Those visiting our hunger-relief programs come from all walks of life and circumstances. Programs shifted to curbside pickup or offered delivery to ensure continual food access.
PROVIDING HOPE IN 2020

March - April 2020

Schools Move to Virtual Learning

**Weekend Kids’ Meals** in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls School Districts are distributed alongside school meals at pick-up spots.

**Kid’s backpack programs** across the region also continued their service by delivering bags to students at home or curbside pick-up sites.

**Prairie Ridge Early Learning Center** in Eau Claire partnered with us to deliver emergency meal bags to Head Start students and their families who relied heavily on the school’s pantry that had temporarily closed.

98% of our hunger-relief partners and programs stayed open amid uncertainty and despite a drop in volunteers and rising need. Many did even more than before, creating new channels of distribution and communication to serve a fluctuating need. This included curbside grocery pick-up options, meal delivery services, and mobile pantries. Their courage and fortitude paved the way for local families to safely put food on the table.

In 2020, FMP worked together with 242 partners and programs in 14 west central Wisconsin counties. For a list of our current hunger-relief partners, visit fmpfoodbank.org.

May - August 2020

In Response to Increased Need, Pop-Up Pantry Program Expands

140 Pop-Up drive-thru food pantry events took place in 2020. This program more than quadrupled in size compared to 2019 when 30 events took place. Its design allows us to supplement the work of our partner pantries and quickly address urgent need in underserved areas while laying the groundwork for a possible permanent resource in the future.

Distribution in rural communities is a major focus. In 2020, Pop-Ups occurred in Augusta, Cadott, Eleva-Strum, Fall Creek, and Humbird. The Pop-Up in Fairchild was successfully transformed into a permanent food pantry during the year.

In addition to various Pop-Up events held in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, we also began a weekly community distribution at our facility in Eau Claire. These opportunities help break down barriers felt by people new to being in need.

1,056,968 pounds of food was distributed through Pop-Up Pantries in 2020.

FMP’s Pop-Up Pantry program is growing all the time. Visit give.fmpfoodbank.org/covid19 for the current list.
THANK YOU

DONORS
2020 was our largest giving year ever. The incredible generosity of community members and businesses supported expanded efforts to reach more people as quickly and safely as possible. Every dollar given is crucial to meeting current and future needs.

VOLUNTEERS
As it became apparent that limiting in-person contact was needed to keep our operations running safely, volunteer opportunities were scaled back. We’re grateful to the small group of core volunteers who helped us continue packing emergency meal bags, distributing food at Pop-Up Pantries, and other essential services.

FMP COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION

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- Padraig Gallagher, Director, Stepping Stones, Menomonie
Because of your generosity, more families in need of groceries are going home with food tonight.

Visit fmpfoodbank.org to learn more about our giving community.

Voices From Our Pantry Guests

“I’m a foster mom of four children, and they just love the apples, the potatoes, the carrots, and all the food they are getting. It helps out a lot. I’m just thankful for having this.” - Mary

“I work full time, but with COVID and just the way the economy is, if it wasn’t for Feed My People, I truly don’t know what I’d do.” - Theresa

“I am on a fixed income, so taking care of my grandkids has been a little easier since I’ve been getting help from Feed My People.” - Steve