



**Feed My
People**
FOOD BANK

2020

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Notes

Thank
you
for taking
care of us
❤️

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

2021 Board of Directors

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Jen Whatley

Partnership Coordinator, South Middle School

Shannon Young

WI Literacy Northwest Regional Community Coordinator

We are grateful to the following outgoing members of Feed My People's board who served during the 2020 term:

Matt Flannery, Cindy Hangartner, Marianne Klinkhammer, and Ann Sonderegger

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.



John Satre,
2021 President,
Feed My People's
Board of Directors

MONETARY SUPPORT

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

RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

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

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.

289,580

HOUSEHOLD
VISITS ACROSS OUR
NETWORK

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.

8,359,886
MILLION

pounds of food
distributed.

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.

40%

FIRST-TIME
VISITORS

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.





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.

WI Stay-At-Home Order Begins

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

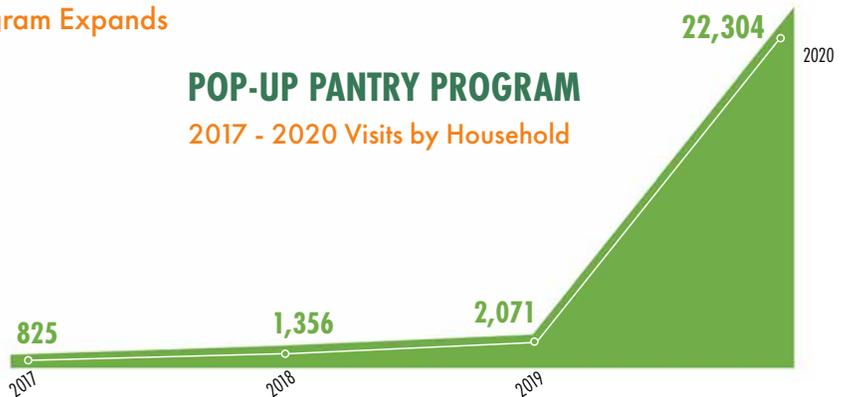
140 Pop-Up drive-thru food pantry events took place in 2020. This program more than quadrupled in size compared to 2019 when 30 events took place. Its design allows us to supplement the work of our partner pantries and quickly address urgent need in underserved areas while laying the groundwork for a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

POP-UP PANTRY PROGRAM

2017 - 2020 Visits by Household



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.

CADOTT POP-UP FOOD PANTRY



September - December 2020

Preparing for What's Next

Strengthening existing programs is a core focus as we look toward meeting changing demand in the future. In 2020, we expanded communication and managed resources such as the CARES Act/DATCP Infrastructure Grant on behalf of our agency partners for new coolers, freezers, and other items for increased storage of healthy food.

Additionally, we expanded our Crisis Outreach programs, senior programs, and added more school pantries, including Memorial High School and Manz Elementary, to help reach more kids and their families.

A second freezer was installed to help extend and expand our food rescue program. By taking in more food, we can sustainably redistribute more food choices to more households. A freezer also promotes healthier options like frozen produce and meat.

Three new trucks were added to our fleet to ensure that we can provide essential free food delivery services to every part of our service area throughout west central Wisconsin.

“Feed My People has been an invaluable partner in fighting hunger in Dunn county. Stepping Stones saw unprecedented community need in 2020 and additional food—or helpful information—was always just a phone call or email away. The staff is always willing to help, including providing guidance for our purchase of a pantry program vehicle—a game changer for safe food rescue and expanding Pop-Up Pantries in our rural communities.”

- Padraig Gallagher, Director, Stepping Stones, Menomonie

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

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

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.



Feed My People
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