



**Feed My People**  
**FOOD BANK**  
*feeding healthy futures*

SPRING 2023

# HUNGER HERALD

Working to End Hunger in West Central Wisconsin



Volunteers packing oatmeal in the new Hunger Action Center addition during the FEED the Love Open House & Fundraiser event in February.

## Our Role in Dismantling Barriers to Food Access

Strengthening partnerships will help our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Food insecurity is not an isolated problem. Families struggling with the grocery bill may also be behind on rent, utilities, and other expenses. When a person comes to a Pop-Up Pantry or partner agency, a lot of emotion can go with that decision because it was often the only accessible resource in a time of immediate need. "How did I end up here? I never thought I would need help like this."

Working to change a job situation or receiving rent assistance takes a lot of time and does not necessarily solve a complicated situation.

Untangling this complexity to better serve all our neighbors is our focus as a food bank, and it is why we are not content to solely source and distribute food, although that will always be our main role

*Continued on the next page...*





...continued from front.

and responsibility. We are seeking and strengthening ways to leverage our food resources alongside the network of organizations addressing the whole experience of all those in need. A family of eight in rural Minong has different needs than a single senior in Chippewa Falls. A Hmong child in an Eau Claire elementary school and an immigrant family in Abbotsford all deserve equitable access to food.

Project FEED (Food, Equity, Education, Dignity) is one new program working to address barriers related to youth hunger specifically. Although kids have always been an important population for us to reach, Project FEED is unlocking necessary funding and sustainable partnerships to feed all kids in equitable ways no matter what county they reside in. Our Pop-Up

Pantry program is another strategy being used to move into underserved, often rural communities to serve the distinct needs in areas that lack enough resources.

Feed My People's (FMP) huge network of partner agencies (over 250), incredible donors, teams of volunteers, staff, and community members who help share our message is what drives our mission onward. Together, we are working to end the unacceptable barriers that prevent food, our most available form of assistance, from getting to where it can be used best in our communities. When you donate, volunteer, or help reduce the stigma around food access through your words and actions, you are part of building a better future.

(Above:) Staff, board, and partners celebrate at a Ribbon Cutting with the Eau Claire Chamber for the new Hunger Action Center addition at FMP making programs like Project FEED possible.

## A Note From the Director

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller*  
 I am overwhelmed and grateful for the support we have received for Feed My People's new Hunger Action Center and the roll-out of Project FEED. You, as a community, continue to inspire us with your strength of commitment in serving our neighbors in need. It has been a challenging time for all of us, especially our kids, which is why Project FEED is so critical. This new initiative pulls out all the stops with a goal of offering food resources to low-income youth no matter what their age or where they live. The work is already in process with a network of backpack programs, school pantries, and special distributions, but there is so much more to be done. Together we can do this! Will you join with us to ensure that no child goes hungry?

In gratitude,

*Suzanne Becker*

Suzanne Becker, Feed My People's Executive Director



**Thank You**  
 for your support of Feed My People's initiatives addressing food insecurity in our communities.

Charles M. and Joan R. Taylor Foundation

Mayo Clinic Health System



Staff member Rex pausing from his work unloading a huge donation of clementines.

## Because of You



**7,020,226**

pounds of food were rescued, donated, or purchased and distributed to families in 14 Wisconsin counties.



**70,000+**

individuals including kids, families, and seniors received food supplied by FMP.



**250+**

hunger-relief organizations including pantries, meal sites, and backpack programs partnered with FMP.



**850,000+**

meals (through groceries) were distributed at Pop-Up Pantries in 10 underserved communities.

Between January - December 2022

## Stories of Hope



Our biggest concern is being able to make monthly household payments. My husband was diagnosed with cancer last October and hasn't been able to work as much. In December we used a food pantry for the first time. This has been a lifesaver for us. Thank you so much!

— GLENDA, FAMILY OF 2

With prices continuing to rise, we have cut way back on everything but essential goods. We are worried that essentials might be impacted soon. Receiving extra groceries like this (Pop-Up) helps divert dollars to other needs like medicine, gas, and things like that.

— JOHN, FAMILY OF 5



## Volunteers Including Pickers & Drivers Needed

When you volunteer at Feed My People, you are making an immediate difference in your community! Learn more and sign up at [fmpfoodbank.org/get\\_involved/volunteer.phtml](https://fmpfoodbank.org/get_involved/volunteer.phtml)

### Upcoming Community Action Nights

April 18 & May 23, 5-7 pm

This is a great networking and teambuilding opportunity.



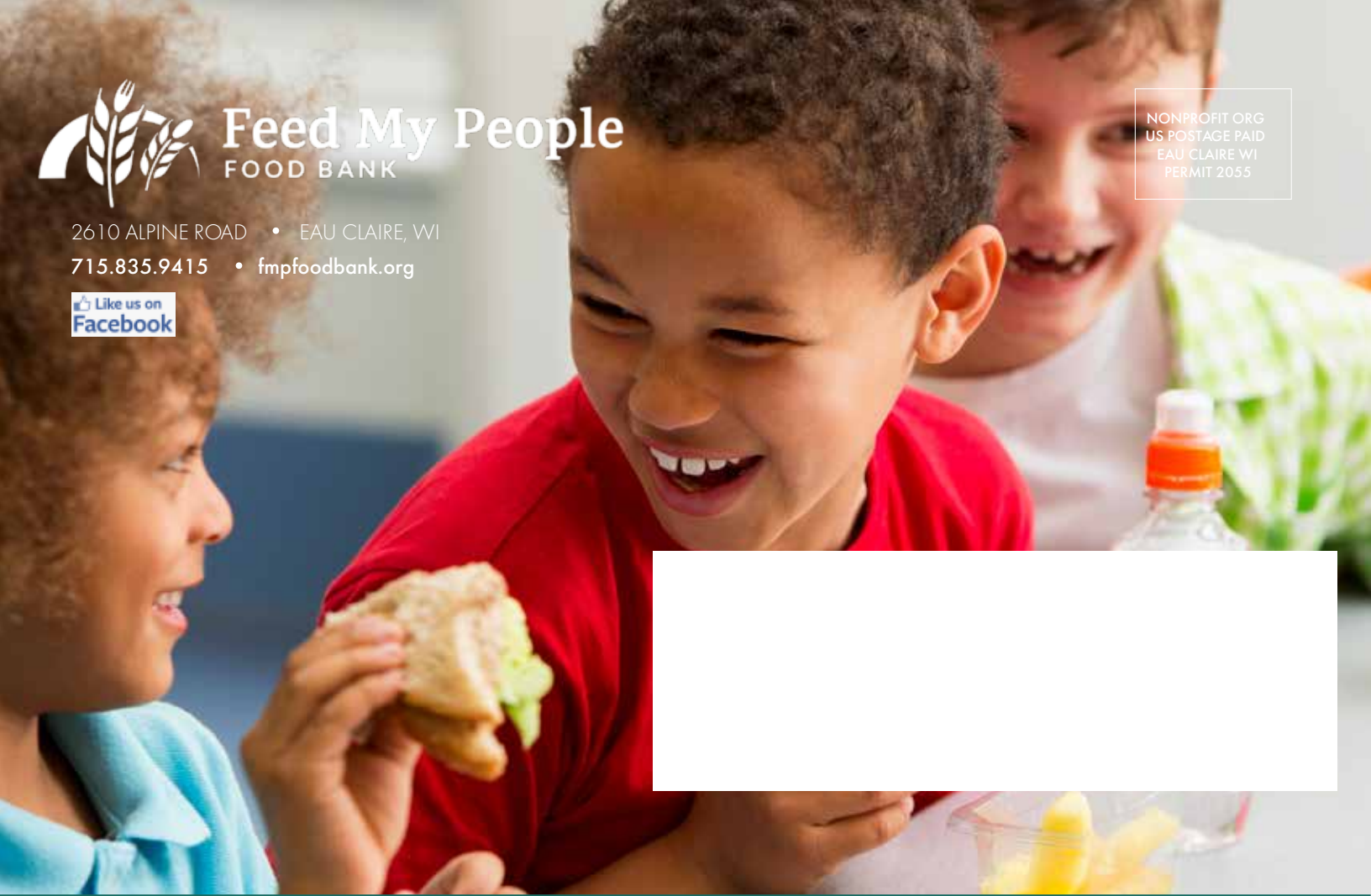


**Feed My People**  
FOOD BANK

2610 ALPINE ROAD • EAU CLAIRE, WI  
715.835.9415 • [fmpfoodbank.org](http://fmpfoodbank.org)



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
EAU CLAIRE WI  
PERMIT 2055



# EMPTY BOWLS 2023

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS ONE BOWL AT A TIME

THURSDAY, MAY 18 @ Feed My People

11 am-7 pm | 2610 Alpine Rd, Eau Claire

Feed My People's largest annual fundraiser and gathering to support hunger relief work in west central Wisconsin.

Learn more and purchase your tickets beginning April 3 at [give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowls](http://give.fmpfoodbank.org/EmptyBowls)



Thank You Top Sponsors



Keith &  
Debby  
Brunett

\$25 for One Bowl & Two Menu Tickets

- **A Variety of Food Trucks** will be onsite!
- **A Huge Selection of Artisanal Bowls** to choose from, made by local artists and students.
- **Online Silent Auction** featuring artwork, experience packages & more.
- **Tours of the Food Bank**

