



CEO CORNER

Gayle Carlson

Chief Executive Officer

To say we are in a time of unsettling change is an understatement. Unemployment has hit levels we haven't experienced in decades. Many businesses are struggling while others can't keep their shelves stocked due to limitations on resources, transportation, and distribution challenges. People are confused, scared, and feeling anxious. But through it all, compassion is the rainbow that came from this storm.

I recently heard a quote (author unknown) that said, "crisis reveals what was already in us." MFBN and its network of partners have always experienced generosity and support in our fight against hunger.

The only difference in this crisis is that it came from places and people who were already experiencing their struggles but felt they needed to do something positive to help others. Individuals furloughed or laid off from work stepped up to help local food banks with increased volunteer needs; businesses offered space for food box distributions and additional storage needs; and donors gave at unprecedented levels to ensure that the MFBN warehouse and statewide pantry shelves could accommodate the needs of everyone, now and throughout the pandemic recovery.

While this crisis revealed a lot of serious flaws in our nationwide food system, more importantly it revealed the true character of Montanans - that of compassion, kindness, empathy and generosity. **As we continue our efforts to recover and settle into a "new normal", let's hope that we can keep that same desire to serve in ways that will help others. Be a part of the change.**

Best wishes to you

Gayle Carlson
Chief Executive Officer

Network Partner Focus: LIVINGSTON FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Since the onslaught of the COVID-19 crisis, the increase in households served is up by more than 200% in March, April, and May, compared to the same months last year.

The need for food has changed. First, the quantity has increased dramatically as we are serving an average of 150-200% more households per week than we were at this time last year. Second, the demographics of the households we're serving has shifted — we are serving more young families with children. In May the number of households with children increased by more than 400% compared to May 2019.

We began doing curb-side pickup as soon as the crisis was announced. This method enables us to quickly and efficiently serve the increased number of households.

We've also added new distribution times, targeting specific groups. We've added a "Families with Children" day on which we have food bags made up specifically for that population. We distribute children's books and other educational materials as well. We've also increased curb-side pickup for seniors, and expanded delivery service for our meal programs such as the "Pantry Supper Club."

Our volunteer base has traditionally been made up of retirees. As most of that population is staying home, we had to recruit new, younger volunteers. The community response was enthusiastic and we've built a great corps of eager volunteers. We have also added paid staff in response to the jump in demand for emergency food support and the opening of our new bakery.

Anticipating that the COVID-19 crisis will be impacting our lives for a long time, all programming and budgeting in response, are being taken into consideration.

From Michael McCormick — Executive Director of the Livingston Food Resource Center



COVID-19 Response Timeline:



January 20th	First COVID-19 case in the U.S.
March 4th	Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 6074) Passes.
March 13th	First four cases in Montana.
March 15th	Public Schools are closed for in-class learning, and online learning starts.
March 16th	MFBN starts working from home. All who are able to work from home are sent home.
March 18th	Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) Passes.
March 20th/21st	Governor Steve Bullock announces closure of all dine-in food services, all alcoholic beverage businesses, casinos, and other business that serve groups of people.
March 20th	Stay-at-Home order is issued in Montana.
March 27th	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748) Passes.
March 2020	386,858 total pounds of food distributed — Up 54% from last year. 6,282 total visits to the Missoula Food Bank — Up 48% from last year.
April 3rd	Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center in Arlee, MT takes over the production of re-packing the bulk food into family-sized packages. Through this, MFBN can continue to order bulk food, despite its warehouse closing to volunteers, and assist in keeping these workers employed during this pandemic.
April 15th	American Prairie Reserve donates 4,000 pounds of Bison meat to MFBN for distribution of necessary protein to partners across the state.
April 22nd	Hutterite Dairy Farmers donate 12,000 gallons of milk to MFBN. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>When leaders of the Hutterite colonies recognized the need to get milk to their community, it took less than two days to convene critical partners to help make it happen. Cargill Animal Nutrition offered to cover costs for processing the milk, and Meadow Gold Dairy paid for packaging and delivery.</i>
April 24th	Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (H.R. 266) Passes — \$484 billion relief bill that replenishes the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for small businesses, and funds public health measures like virus testing.
May 13th	Montana Farmers Union, in partnership with Farmers Union Enterprise, donated 30,000 pounds of pork to MFBN.
May 14th	MFBN Loans Flathead Food Bank refrigerated semi-trailer to help accommodate and distribute the additional perishable produce, dairy, and meat made available by the USDA COVID-19 relief programs.

More than 80,000 people have filed for new unemployment claims since Governor Steve Bullock declared a state of emergency in response to COVID-19 in mid-March. Those new claims peaked in early April during Montana's stay-at-home order.



Food costs have risen about 15-20% in general, however certain commodities have increased much more significantly (50-100%) including frozen ground beef & peanut butter. High demand for dry goods and delays in imports are causing higher pricing and significant backorders due to lack of supply to meet the demand.

May 27th

The Farmers to Families produce boxes arrive at MFBN! In partnership with Grasmick Produce Company, MFBN is able to provide more fresh produce.

- *Delivery Locations: Billings, Bozeman, Livingston, Butte, Great Falls, Kalispell, Missoula, Browning, Wolf Point. These locations are receiving deliveries on a weekly basis and acting as distribution hubs for outlying smaller communities without direct access. Between these partners MFBN is distributing over 11,000 25 pound boxes per week!*

June 1st



opens up their extra airplane hangar space to allow Horizon/Alaska Air, Clearwater Credit Union, and ATG employees to volunteer to build Mail-A-Meal boxes and Mobile Food Pantry boxes.

June 2nd

MFBN launches a pilot program to distribute food at Bighorn Valley Health Center's clinic in Hardin. Patients at the clinic will be screened for food insecurity, and those who screen positive will be offered a reusable grocery bag of healthy, shelf-stable food. They will also be referred to local resources including the Helping Hands food pantry in Hardin, the Center Pole Community Food Bank, the Hardin school Backpack program, and assistance with applying for SNAP or FDPIR to alleviate long-term food insecurity. Clinic staff will follow up with each patient.

June 2nd

MFBN loans Missoula Food Bank a refrigerated semi-trailer to help accommodate and distribute the additional perishable produce, dairy, and meat made available by the USDA COVID-19 relief programs.

June 10th

MFBN loans Gallatin Valley Food Bank refrigerated semi-trailer to help accommodate and distribute the additional perishable produce, dairy, and meat made available by the USDA COVID-19 relief programs.

June 14th

MFBN loans Salvation Army in Great Falls refrigerated semi-trailer to help accommodate and distribute the additional perishable produce, dairy, and meat made available by the USDA COVID-19 relief programs.

June 19th

Dairy MAX and MFBN facilitates a milk donation of 3,456 gallons delivered directly to Family Service in Billings.

July 1st

MFBN's first Mobile Food Pantry for 2020 held in Boulder, Montana.

- *The Mobile Pantry Program directly serves clients in areas of high need in an effort to supplement other hunger-relief agencies in that area. Through a Mobile Pantry, a truckload of food is distributed to clients in pre-packed boxes or through a farmer's market-style distribution where clients choose to take what they need.*

July 10

MFBN's second Mobile Food Pantry for 2020 held in Arlee, Montana.

Feed Montana 2020

FEED MONTANA
montana food bank network

Montana Food Bank Network is excited for another successful year of Feed Montana! Feed Montana is a month-long fundraiser held every September to support the mission of Montana Food Bank Network.

The goal of this campaign is to help raise funds for the upcoming holiday season, when the need around the state for food assistance will increase as temperatures drop and added winter expenses often compete with putting food on the table. Our Feed Montana 2020 goal is \$75,000 or 225,000 meals!

Now, more than ever, the need for emergency food assistance in Montana has grown tremendously due to COVID-19 and we do not see the need decreasing in the coming months. Events like Feed Montana are crucial tools to support MFBN's work to end hunger in Montana. **This year, we are excited to work with businesses and groups on engaging their teams digitally to raise funds for MFBN.**

Feed Montana provides a great way to build teamwork and a sense of collective ownership toward a common cause in this increasingly digital time. What better way to come together as a group than to support ending hunger in Montana?

If your business or group wants to get involved in Feed Montana to help up reach our goal, contact Taylor Flores at tflores@mfbn.org or visit feedmt.org to sign up a team today.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

**Albertsons
Good Food Store
Pepsi**

**MoveMT
Edward Jones
Northwest Farm Credit Services**

Thanks to our community leaders

These Community leaders stepped up during the COVID-19 in more ways than one. With their monetary donation MFBN is able to order the extra food and supplies our 230 plus Network Partners are going to be desperately needing in the coming months.



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Thank you to our anonymous donors for the generous \$100,000 and \$200,000 gifts.



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