

# 2020 Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2020  
Impact Report  
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



# VOICES OF HUNGER

We can all agree that 2020 was like no other. Everyone was subjected to some form of trauma, whether it was isolation, loss of employment, pandemic anxiety, or exposure to community violence. We've all weathered the storm together.

Some Montanans face this type of trauma every single day—the fear and embarrassment of not being able to provide food for your household. Before the pandemic, an estimated 109,000 Montanans lived in food-insecure homes. As a result of COVID, thousands more were suddenly unemployed and pushed towards poverty, without the resources to manage through the crisis.

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, federal and state relief programs, and the hard work of 346 local food banks and pantries throughout the state, MFBN was able to step up and be a part of the solution. Distributing over 19.2 million pounds of food doesn't happen without an army of staff and volunteers stepping up to serve their neighbors. While most of Montana was sheltered at home earlier this year, MFBN's Operations Team was hard at work continuing to source food, make deliveries, and keep the flow of resources going out into the communities we serve.

While the pandemic will historically be the focus of 2020, it's hard not to recognize the valiant efforts put forth by every single Montanan to make sure our neighbors did not needlessly struggle. For that reason, I hope we can continue to move forward with the focus being on our Montana values of generosity, kindness, and compassion. MFBN and its network of partners could not have made it through if we had not been shown these same values from you. Thank you.

## WHO WE ARE

### STAFF

Gayle Carlson **Chief Executive Officer**  
Clark Tower **Chief Financial Officer**  
Brent Weisgram **Chief Operations Officer**  
Bill Mathews **Chief Development Officer**  
Lorianne Burhop **Chief Policy Officer**  
Stephanie Staley **Chief Programs Officer**  
Brad Argo **Operations Manager**  
Greg Patton **Operations Distribution Supervisor**  
Elizabeth Weaver **Benefits Access Specialist**  
Leidy Wagener **Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager**  
Taylor Flores **Events & Communications Coordinator**  
Elisha Buchholz **Public Policy Coordinator**  
Julia Brandauer **Development & Donor Relations Coordinator**  
Stacie Stensrud **Accountant**  
Eric Luongo **Agency Resource Coordinator**  
Jesse Schraufnagel **Agency Relations Coordinator**  
Erika Berglund **Programs Coordinator**  
Meredith Dahlk **SNAP Outreach VISTA**  
Rob Shipley **Transportation Manager**  
Austin Wardlow **Warehouse**  
Kent Belcher **Warehouse**  
Doug Topp **Warehouse/Driver**

### BOARD

Mary Lehman, Chair **Great Falls, MT**  
Matt Baldassin, Vice-Chair **Missoula, MT**  
Randy Riley, Treasurer **Missoula, MT**  
Tiffani Swanson, Secretary **Missoula, MT**  
Scott Kesler **Missoula, MT**  
Keith Haas **Whitefish, MT**  
Minkie Medora **Missoula, MT**  
Tanya Dvarishkis **Billings, MT**  
Jennifer Perez Cole **Belgrade, MT**  
Dr. Paul Miller **Missoula, MT**  
Kevin Condit **Missoula, MT**

# Montana Food Bank Network

Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) is a passionate group of staff and volunteers that work tirelessly to connect 346 local food banks, pantries, and other community programs to food and resources that aim to end hunger in Montana.

**MISSION** END HUNGER IN MONTANA  
through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy.

**VISION** A MONTANA FREE FROM HUNGER  
where everyone has equal access to nutritious food.

**CORE VALUES** Justice — Respect — Integrity  
Trust — Excellence — Diversity

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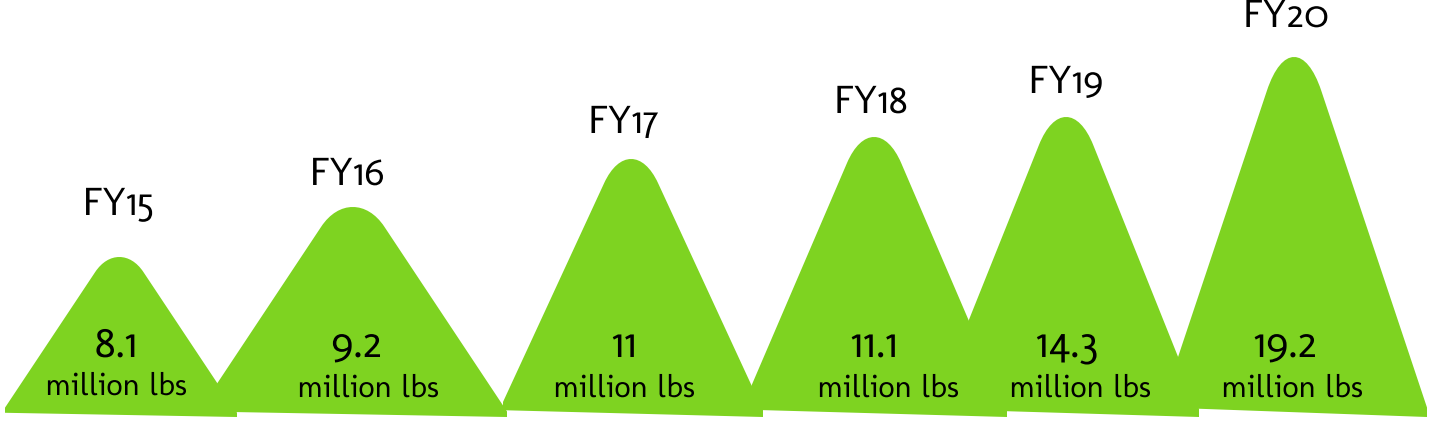
## WE ARE A NETWORK TO END HUNGER



Montana Food Bank Network is a member of the national hunger-fighting organization Feeding America. Through this collaboration, we are able to establish relationships and receive donations from national food manufacturers and producers. This also allows us to collaborate and communicate with a nationwide team of food bankers also working to end hunger.

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION

MFBN is on the road every week of the year. We distribute food directly to our 346 network partners. We travel across the state from Heron to Wibaux, Eureka to West Yellowstone, and everywhere in between. This is our network of amazing partners joining us in the fight to end hunger in Montana.



## BUILDING OUR NETWORK DURING COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, the world began to see the many holes in our food chain. MFBN worked to build up our Network with tools and resources, both to serve their communities better statewide, as more Montanans faced food insecurity due to unemployment or illness.

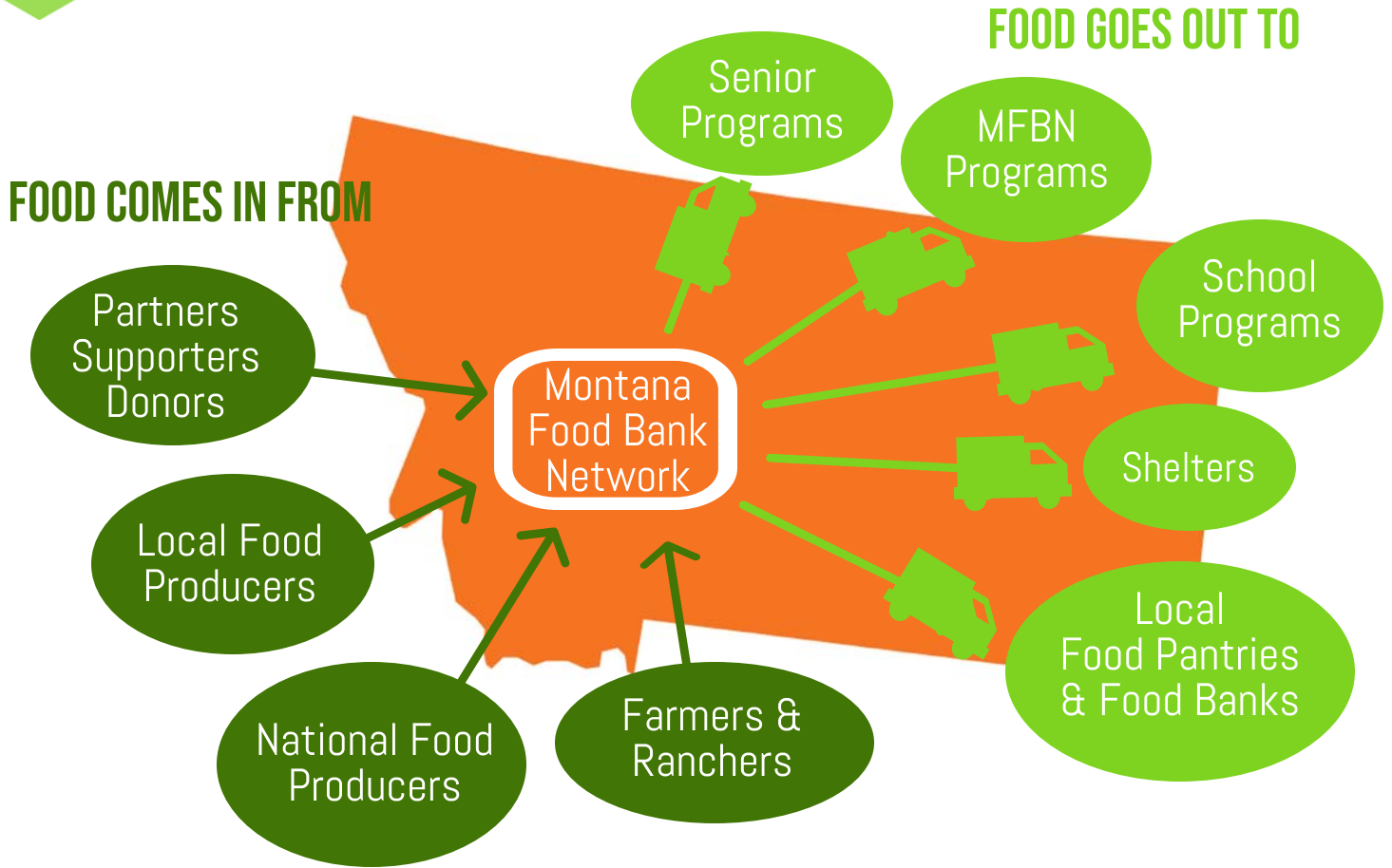
**MFBN'S ASSISTANCE TO NETWORK PARTNERS**

- 136** Grants awarded to our Network Partners in need.
- 18** Agencies awarded the equipment they requested to increase capacity.
- 7** School Pantry Kits sent out to new partners.
- 21** Agencies received training in food safety.



# HOW WE WORK FEEDING MONTANA SINCE 1983

Montana Food Bank Network sources food nationally, regionally, and locally to redistribute to 346 hunger-fighting organizations all across Montana. These are our partner agencies in the fight against hunger in Montana.



"We go further than just food distribution. We try to create a support network for them." - Lorette Inman





The mission of the BackPack Program is to meet the needs of hungry children by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when other resources and school meals are not available.

**DURING THE 2019 - 2020 SCHOOL YEAR,  
THE BACKPACK PROGRAM SERVED:**

**371,052**  
BACKPACKS

**4,996**  
STUDENTS

**134**  
SCHOOLS

**IN 2008**

the BackPack Program started with one local school that is a short walk from the MFBN office.

**1.3 MILLION**

pounds of food have been distributed to school kids throughout Montana since the program started.

**1,500**

students are served each week in 15 schools located on American Indian Reservations across Montana.





The mission of the School Pantry Program is to meet the needs of hungry students and their families by providing them with food and community assistance at school.

### MFBN'S SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM HAS:



including **12** IN BILLINGS, MT  
**20** IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

### SCHOOL PANTRY STARTER KITS

One major barrier to schools implementing school pantries is the start-up cost of equipment and food-safe storage. MFBN provides starter kits at no cost to schools. Each kit includes refrigeration, shelving, a scale, a microwave, record-keeping materials and forms, food safety training, and MFBN best practices support and guidance. This year MFBN provided:

- 4** LARGE STARTUP KITS: Glendive, Columbia Falls, Hays Lodge-Pole, Stevensville
- 3** COMPACT STARTUP KITS: Butte, Alberton, Conrad



“Social service agencies when I was growing up were a lot stronger. Those don’t really exist in rural Montana anymore. I’m proud that my staff and students are learning self-sufficiency and the value of a community that looks out for each other.” said Superior Public Schools Superintendent, Scott Kinney.

# Programs

## MAIL-A-MEAL

The mission of Mail-A-Meal is to reach food insecure Montanans in rural, remote, low population areas without access to emergency food assistance or nutritious, quality food.



Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:  
BOXES DISTRIBUTED

**6,413**

**2,753** Individuals Served

**706** Seniors Served

**21** Counties Served

**1** New drop-site at Kevin Senior Center

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The mission of the Mobile Food Pantry is to directly provide nutritious food to people in remote, rural areas lacking access to traditional emergency food services.

Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:

**9** Mobile Food Pantry Sites

**12** 2021 Goal Sites for Upcoming year

**654** Individuals Served

**14,060** Pounds distributed

**1** After successful outreach with Mobile Food Pantry, Kevin Senior Center became a regular Mail-a-Meal program site, receiving pallets of food boxes to distribute monthly.

