PRESS RELEASE
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**Montana Food Bank Network's The Taste is Virtual for 2021**

The Taste is an evening dedicated to bringing people together to celebrate local food, drink, and relationships while helping Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) raise $70,000 for Montana's families. Brought to you by First Security Bank, Albertsons, BlueCross BlueShield of Montana, and KPAX, his year's Taste event will be virtual on March 5th at 6:30 pm. The virtual event will feature a cooking competition between three Missoula chefs, as well as information and stories about Montana Food Bank Network. Tickets and information about the chefs can be found on MFBN's Website at mfbn.org/events/the-taste.

To help support locally owned businesses, the Taste now includes a Passport event from February 22 until March 4. Each Taste Passport includes eight businesses in the Missoula area offering special menu items with proceeds benefiting MFBN. Taste Passport holders who visit four of the eight businesses listed at mfbn.org/events/the-taste will be entered to win a grand prize. Taste Passports are $10 and can be purchased at bit.ly/thetaste2021.

The Taste also has an exciting silent auction and everyone-wins drawing, the Spoon Pull, with items donated by local and national businesses. The silent auction and Spoon Pull are now live at bit.ly/thetaste2021, and anyone can bid and win! All proceeds benefit MFBN, and bidding closes at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 5.

Montana Food Bank Network is Montana's only statewide food bank and works with 346 partners across the state to distribute food to those in need. Montana Food Bank Network distributed over 19 million pounds of food in 2020. The Taste plays a vital role in supporting MFBN’s operations and programs, by raises $70,000 annually. Tune in to the Taste virtual program on Friday, March 5 at 6:30 pm on MFBN's YouTube channel (youtube.com/MTFoodBankNetwork) or support the event by donating online to MFBN.org/donate.

**For more information about the event, please visit bit.ly/thetaste2021.** For any questions about the event, please email Taylor Flores at tflores@mfbn.org or call 406-721-3825.