

# 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

Food Distribution .....	pg. 3
Building our Network .....	pg. 3
How We Work .....	pg. 4
Programs .....	pg. 5 - 7
Partner Agencies .....	pg. 8
COVID-19 Response .....	pg. 9
Volunteers .....	pg. 10
Advocacy and Outreach .....	pg. 11
Financials .....	pg. 13
Special Events .....	pg. 14

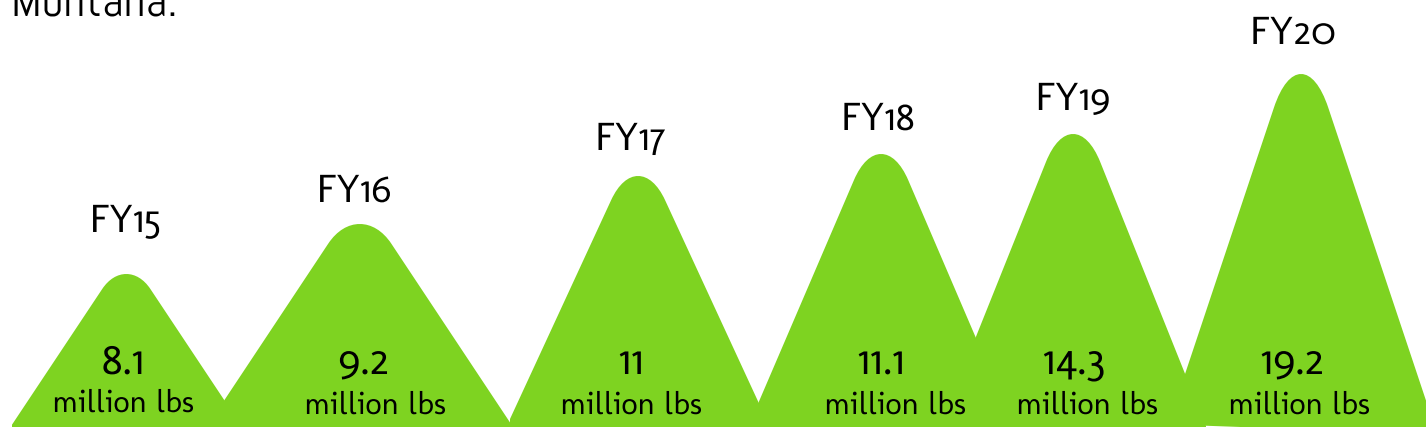
## WE ARE A NETWORK TO END HUNGER



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

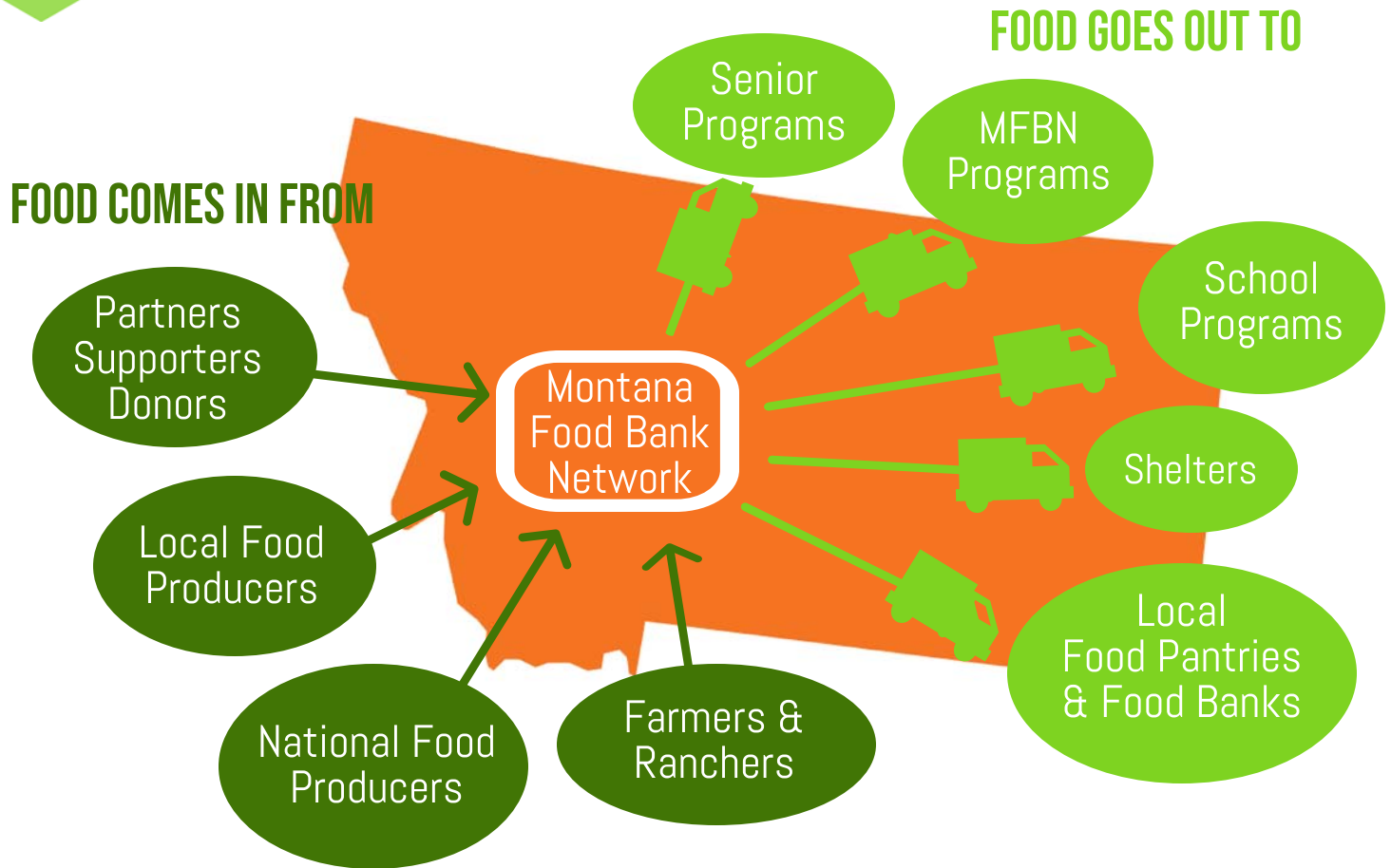
- 136** Grants awarded to our Network Partners in need.
- 18** Agencies awarded the equipment they requested to increase capacity.
- 7** School Pantry Kits sent out to new partners.
- 21** Agencies received training in food safety.





## 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.





# Programs

## GROCERY RESCUE PROGRAM

Montana Food Bank Network works with grocery stores to connect food rescue programs to donate food directly to local partner agencies.

### Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:

**43** Network Partners that participate in the program

**69** Retail Donors



### TYPES OF FOOD RESCUED

Bakery Goods: 1,592,954 lbs

Produce: 2,778,907 lbs

Meat: 1,022,885 lbs

Dairy: 1,933,639 lbs

Prepared/Perishables:  
540,911 lbs

Beverages: 137,076 lbs

Non-Food: 135,293 lbs

Mix (Dry grocery,  
frozen, etc.): 1,020,829 lbs

### # OF POUNDS DONATED BY NATIONAL DONORS

Albertsons: 2,527,291 lbs

Smart Foodservice: 132,432 lbs

Walmart: 1,244,850 lbs

Costco: 932,871 lbs

Sam's Club: 938,063 lbs

WinCo: 208,495 lbs

Target: 161,844 lbs

Loaf N Jug: 18,719 lbs

Safeway: 680,866 lbs

## HUNTERS AGAINST HUNGER

The mission of Hunters Against Hunger is to end hunger in Montana by partnering with hunters, meat processors, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to provide wild game, a highly nutritious protein, for communities in need.

### Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:

#### 4 New Processors

**36** Network Partners that received wild game donations

**32** Participating Processors

**664** Animals donated by Montanans

**143** Animals donated by Out-of-State Hunters

### Total Animals Donated

**807**

**1** Bison

**1** Moose

**47** Antelope

**177** Elk

**580** Deer



## COVID-19 Response

Due to the 2020 global pandemic, many changes were made at MFBN. In March, all who were able to work-from-home did, and our essential warehouse staff went above and beyond to continue sourcing and distributing food to meet the increased need. Many of Montana's larger cities saw an increase in households needing food assistance of more than 200% during March, April, and May.

### DISTRIBUTION 2019 VS. 2020

	March		April		May	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Grocery Rescue	787,586	859,079	835,018	318,511	584,868	200,287
USDA	184,755	491,386	211,788	539,277 <sup>1</sup>	217,336	307,107
Purchased	147,122	258,326	248,314	345,742	127,102	267,049
Donated	119,903	113,295	163,619	389,168 <sup>2</sup>	84,148	560,804 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Increased USDA due to utilizing backstock to accommodate demand.

<sup>2</sup> Increased pounds donated due to agriculture supply chain challenges.

### CLIENTS SERVED 2019 VS. 2020 by Food Banks & Food Pantries

	March		April		May	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020 <sup>1</sup>
Children	12,727	21,301	14,056	18,224	16,751	12,974
Adults	19,808	33,682	21,242	23,619	24,634	18,210
Seniors over 60	6,888	13,847	7,313	10,480	7,511	8,295

<sup>1</sup> Due to COVID, our partners faced many new challenges and a fluctuating need within their communities. The number of people served varied widely throughout the state and within individual agencies this year.

### CLIENTS SERVED 2019 VS. 2020 by Meal Programs

	March		April		May	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Children	2,148	1,398	1,916	4,054	1,840	4,469
Adults	13,665	9,257	18,042	5,842	17,014	4,263
Seniors over 60	7,150	3,742	7,416	2,369	6,841	2,895

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a vital role in MFBN's mission of eliminating hunger in Montana. Thousands of hours have been donated over the years by individuals, groups, and organizations that are as passionate as we are about strengthening our communities' roots all over the state. From local businesses to families to individuals willing to share their time, MFBN is grateful for all of our volunteers who help us reach our mission.

Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:

**4,760** Volunteer Hours

**868** Individual Volunteers

With all of the changes that happen due to the global pandemic, MFBN is so grateful for our volunteers!

## VOLUNTEERING During COVID-19

Since the beginning of the 2020 global pandemic, MFBN had to change how we assemble our food boxes, which are distributed through our Mail-a-Meal and Mobile Food Pantry programs. Neptune Aviation generously helped us set up a small box production area in an unused helicopter hanger. Volunteers can now help build food boxes safely at Neptune, while the MFBN facility is closed to the general public for safety precaution.



"We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
— Winston Churchill



## ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH RAISING VOICES

In addition to providing emergency food, MFBN works to end hunger in Montana through public policy solutions at the state and federal levels. MFBN also works to increase access to and participation in public nutrition programs through outreach and education.

Congratulations to our Policy team for achieving Feeding America's Advocacy Hall of Fame 6 years in a row!

**6**  
YEARS

Achieving Hall of Fame status means that we met a series of challenging goals, necessary for successful policy work. Our policy strategies include direct communication with state and federal lawmakers, engaging the media, asking grassroots and grasstop partners to act, and working with partners in diverse fields such as health, agriculture, faith, business, and education.

### FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Ending hunger in Montana requires strong public nutrition programs and policies that address the root causes of hunger. MFBN works closely with our Congressional leaders to provide information on the status of hunger in Montana, helping them understand the importance of public nutrition programs in our state. We regularly advocate for policies that will protect these programs and make them work even better for Montana families.



### Fiscal Year 2020 Impact:

#### AREAS OF FOCUS

Preparing for a possible **Child Nutrition Reauthorization**  
Funding for **TEFAP foods**, storage, & distribution  
Robust **COVID relief** to address food Insecurity & provide stability for struggling households

#### OUR VOICES TOGETHER

- 13** Visits to Summer Food sites, WIC clinics, & other child nutrition programs for Congressional staff in preparation for Child Nutrition Reauthorization.
- 2** In-person meetings with Montana's Congressional Leaders to discuss hunger in Montana & the importance of strengthening the child nutrition programs.
- 16** Action alerts to our network of advocacy partners, generating 100s of messages to Congressional offices.

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP is our most effective anti-hunger program, helping nearly 55,000 Montana households keep food on the table each month. SNAP further demonstrated its importance in 2020, responding quickly to the COVID crisis. Congress implemented several policy changes to maximize the impact of SNAP, reducing administrative barriers and providing boosted benefits to many households.



## FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL

MFBN convenes the Food Security Council, which includes state program administrators, nonprofits, Congressional offices, and MFBN Board and staff. The Council facilitates collaboration between programs and supports broad-ranging actions leading to improved food security and nutrition for all Montanans. Members are currently focusing on advancing state investment in Double SNAP Dollars and supporting MFBN's policy priorities. Additionally, the Council is working to better understand and engage partners on senior hunger and support healthy environments at food pantries.

## ENGAGING Local Communities

Every two years, MFBN facilitates a series of community conversations on hunger across the state. In summer 2019, we visited Billings, Cut Bank, Dillon, and Hardin.

### 93 Individuals Came Together Across 4 Community Conversations

- Representing social services, faith community, educators, local policymakers, senior services, kids' programs, Congressional offices, and more.
- Discussed community resources, opportunities, and challenges related to food security.
- Developed shared action ideas including coordinated program outreach, education to lawmakers, improved communication between services and sectors, and advocacy to strengthen public food programs.

# FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES

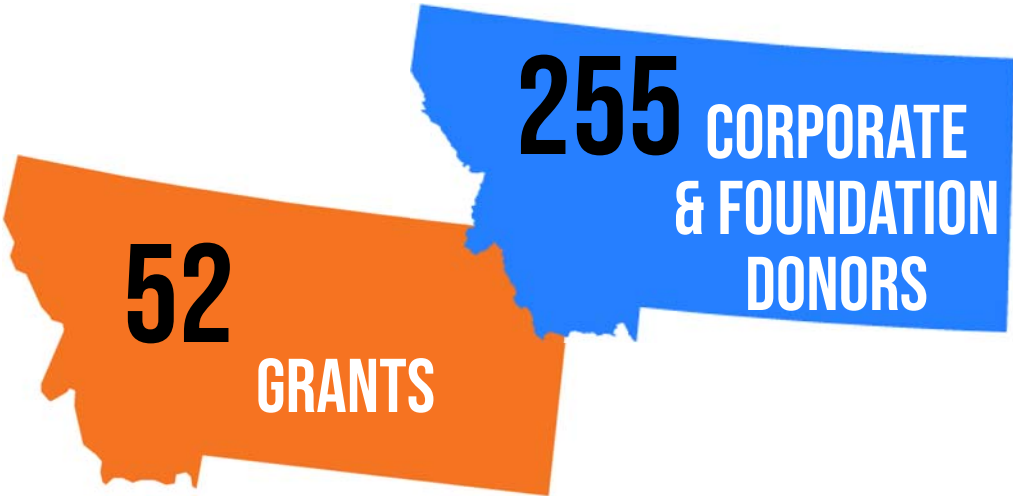
Donated Food Distributed.....	\$19,293,503
Food Distribution Costs .....	\$3,745,650
Fundraising .....	\$701,790
General & Administration .....	\$333,492
Public Policy .....	\$212,933
Total Expenses .....	\$24,296,368

## PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

In-Kind Contributions .....	\$20,067
Special Events .....	\$150,022
Grants .....	\$2,931,144
Earned Income .....	\$1,953,679
Contributions .....	\$1,542,882
Value of Donated Food .....	\$19,312,583
Total Revenue & Public Support .....	\$25,910,377

## GENEROUS SUPPORT

AARP  
AT&T  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
BNSF Railway Foundation  
Browning Kimball Foundation  
Clearwater Credit Union  
CoBank  
Bill & Marian Cook Foundation  
Costco Wholesale  
Dennis and Phyllis Washington  
Foundation  
Feeding America  
First Interstate BancSystem  
Foundation  
Ford Motor Company  
Bill & Rosemary Gallagher  
Foundation



Glacier Bancorp, Inc.  
Headwaters Foundation  
Missoula Fresh Market LLC  
Montana Healthcare Foundation  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
No Kid Hungry  
Star Peak Foundation  
State of Montana  
Subway

The Albertsons Companies  
Foundation  
The Scoob Trust  
Foundation  
Thoroughfare Foundation  
TJX Foundation  
Town Pump Charitable  
Foundation  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Wells Fargo



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## THE TASTE - MARCH

The Taste is held annually in March at Neptune Aviation. Guests enjoy an evening in a unique atmosphere listening to live, local music while sampling over 100 deliciously crafted food and drink tastes from almost 40 local establishments. A silent auction and "Everybody Wins!" raffle increases the excitement and directs funds to help end hunger in Montana. The Taste 2020 raised \$71,595.71 for Montana Food Bank Network.

## FEED MONTANA - SEPTEMBER

Feed Montana is a month-long annual fundraising competition that takes place in September during Hunger Action Month. Community members across the state take part in a challenge to raise funds in unique and creative ways on behalf of MFBN. Statewide there are individuals, community groups, and corporate establishments that get involved to help fight hunger! Feed Montana 2020 raised \$75,000 for Montana Food Bank Network.





Thank you!



5625 Expressway | Missoula, MT 59808  
406.721.3825 ~ [mfbn.org](http://mfbn.org)