Executive Summary

Montana is known for its wide-open spaces where you can drive for miles without seeing another vehicle. We truly value our space to breathe but often overlook the impact this distance has on Montanans’ access to food. More than 58,000 individuals live in food deserts with limited access to a supermarket or grocery store. This makes finding fresh and affordable food a daily struggle. Imagine how challenging it would be without transportation or enough funds to travel to your closest store. These barriers can be insurmountable.

Fortunately, MFBN has a strong network of over 340 food banks, pantries, shelters, schools and senior centers that can help fill the gaps. Montana Food Bank Network is proud to be a part of this network. We cover over 125,000 miles each year, delivering food to our partners, to help food insecure families, in all corners of our state access healthy food.

But our work doesn’t stop there. We continue to advocate for improved access to public assistance programs by educating lawmakers about the impact food insecurity has on our economy, healthcare systems and education. We listen to those with lived experience and bring their voices to the table as we strive for systemic change. We also meet with our generous donors to ensure that we are responsible with their investment in fighting hunger.

Please join us as we listen, learn and lead the journey toward making access to healthy, affordable food possible for all Montanans. Thank you, friends. Together, we can end hunger in Montana.

Gayle Carlson,
CEO & President, Montana Food Bank Network

Community Impact

MFBN’s Emergency Response
Each year, MFBN prepares to respond to the natural disasters in our state. This year, with the help of many generous donations along with Feeding America, we quickly delivered over 100,000 pounds of food and water to our partners assisting first responders and evacuees during the Yellowstone River flooding in June.

MFBN - Montana’s only statewide food bank delivering food year-round to all 56 counties

MFBN’s Outreach to Indigenous Peoples
This was an exciting year of collaboration and growth with leaders of Indigenous food systems across Montana. Among other efforts, we proudly participate in the Boundless Collaboration project to connect and learn from Indigenous communities in Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Through this effort, MFBN is deepening our understanding of how to serve all individuals well and equitably across our state.
**Financial Summary**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>IN-KIND</td>
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<td>SPECIAL EVENTS</td>
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<td>GRANTS</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE</strong></td>
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**Policy & Advocacy**

**Amplify Montana**
Amplify Montana is MFBN’s newest program, allowing us to engage, learn from and build relationships with Lived Experts. We cannot end hunger in Montana without their expertise.

**SNAP Outreach**
Outreach efforts connected 318 Montana households to an estimated 487,365 meals.

**State Policy Advocacy**
MFBN advocated for Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) for the 2021-2022 school year and following summer, helping secure P-EBT food benefits for more than 70,000 Montana children.

**Federal Policy Advocacy**
MFBN urged positive policy changes in the Child Tax Credit, child nutrition programs, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and for the extension of flexibilities allowing child nutrition programs to respond to the impacts of the pandemic and meet the needs of Montana families.

**Statewide Impact**

**Big Sky. Big Impact.**
(Pounds Distributed)
Grocery Rescue – 8,831,094
USDA – 2,801,718
Purchased – 3,024,480
Donated – 1,610,295
Total – 16,267,587

$40,423 total grants awarded to 25 of MFBN’s network partners

60,000 pounds of food mailed to rural households, including 21,000 to seniors, served through MFBN’s Mail-a-Meal Program

28,000 pounds of fresh wild game distributed through the Hunters Against Hunger program

135 schools participated in the BackPack program

3,600 kids received weekend nutrition through the BackPack Program

**Total Visits* to Network Partner Food Pantries and Meal Programs**
*some individuals served more than once
Children – 214,073
Adults – 417,849
Seniors – 176,027