



Ready-to-eat meal kits and fresh watermelons being prepped for disaster relief distribution.

MFBN Disaster Relief – 2022 Flooding

In late June of 2022, historic flooding occurred in south central Montana, destroying homes, businesses and infrastructure in numerous communities, including Gardiner, Red Lodge, Laurel, Livingston and West Yellowstone. Additionally, Yellowstone National Park was closed for over a week due to washed out roads, leaving park workers and tourists stranded. **A significant number of residents, business owners and tourists were impacted by evacuations, power outages, home and infrastructure damage and loss of income and revenue.**

Working collaboratively with Feeding America and our network partners to complete last-minute deliveries, Montana Food Bank Network sourced and delivered over 100,000 pounds of food and drinking water to network partners providing emergency services. MFBN provided bottled water to shelters and communities where drinking water systems were compromised, as well as fresh, nutritious produce and groceries to pantries serving

seniors, families and children. This helped replace perishable food lost during power outages and evacuations with non-perishable, ready-to-eat meal kits and snacks for shelters and homes where normal food preparation was not possible. Additionally, over \$30,000 of specific grocery requests were purchased and delivered to smaller local food pantries lacking resources for long-term needs, anticipating that they will see a higher number of families visiting in the future, due to the continuing impacts caused from flood damage.

Effectively coordinating with Feeding America and our network partners — Family Service, Inc., Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Gardiner Food Pantry and Livingston Food Resource Center — MFBN was able to identify impacted communities, assess their needs and provide the assistance they so desperately required to make sure their short-term needs were met and no one was left behind.

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LETTER FROM A MFBN BOARD MEMBER

Your donation to Montana Food Bank Network provides direct support for people experiencing food insecurity.

In the Fall of 2020, I became the Executive Director of the Arlee Community Development Corporation about a year into its COVID-19 emergency response activities. Part of the responsibility in this new role involved the development of the Food Resource Center, including a larger pantry for the community.

At that time, the weekly curbside food box distribution was underway at Arlee CDC. With the coordination of food procurement and a very committed group of volunteers, I quickly learned how food banks change lives and change communities.

The MFBN team is a key resource to our programming, development and the eventual transition from curb-side food distribution to an in-house, self-select food pantry which opened in August of 2021. **Every week in the pantry, we see the links between the impacts of poverty, the lingering impacts of Covid on families, the recent increases in food and fuel costs and the increased needs of families on fixed incomes.**

As a MFBN board member and a representative of a rural pantry, I truly appreciate MFBN's commitment to not just feeding Montanans, but to broadening their knowledge on the root causes of food insecurity by working side-by-side in the field and collaborating in order to reach a better understanding of the needs of food bank clients served. MFBN's relationships with pantry staff across the state showcases this team's engagement, not only in food distribution, but also in their engagement in progressive policy advocacy and other justice-oriented work. **It's a team effort based in collaborations, procuring local foods to support local economies, leveraging technical assistance and sharing resources across the state. I am honored to work with such a great team!**

Marie Hirsch

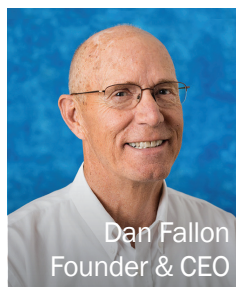
Executive Director
Arlee Community Development Corporation

MCDANTIM, A COMPANY COMMITTED TO CARING – *A Donor's Story*

Throughout his leadership at the manufacturing company McDantim Inc., Dan Fallon, founder and CEO, has nurtured the concept that a company's mission should include community-minded compassion and kindness. Dan has always taken the time to make sure all employees are heard and feel important and well cared for. When McDantim moved its headquarters to Helena from Bend, Oregon, Dan established a charitable program for the company, ensuring that we support the community that supports us.

Beginning in 2008, McDantim has been a consistent donor to Montana Food Bank Network. In 2020, McDantim was awarded a MFBN Hunger Hope Award in honor of Dan's continued advocacy of

supporting Montanans in need. We at McDantim cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to Dan for all he has done for his employees and our community. As he nears his retirement, after 30 years of service, we want to celebrate him and his wife Jane, by donating to Montana Food Bank Network in their honor.



With Gratitude,
The Employees of
McDantim Incorporated



MFBN'S RESOURCE PROGRAMS *Help Partners*

You probably already know that Montana Food Bank Network partners with over 329 food pantries, senior centers and many other organizations to serve our communities, but did you know that we also offer special programming to further increase resources to Montanans? The benefits of these programs include an increased access to a variety of local foods, strengthening local partnerships and stretching partner budgets, so they are able to invest in other necessary resources.



Our **Hunters Against Hunger Program** aims to alleviate hunger in Montana by partnering with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hunters, meat processors and food pantries to get nutritious, locally harvested wild game meat into the kitchens of families in need. Hunters drop off their legally harvested big game animal at any participating meat processor, who is reimbursed by MFBN for the cost of their labor. The processed, ground wild game meat is taken to partner food pantries, who then distribute the donated meat directly to Montana households. During the last hunting season, over 28,000 pounds of much needed, local protein was provided through our network.

School Pantry & Backpack Programs help meet the needs of children by providing them with healthy and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and holidays when school meals are not available. MFBN partners with nearly 150 schools statewide, and through these partnerships, over 13,500 students were able to receive assistance last school year through the Backpack Program alone. School staff identify students who could benefit from these supplemental programs, and discreetly provide kid-friendly, nutritious food each weekend of the school year.

Grocery Rescue partnerships with local retailers help to recover unsellable, but safely consumable food items from grocery stores, convenience stores, supercenters and restaurants. MFBN partners are able to pick up fresh meat, dairy products, produce and other items regularly from participating retailers for distribution to their customers. This program also allows retailers to reduce waste by donating perfectly good products, instead of throwing them away. Last year, over 9 million pounds of food was rescued through this program. A win-win-win for the environment, local economies and pantry customers.

To learn more about any of the following programs, contact Eric Luongo, Agency Resource Coordinator, at eluongo@mfbn.org or visit mfbn.org and navigate to Programs.

Lived Experts INFORM MFBN'S WORK

Montana Food Bank Network's Spring 2022 Newsletter introduced the importance of engaging Lived Experts — those with first-hand experience of food insecurity, poverty and navigating public assistance programs — in our work to end hunger in Montana. We began by holding listening sessions to learn more about public nutrition programs, such as WIC, School Meals and Summer Food Service Program, which strengthened MFBN's child nutrition advocacy efforts.

Since then, we have been busy growing this work into our newest initiative: Amplify Montana! Through Amplify Montana, we have facilitated additional listening sessions, allowing MFBN to make policy recommendations to Congressional offices and state agencies. We also connected Lived Experts from Montana to national opportunities to inform policy change, including the upcoming White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

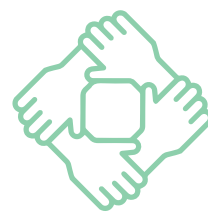
In May, we brought together four Lived Experts as our Amplify Montana Advisory Board (AMAB) to build an advocacy and leadership program that offers support and resources to Lived Experts who would like to build their professional development skills, such as public speaking, storytelling, media training and more. The program, Big Sky Leadership Academy, will bring more Lived Experts to the table in advocacy and leadership positions throughout Montana. AMAB members are also informing MFBN's policy priorities and providing essential feedback on public nutrition program impacts and challenges.

For additional information on our Amplify Montana program, please visit mfbn.org/amplify or email Elisha Buchholz, Empowerment Manager, at ebuchholz@mfbn.org.





Ways to Give to Montana Food Bank Network



Winter welcomes the season of giving as the holidays approach and reminds us of the importance of helping our neighbors in need. There are many ways you can give to MFBN, and with each, you are strengthening the roots of your community in a meaningful way.



By Mail

You can mail a check or money order to our address at 5625 Expressway, Missoula, MT 59808.



Online

Donate online with a credit or debit card using our secure online form by visiting mfbn.org.



Give Monthly

Become a part of the Network Sustainers Circle by setting up a recurring gift today. Sustainers can be set up on our donation page or by phone at (406) 721-3825.



Planned Giving

Leave a legacy gift to MFBN — whether in your will or another part of your estate — to ensure your assets are put to their best philanthropic use and distributed in a way that reflects your beliefs and values.

We've partnered with FreeWill, a free online estate-planning tool, to make it simpler than ever to create or update your legal will and start your legacy with MFBN in the process.

To learn more about FreeWill or other ways you can leave a legacy gift, visit mfbn.org/planned-giving or contact Bill Mathews, Chief Development Officer, at (406) 215-1777.



Donor Advised Funds (DAF)

Through a DAF, you have the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to MFBN. You can recommend grants that make an immediate impact or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts.

You can also create a lasting legacy by naming MFBN a beneficiary in your fund. Establish a family legacy of philanthropy by naming your loved ones as your successor to continue recommending grants to charitable organizations. As always, we recommend contacting your fund administrator for counsel.



Montana Community Foundation

The Montana Community Foundation has chosen us as one of their fund recipients. Set up planned giving or a one-time donation at mtcf.org.



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Stay connected to
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