



FEEDING MONTANA

Your Newsletter from Montana Food Bank Network | Summer 2024



Montana Food Bank Network

Big Sky. Big Impact.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Montana Food Bank Network is to end hunger in Montana through food acquisition and distribution, education, and advocacy.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a Montana free from hunger where everyone has equal access to nutritious food.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

Kevin Condit, Chair
Neptune Aviation

Ross Tillman, Vice Chair
Retired Attorney

Scott Kesler, Treasurer
AgWest Farm Credit

Tiffani Swanson, Secretary
First Security Bank

Kyle Arnet
Emergency Medicines -
Livingston Healthcare

Matt Baldassin
Crowley Fleck

Karen Byrnes
Community Development
Director for City-County of
Butte-Silver Bow

Michael Enos
TechSoup

Chris Ewing
Audaciter

Keith Haas
LPL Financial

Marie Hirsch
Arlee Community
Development Corporation

Mary Lehman
Retired CPA

Jessica Proctor
A&E Design

CEO CORNER



Has there ever been a more exciting time to be part of Montana Food Bank Network?

We have officially launched our Campaign for Bigger Impact, an ambitious initiative to advance our mission of ending hunger in Montana. The centerpiece of our \$15 million campaign is a brand new facility, which will be located just down the road from our current building. It will double our existing warehouse, freezer, and cooler storage capacity.

On April 25th, we gathered with some of our closest supporters and partners for a special celebratory groundbreaking and blessing ceremony where we shared our vision for the statewide charitable food network we lead. What was clear to everyone who came together for the ceremony, and what I hope this newsletter will convey to you, is that this campaign is about much more than a new building. At a time when hunger in our state is rising, this campaign is about making a bigger impact for our partners and the Montanans experiencing food insecurity that we support and serve in collaboration together as a network.

What does a bigger impact look like? It looks like more food — food that is fresh, nutritious, and locally sourced — reaching more children, seniors, and families. We will expand our network and grow new partnerships. And we'll be able to make every dollar donated go further than ever before.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about our vision and how this new building will help make it possible. You'll hear from our team members and supporters about why this campaign matters. You'll see that we are taking a model we know works and making it work even better for our state.

We are grateful for your critical support. As we embark on this once-in-a-generation undertaking to end hunger in Montana, I hope you'll continue to join us.

Thank you,

Gayle Carlson
President and CEO
Montana Food Bank Network



A MONTANA WHERE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY. CAN YOU SEE IT? WE CAN.



Today, 1 in 9 Montanans in every corner of our state doesn't have enough food, including 1 in 6 children, and the need is only increasing. As the leader of a more than 380-strong partner network, backed by a broad base of impassioned volunteers and generous donors, we know we can meet the challenge together.

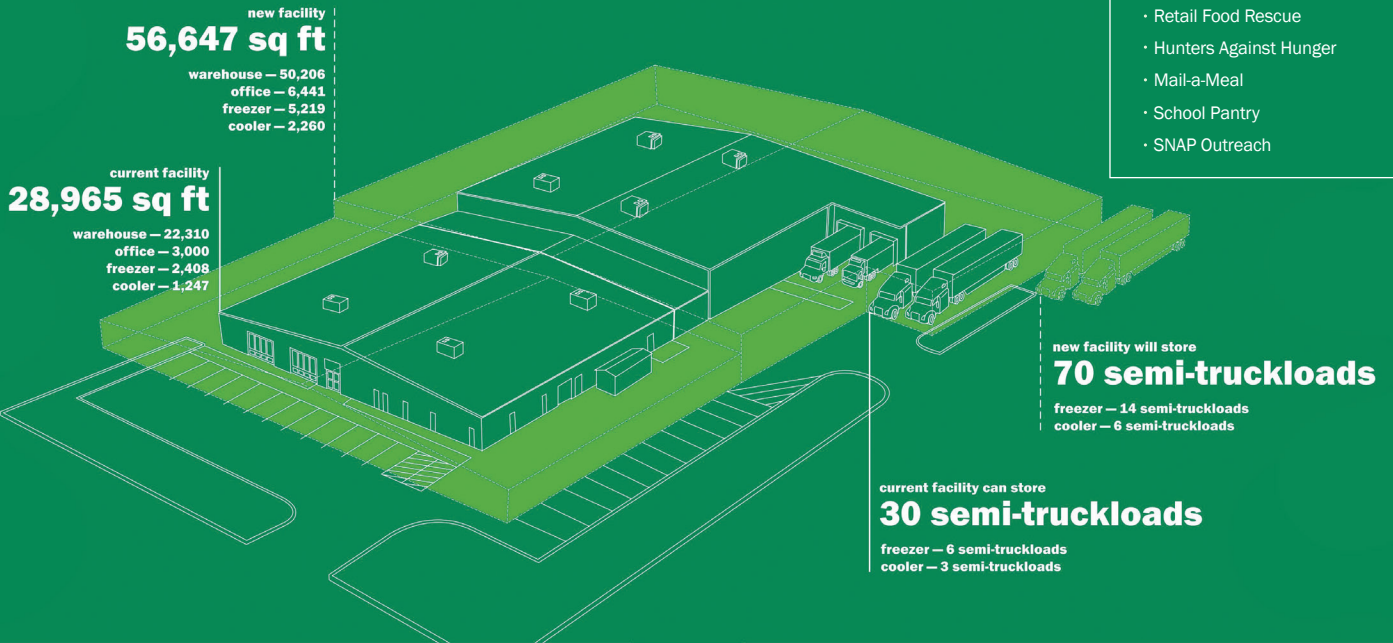
Now, we're asking you to join us as we take the next step in making our big vision a reality. With the new warehouse we're setting out to build, we can serve our partners in new and better ways, resulting in more food on Montanans' tables. **But we can't build it without your support. Will you join us today?**

Big Sky. Big Challenge.

BIGGER WAREHOUSE MEANS GREATER SUPPORT

In collaboration with our network partners, we support Montanans through programs like:

- Backpack
- Retail Food Rescue
- Hunters Against Hunger
- Mail-a-Meal
- School Pantry
- SNAP Outreach



We source food from both local and out-of-state producers and store it in our Missoula warehouse until it's time for distribution. A bigger warehouse would mean we could buy in bigger quantities and accept unexpected donations, allowing us to distribute more food at a lower cost.



Every weekday, our warehouse and transportation teams prepare and deliver orders to our network partners. With a bigger warehouse, we'll be able to prepare more orders even faster.

“We cannot rest until we end hunger. And to do that, we have to think big. **This is an opportunity to play a part in something that matters to us all.** How wonderful it would be if we could look back and say, ‘Today everybody has the food they need.’ We have the opportunity now to make that happen.”



— Dan Weinberg, Former Montana State Senator and Campaign Committee Chair

“As a warehouse volunteer I have witnessed enormous quantities of food moving through the present facility for distribution throughout the state. Space is at a premium and product is seemingly stacked to the ceiling, limiting or delaying further incoming shipments. **We need more space!**”



— Don Glaser, MFBN Volunteer



“The new MFBN facility will greatly improve the quantity and quality of food for pantries across the entire state! **We are excited for more fresh produce for all Montanans.** The facility will not only provide nutritious food for our neighbors in need, but also strengthen our local Montana food system by improving the purchasing power for local food for MFBN and their partners.”

— Sophie Albert, Executive Director of North Valley Food Bank



“If we want to expand our reach, we need access to more food within our own facility. Having that space will give us the freedom and flexibility to do more with the resources we have. **That will take us even closer to ending hunger in our state.**”

— Brad Argo, Warehouse Manager

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP



Julie Baldrige

Petroleum Landman, Kootenai Resource Corp

Scott Burke

President and CEO, First Security Bank

Mary Lehman

Retired CPA, MFBN Board Member

Walter Schweitzer

Owner, Montana Consulting, Repower Montana, and Tiber Angus and President, Montana Farmers Union

Mary Stranahan

Retired physician and Founder of Goodworks Ventures, Goodworks Evergreen, and High Stakes Foundation

Dan Weinberg

President, Angora Ridge Foundation and Former Montana State Senator

BIG SKY. BIG RESPONSIBILITY.

Capital Campaign for Bigger Impact Goals

2X

Double our current storage capacity to provide more room for nutritious produce and vegetables, meat, dairy, shelf-stable foods, and more.



Buy in bigger, **more cost-efficient quantities** without sacrificing quality and take advantage of unexpected opportunities like generous food donations – and process it all that much faster.



Partner with local growers and ranchers to help source and distribute a wider variety of nutritious foods like fresh produce, dairy, and protein, including culturally relevant options.



Keep up with the rise of food insecurity in Montana by broadening our outreach and impact through our **expanding network of partners and unique programs.**



More than double our volunteer capacity, saving on costs and allowing for even more community engagement.

“**Food is a basic human need**, not a luxury item. We don’t take that lightly. We do everything within our power, every day, to make sure that the people who need food get it.”



— Brent Weisgram, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

“To work in this area where there are so many people who want to do as well as they can for those who are in need – **it’s just a wonderful experience.** For me personally, it fulfills the desire to be with people who are good.”



— Dr. Paul Miller, Former Board Member



“We are Montana’s only statewide food bank. That means we have a big responsibility – to the more than 380 partners in our network and to the tens of thousands of

Montanans who rely on them for their next meal. We take that responsibility seriously, and there’s nothing more gratifying than knowing our efforts are making a difference, **nothing more motivating than knowing we can do even more to end hunger in Montana.**”

– Gayle Carlson, President and CEO

WE CAN END HUNGER IN MONTANA

And when we do, just think what that would mean for our state.

It would mean children, adults, and seniors across Montana no longer having to make impossible decisions between food and other basic necessities. It would mean that every Montanan, no matter their race, age, or gender, having the ability to achieve their goals for themselves, their families, and their communities without having to worry about where and when their next meal may be. Until all Montanans have the food they need, we as a state can’t reach our full potential.

We all have a stake in a Montana where no one goes hungry. **We all have a role to play. Now that you’ve seen what we can do together, are you ready to join us?**



5625 Expressway
Missoula, MT 59808-9071
(406) 721-3825
mfbn.org



Stay connected to
Montana Food Bank Network

