

## Reaching Out to Our Hard-to-Reach Neighbors

How Families are Paying it Forward to  
Fight Rural Hunger

Samantha's nearest neighbor is 10 miles away.

She is 19 and lives with her grandmother on a farm outside of Holabird, South Dakota. If you haven't heard of it, don't worry, Samantha says you wouldn't be the first. "It's not very well known. The sign says there are 25 people, but who knows if that's accurate."

What Holabird lacks in people, it makes up for in the parts that form any strong community — dependability, compassion, and selflessness. They're the same values that fuel the crucial work you support here at Feeding South Dakota.

Looking out for your neighbor, however far away, is an essential way of life in Holabird. The nearest grocery store is nearly 20 minutes away and employment opportunities are limited, making food insecurity a part of everyday life.

Thanks to your generous gifts, when things get tight, Samantha can visit a Feeding South Dakota mobile food distribution for pantry staples, fresh produce, and other essentials.

And you can be sure she's not coming back without enough to share with anyone else who may be struggling to access food as well. **This is just one example of how the impact of your generosity is passed on to provide solutions to hunger across South Dakota.**

### Fueling a Brighter Future

Samantha is currently unemployed and working odd jobs while searching for full-time work. She says she cherishes the nights she and her grandmother have the energy to cook her favorite meal — pasta. But when that's not in the cards, there's always a reliable backup.



***You've started a chain reaction of generosity that has brought nourishment and strength to even the hardest to reach communities in South Dakota.***

"I know how to make just a microwave package ramen into something nice, so that's what I do," she says.

She's hoping to soon find a job waitressing in Pierre. That way she can start saving up money to buy a mobile home and carry out her dream of traveling and working on the road.

In the meantime, the food you provide through your support of Feeding South Dakota will be a lifeline to her, her grandmother, and their community. The impact of your kindness will spread as good people like Samantha pass on what they can to ensure their friends and neighbors have all the nourishing food they need, too.



# Back to School



We might be in the dog days of summer now, but the kids will be back in the classroom before you know it — triggering a new challenge for parents struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food and basic needs.

Thanks to you, Feeding South Dakota has a pair of programs that families facing hunger can turn to during the school year for a steady source of fresh, nutritious food.



## BackPack Program

This program provides at-risk children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods during weekends and holidays when school is not in session. **With your help, we can provide backpacks to more than 5,000 children statewide each weekend.**



## School Food Pantry

While the BackPack Program is a good source of fuel for younger kids, it can't adequately feed an adolescent child or provide families with perishable foods like meat, dairy, and produce.

School food pantries are an easily accessible source of perishable and non-perishable food for low-income students and their families. Supported by your generosity, Feeding South Dakota hosts pantries in three Sioux Falls locations and two schools in the Rapid City area.

**Thank you for giving kids a greater opportunity to learn and grow this school year.**

# AROUND THE TABLE

WITH LORI DYKSTRA, CEO

## Thank You Feeding South Dakota Family



Dear Friend,

With each new edition of *Around the Table*, I try to give you a real-time snapshot of how your support is providing solutions to hunger across South Dakota, as well as a chance to learn about the people you've helped serve.

If there's a word I could use to describe what your support has meant to Feeding South Dakota and the thousands of people turning to us for food and relief this summer, it's — spark.

**You were the spark that set off a chain reaction of generosity that's now bringing food and compassion to every corner of this wonderful and wide-open place we call home.**

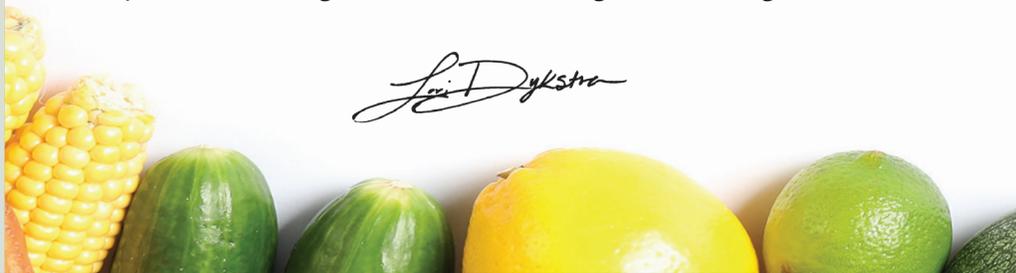
So, for this issue, we've selected stories that I think beautifully illustrate how your gifts are inspiring and empowering more South Dakotans to provide solutions to hunger in their communities — from the family facing hunger that's sharing food with their neighbors to ensure everyone in their rural community has enough, to our delivery driver, bringing joy and nourishment to some of the hungriest, hardest-to-reach parts of South Dakota.

**I hope you're filled with pride by what you read here today, just as I was.** It's an honor to partner with you in this life-changing work, and it's a thrill to witness your spirit of generosity spread and multiply through acts of love and solidarity in our community.

Because as these stories prove, ending hunger in South Dakota isn't a singular movement, it's a collective collaboration that will take all of us to accomplish. And your generosity is at the heart of it all.

Thank you again for leading our community by example. **One person, one family at a time ... together, we will end hunger across our great state.**

Lori Dykstra





## Looking After One Another

Your generosity is feeding our neighbors and sparking acts of kindness every day.

Diane knows all too well what life would look like if she didn't have access to food through Feeding South Dakota — food you help provide through your support.

"I'd live out of this," she says, gesturing to her compact four-door sedan. Just moments before, it had been loaded with boxes of fresh produce, grains, and other healthy essentials at a Mobile Food Distribution in Pierre.

To Diane, each box of food is a blessing. Without it, she'd struggle even more to keep up with the rising cost of living. Thanks to you, she can use the money she'd spend on food to cover her medical bills, insurance, and car payments — without going hungry.

"I try not to spend any more than I have to," she said.

Even in tough times, Diane said she shares what she can to help friends and neighbors who need a hand and can't travel to distribution sites or food pantries.

***“There's a lot of people in dire need now all over, and they all have lost and tried to make up, but that's hard to do.”***

- Diane





## Meet Bryan, the Man Delivering Smiles Across South Dakota

When Bryan Samuelson returned to his home state to work as a driver and warehouse associate for Feeding South Dakota, he discovered a side of his childhood home that he'd never seen before.

"I've lived here most of my life, I'd never been up to Mobridge, I'd never been down to Winner," Bryan said. "I'm out on the road every day, it's like a field trip."

New faces and places aren't the only things Bryan's seen out on the road.

"There are a lot of problems here that people don't see," he said. "It's surprising how far some of these towns are from actual grocery stores. A lot of them are seniors living out there."

That's why — with your help — Bryan is proud to spend his days bringing fresh and healthy food from our warehouse in Pierre to people facing hunger in 24 counties across central South Dakota.

**“I make people happy every day, you know; I'm just putting smiles on people's faces. It makes me happy.”**

- Bryan

When asked if he'd like to share anything with the supporters of Feeding South Dakota, Bryan said, "I'd like to show them what it's like on a daily basis in the towns I go to and how many people appreciate it, and tell them how much it does help them out."

Together, you and Bryan are providing a solution to hunger in South Dakota. Thank you both for dedicating yourself to putting good, nourishing food into the hands of people from all corners of this great state.



**FEEDING**  
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