

We use everything that we get, and even the kids are excited to see what is in the boxes when we get

CYTIS hilkemeier

them! We loved the fresh produce, meat and dairy additions this month.

We will never be able to thank you enough.

IA HILKEMEIER & FAMILY

LEMMON, SOUTH DAKOTA

# 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# Feeding a Family of Eight!

Feeding six hungry teenagers is tough enough ... and even more so when you factor in the other challenges this family has faced due to health issues, unemployment, and the pandemic. But thanks to you, the Hilkemeier family has been able to get nourishing fruit, veggies, protein, and other essentials for their growing kids.

Thank you for caring for your neighbors who are going through hard times and giving generously so everyone can get the nutritious, delicious food they need!

# **AROUND** THE TABLE

with Matt Gassen, CEO



# In it for the Long Haul

Doesn't it feel like ages since the pandemic began? But thanks to friends like you, the team at Feeding South Dakota has been working hard to meet the increased demand. Our local community, businesses, and corporations have been tremendously generous throughout this pandemic to support our vital mission to end hunger.

The economic impact on our state has been huge so many people are out of work or have had their hours cut. Sadly, it seems like every day in the news you hear about a restaurant or a small business that's closing their doors. I expect we'll see an increase in the demand for food well into the future.

But there is good news ... though health and safety precautions forced us to close our food pantries in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, we opened up neighborhood mobile food distributions in these areas in the last few months!

I've said it before and I'll say it again ... when the dust settles and we look back on the successes during the pandemic, volunteers will be the true heroes. They came day in and day out — at the risk of exposing themselves to the coronavirus. We've made friends with many of them, and I hope these friends will continue to help us going forward. If I could stress one ongoing need to you right now it would be a plea for more volunteers, because so much of the work we do is impossible without your help.

The holidays will also be here soon — our busiest time of year. You have been so generous during this year of unexpected challenges, and I hope you will continue to give so our neighbors can experience all the joy and celebration of the holidays.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to each and every individual that has supported us — whether it's through your time, talents or treasures. We couldn't do the work we're doing right now without YOU. Thank you!

Matt Gassen

Man Harsen

## Calling all volunteers!

As people in our community struggle to rebuild their lives, it's critical to meet their basic need for food. And you can help!

Finding volunteers to help get food into the hands of our hungry neighbors continues to be a major challenge here at Feeding South Dakota. Social distancing requirements have forced us to adapt from using large groups from businesses or other organizations to working with smaller numbers of

people. We urgently need help from anyone who is willing and able.

Now more than ever we rely on the time and talent of our hard-working volunteers. No matter how much time you have to give, your support will make a real difference! Simply go to feedingsouthdakota.org and click on the volunteer options available in your area. Bring along a couple of your friends, family members, or co-workers ... we could sure use the help and would love to have you!

# Look at the Incredible Difference

# YOU MADE THIS YEAR!



Worked with  $\frac{342}{}$  agency partners to hand out food



Distributed 16.7 MILLIO pounds of nourishing food



Provided 13.9 meals to local families



16,300 volunteers have donated hours of time



Served 4,590 children per week through the BackPack Program



Fed 2,554 seniors through the Senior Box Program



Hosted  $\frac{697}{100}$  mobile food distribution Added  $\frac{66}{100}$  drive-thru distributions sites in  $\frac{100}{100}$  communities during the pandemic





Served TWICE as many kids, seniors, & families than last year!

You are leading the fight against hunger here in South Dakota! To learn more about how you're helping your hungry neighbors during this year of unprecedented challenges, visit feedingsouthdakota.org.



# **Driving Out Hunger**

Keith Sands — or "the Santa that fights hunger," as some people call him — has been a delivery driver for Feeding South Dakota for five years. As a rural route driver, he travels across the eastern part of the state to deliver food to people in need.

"I average somewhere between 200 and 300 miles per day," he says. "I typically start about 6:00 in the morning, loading all the food on the truck. I get to my first stop around 8:00 or 8:30 in the morning, get stuff set up, and coordinate with my volunteers who are there to help distribute the food. I'll usually do three distributions per day."

Keith delivers food to 28 mobile distributions each month, in addition to the other community distributions he serves on his route. One of the best parts of his job is the relationships he has made with the people he meets.

"I have a lot of regulars. I try to keep everybody at ease and keep it upbeat so they feel welcome. I've done it for so long now they all know my first name, so it's like a member of the family showing up when I go to a lot of these places. They give me little notes and Christmas cards, and I've had them come back with coffee or soft drinks to thank me, even though I tell them it's really not necessary. I've even had invitations to stop at their home and have a meal, which I have graciously turned down, obviously."

One of the biggest challenges he's faced during this time of COVID-19 has been social distancing. "I get a lot of people that want to hug me and can't!" he says with a grin.

When asked what motivates him, Keith said, "Knowing I'm out there helping people, making a difference. Out there in the country, you get quite a crosscut of everybody's lives. You're not just feeding the down and out, you're feeding people that had a good life and all of a sudden hit a roadblock. They need help. And they don't all just come there to get food ... some of them turn around and volunteer to help other people, too. I love my job. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world!"

# NOT JUST A JOB, BUT A CALLING

Dan Jensen is the Eastern Operations Manager here at Feeding South Dakota. He worked for years at a nationwide, well-known company until he felt compelled to readjust his priorities and return to Sioux Falls when his first child was born. "I made the decision — along with my wife — that family is most important in my life. Not money and benefits," he said.

It's that same commitment to family and his community that makes him such a valued part of the team here. He gladly handles so many critical aspects of our daily operations — everything from managing incoming and outgoing deliveries, working on community distributions, coordinating Backpack distributions to local schools, and more.

"I didn't have any idea that the need for food was so great until I started working here. I hope people who support us really understand the impact they are having on the community in which they live, know how great it is to have the opportunity to serve those who are less fortunate. I want them to really understand how great the work that they're doing is, and just how important they are to what we do every day."

One of the favorite parts of Dan's day is getting to interact with volunteers. Though his busy schedule often prevents him from being on the frontlines, he makes a point to get out to community distributions to interact with volunteers and people receiving food as much as possible.

"With just the handful of staff we have at each of these distributions, it would be impossible for us to serve thousands of people in a timely and safe fashion during this pandemic without volunteers. I've been out at these distribution sites and your support is making such a difference. I've heard numerous times, 'Thank you.' 'I can't



thank you enough.' 'God bless you all.' The one that hit me the hardest was when we were distributing a box of frozen meat and someone told me they had not had any protein in two weeks."

Getting a little choked up, he finishes, "If it wasn't for all the great volunteers that we have, we couldn't do what we do every day and every week. Not only in Sioux Falls, but the whole state. Moving forward, there's going to be an even bigger need for help because of the trend of hunger going up and not down. Thank you for caring."

The sad reality is that many of our neighbors will need ongoing help in the months to come as they struggle to provide for their families and rebuild their lives. In addition to your financial gifts, another great way you can help during these difficult times is to volunteer. No matter what you can do, every little bit makes a BIG difference!

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY!

We are humbled and honored to have so many friends and community partners who support the work we do. Below, we'd like to recognize friends who have given \$1,000 or more this fiscal year. Thank you for leading the fight against hunger here in South Dakota!

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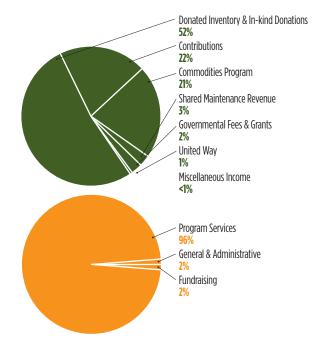
### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Donated Inventory & In-kind Donations	\$18,821,592
Commodities Program	\$7,425,885
Contributions	\$7,787,717
United Way	\$356,310
Governmental Fees & Grants	\$586,254
Shared Maintenance Revenue	\$1,059,197
Miscellaneous Income	\$38,429
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	\$36,075,384

# **EXPENSES (INCLUDING IN-KIND)**

**Program Services** \$30.691.122 General & Administrative \$511.543 Fundraising \$745.515 **Total Expenses** \$31.948.180

**Net Assets** \$18,377,367



**95%** of all donations received, including cash as well as donated food and services, help support feeding hungry people throughout South Dakota.

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In addition to the names listed here, a heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every one of our dedicated friends and partners who have given to Feeding South Dakota. During a year that has been difficult for so many, you have given your neighbors HELP keeping food on the table and HOPE in their time of need. We appreciate all you do!

# STAYING ON TOP OF HER GAME DURING A PANDEMIC



Mary Corbine, Agency
Relations Coordinator for
western South Dakota, is
one busy lady. Her role is to
find and build relationships
with community partners
in areas of need to better
serve our community. So
as you can imagine, she
has been busier than ever
during the pandemic.

"Flexibility is a must," she says. "When our pantry in Rapid City was closed, people weren't able to access food at our site. We quickly moved to the mobile food distribution — growing from 14 distributions here in Rapid City to adding 24 more locations outside the city."

Mary has reached out across Western South Dakota to coordinate mobile food distributions, as well as to create new, innovative partnerships.

"In Oelrichs, I was able to partner with the school and they took food boxes on buses to families as they were taking homework out to kids. In Kadoka, when the school delivered the packed lunches for the summer meals program they also took food boxes out to families. I enjoy finding and creating those new partnerships that help serve our mission to end hunger in South Dakota. That's an awesome part of my job!"

She continues, "Volunteers are really important to our organization. So if people feel comfortable coming out to volunteer, we have smaller groups and follow protocols for safety, and would love to have them. Volunteers help with a lot of our operations and are essentially staff, which opens up the budget to purchase food that's needed for things like the holidays."

And speaking of the holidays, as this busy season is rapidly approaching, please consider how you can help. Whether that's donating money or needed food items, or volunteering, every little bit helps!

"Last year, we served a thousand families at our annual Turkey Giveaway the week before Thanksgiving. It takes a lot to get ready for that. If you have monetary gifts or can help us by volunteering, we truly appreciate it."

You are one of our most valued partners in the fight against hunger! Your compassionate support is the reason we are able to adapt and expand our programs and services to reach everyone in our community who is hungry. With the holidays rapidly approaching, we appreciate your support to give our neighbors a special meal and a reason to celebrate this season.

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# SIOUX FALLS

#### **Food Bank**

4701 N Westport Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57107 605.335.0364

## RAPID CITY

#### **Food Bank**

1111 N Creek Drive Rapid City, SD 57703 605.348.2689

## **PIFRRF**

## Food Bank

20562 Grace Avenue Pierre, SD 57501 605.494.3663





## **CONTACT US**

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To protect the identity of those that Feeding South Dakota serves, some photos in this newsletter are for representation only.

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