

Winter 2022

AROUND THE TABLE

News and Notes on Solving Hunger in South Dakota

FEEDING
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Two Sisters Lost Their Mom. Then Found Friends like You.

Sisters, Kiara, 21, and Violet, 19, have always been pretty close. But after losing their mother last year, the two became very dependent on each other and people like you.

“She looked out for her kids,” Violet described her late mother Jessica, who suffered a deadly heart attack. “She researched everything for us, medical things and everything.”

Even when their mother was alive, it was tough for her family to make ends meet. Today, without their “rock,” everything is doubly difficult.

Kiara now lives in a crowded house with her father, and Violet lives alone. The two of them arrived at our Pierre food distribution to collect produce their family can’t regularly afford.

“My dad has a lot of people in our house,” explained Kiara. “Our neighbor told us about coming here. This food we get helps feed everyone.”

Siblings Need Extended Family like You This Winter

Not only are Kiara and Violet now forced to fend for themselves, but they carry the extra responsibility of caring for their younger brothers and sisters.

And this winter has not been easy.



“This food we get helps feed everyone.”

- Kiara

Paying the heat bill or a medical bill. Purchasing cheap fast food versus expensive fruits and vegetables. These are just a few of the budgetary decisions the girls’ family faces.

But your gifts help fill in the gaps. Your donations offer struggling neighbors a reliable source of health and nutrition that they can count on.

“I eventually want to become a pre-school teacher,” Violet shared with us. “I love kids.”

Thank you for sharing gifts that provide comfort today, and hope for tomorrow. You are easing the troubled minds, and hearts, of so many families like Kiara and Violet’s. Please give again today.



How you helped fight hunger over the holidays!

During the busy Thanksgiving season, families across South Dakota received the food they needed to enjoy a special celebration, thanks to your generosity. You helped Feeding South Dakota:

- Hand out 5,000 pounds of food and 350 turkeys to our neighbors in Pierre.
- Distribute 45,000 pounds of food — 900 Thanksgiving meals, including the turkey — to folks in Rapid City.
- Provide 33,750 pounds of food — 1,000 Thanksgiving meals, including the turkey — here in Sioux Falls.
- Provide 3,500 turkeys to families in counties across the state through our agency partners.



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AROUND THE TABLE

WITH LORI
DYKSTRA, CEO

Thank You Feeding South Dakota Family

Six months into my new position, I must tell you: it doesn't always feel like a job. Every day, I am so excited and honored to work alongside friends like you who treat neighbors like extended family, because that's how I was raised.

In fact, I recently received a voicemail on my office phone that I'd like to share with you today. The call was from a local woman whose husband just picked up fresh fruits and vegetables at one of our distribution sites. Her message was meant for you:

“My husband just got back from visiting one of your pick-up sites, and I just wanted to say ‘thank you’. Thank you for such good quality and variety — such nice food that you guys provide. It makes a big difference for us ...

we're on a fixed income,” she continued. “It's pretty hard; that's why I appreciate the good quality of your food. It's nice stuff to get. So, thank you guys for the hard work you do. It is so appreciated.”

Every day presents us with new challenges and successes, fresh obstacles and joys. It is only through our collective partnership that we can continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities.

This winter, our teams are battling national transportation delays, supply chain issues, and more. Meanwhile, neighbors are experiencing dramatic rises in housing and utility costs.

If we've ever needed an all-hands-on-deck approach, it is now. Your donated dollar, and continued support, are so critical.

Thank you for what you are accomplishing. You should be very proud of yourself, and those you are teaming up with. I know I am. Together, we are the Feeding South Dakota family.

Lori Dykstra





Pierre Warehouse Volunteers

Meet Robert & Kim Stall

Robert and Kim Stall know that every one of their neighbors who receives donated food has their own unique, personal story. The two understand that every one of us is going through something, and they simply want to help.

So, the compassionate couple donates a lot of their time unpacking, sorting, and organizing the healthy foods your donations deliver. “I heard an ad on the radio, that they really needed help here,” Kim said. “We’re both retired and able to do the work, so we started volunteering twice a week.”

“Food insecurity is real,” Kim continued. “We’ve seen it in our community, and we felt the need to help, to give back and to get involved. All the people out here are wonderful. Great to work with. We’ve met some great volunteers here, and it’s just a fun place to come and spend some of our free hours.”

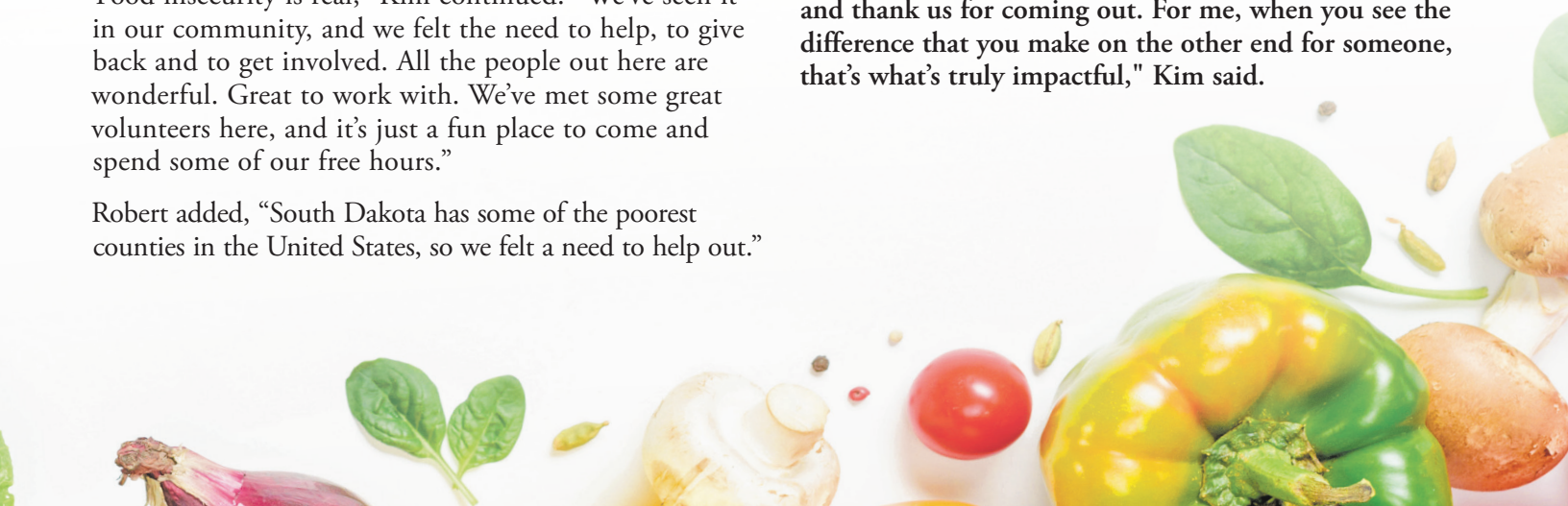
Robert added, “South Dakota has some of the poorest counties in the United States, so we felt a need to help out.”

“Food insecurity is real ... we felt the need to help, to give back ...”

- Kim Stall, Volunteer
Feeding South Dakota, Pierre

Both retired from state government careers, the Stalls spend their free time volunteering, fishing, and enjoying their grandkids.

“Everyone here [FSD] is so appreciative. They’re friendly and thank us for coming out. For me, when you see the difference that you make on the other end for someone, that’s what’s truly impactful,” Kim said.



Your Compassion in Action

Barbara Lindbloom shares your love with the greater Pierre community.



Barbara Lindbloom has run the Southeast Pierre Mission United Methodist Church and Community Center for 25 years.

Over the years, what has impressed her the most is how the smallest, most intimate partnerships can create enormous change.

“It’s small enough here that I’ve been able to build really meaningful relationships with people,” said Barbara. “Everyone cares and tries to help each other in whatever way they can. The most powerful thing here is building relationships with people.”

Your gifts to Feeding South Dakota supply this Pierre community center with regular food and educational supplies. People like you are the driving force behind the life-changing programs that Barbara runs.

“This is a wonderful place.”
- Barbara



Meal Banquets

Every Thursday, Barbara conducts a weekly meal banquet using food from FSD that serves over 300 people.



Kid’s Backpack Program

At the Thursday Meal Banquets, backpacks are packed by the church with food from FSD and distributed to children and families in need. Given the season, depending on how many families are in town, Barbara distributes anywhere from 50-100 backpacks at each banquet.



Senior Boxes

Monthly food boxes are prepared and delivered to Pierre’s senior citizens who live alone. “It’s very interesting to me,” Barbara said. “When you get to know people and their fixed income situations, you wonder how they can live on that.”



Neighbors Caring for Neighbors

Having served at the community center for over a quarter century, Barbara is still amazed by the selfless generosity of her Pierre community as a whole.

“If someone receives something that they’re not going to use — or if some of what they received last month remains — they will go and share what they have with somebody else. They set food aside, outside their doors, or on their kitchen table, and anybody that wants to come can take it.”

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