Ten Years!  From a handful of volunteers and a couple donor bakeries, we’ve grown. Today about 400 volunteers gather bakery (and other things too) form over 200 donor bakeries and stores and deliver to over 950 meal programs, food pantries, and other programs serving needy children, men and women.

We’ve expanded into Mukwonago, and points south, receiving bakery from Brownberry in Oconomowoc. We still need more volunteers who can help deliver from the Oconomowoc site.

We work with programs that provide holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as programs that provide meals for poor children during the summer months when they do not receive school lunches.

Over five years ago we incorporated the program as a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization, making the donors eligible for income tax deductions for their generosity.

Yes, it’s been quite a ride. Little did we know in the beginning the extent of poverty in our communities, and we have partnered with some of the most remarkable people in our communities.

Just Some Thoughts

From the very beginning, Food for the Hungry has tried to maintain these standards:
- We have no paid staff.
- We do not sell any product we receive.
- Our volunteers monitor each receiving location on need, so that no product goes to waste while others go hungry and that the neediest are given priority.
- If there is excess product at one site, we attempt to deliver it to another site that needs it.
- Many of our delivery sites are distribution points for several programs in their area.
- Each receiving entity signs a “hold harmless agreement”
- Our volunteers are to follow guidelines to maintain good working relations with both the donor and receiving sites
- All the products we receive stay in southeast Wisconsin. Milwaukee ranks as one of the poorest cities in the nation, we do our best to serve the needs of the poor regardless of religion or ethnic origin.
- The product we deliver is distributed to the poor and consumed soon after delivery. This reduces waste.

Poverty and want
Have many faces
Speak many languages
Are of many faiths
And have many causes

We are a 501 (c) 3 organization

Remarkable!!!!!

Our coordinator, Mike Czarnecki along with his wife Irene has been the heart and soul of Food for the Hungry for the past ten years.

Retired on disability from his job delivering bakery, Mike used his contacts to begin delivering bakery from a handful of bakery outlet stores to a few programs serving the poor in the Milwaukee area. In the beginning Mike and members of the Knights of Columbus made the deliveries.

Word spread, and so did the work load. Today, in addition to making a few deliveries himself, he supervises our group of about 400 volunteers, and tries to meet the needs of over 950 meal programs, food pantries and other programs throughout southeast Wisconsin.

His wife Irene helps with some of the paper work and correspondence.

Together, our dynamic duo, between doctors visits, family and social activities have made Food for the Hungry, Inc. the remarkable community service program it is today. Their dedication and hard work are an inspiration to all who know them.
Who Are These People?

John Schmitz, our president has been with the program from the beginning. John is a man of many talents. Sought after as an instructor in the Insurance Industry, he is also the author of several books and has taught classes on writing.

Jim Luther, our Vice President heads up the St. Hyacinth’s Food Pantry on Milwaukee’s south side.

Jan Lisniewski began as one of our delivery volunteers, and currently serves as our secretary.

Herb Ayres, a director, heads up

Kathy’s House, a home away from home for people who come to town for medical treatment and their families. Kathy’s House was one of our early receiving sites.

Frank Jelen works at Briggs, and spends each Saturday volunteering.

Doris White retired from Miller Brewery, and is one of dedicated volunteers, ready and willing to go anywhere needed. Doris is one of our team leaders.

Sharon Kimball is owner of a large beauty salon in Brookfield, which has become a distribution center for a number of programs from Milwaukee’s Inner City to counties north and west of Milwaukee.

Dennis Johnson heads up the Veterans for Peace Food Pantry. Dennis works closely with the VA and other groups to assist Veterans in need, many of whom have been homeless.

Just Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

Even on a snowy winter day, students from Wisconsin Hills Middle School help load bread at Brownberry in Brookfield.

Charley Ruzick another director, fills his truck and trailer and delivers to several locations each week. He brings helpers he calls “Charley’s Angels.” Charley delivers to several locations.

Board member, John Morino spent a career in the construction business and has been a welcome addition.

Some of us noticed board member Doug Schuh picking up a load of bread for delivery: his arm in a sling and a “boot” on his injured foot. Talk about dedication!

I am a loaf of bread, fresh out of the oven, cooled, packaged in a wrapper with a “sell by date,” put on a tray with eleven other loaves, stacked fifteen trays high. I am loaded on a truck to a supermarket and put on a shelf

A couple days before my “sell by date” I am back on a truck headed to an outlet store. Some of my fellow loaves were not so lucky. They went to a different store and were hauled to a landfill. I know I still have a lot of life in me...maybe another week or so.

At the outlet store I am on a shelf for another day, then a lady loads me in her little red car and hauls me to her shop. Another ride to a place that provides shelter to abused women and children whose lives are in danger. At least I have a home. I am nourishment for a child who would go hungry without me.

Yes, I am alive, alive in the body of a grateful child, alive in the love of the many volunteers who held me on my journey. There is no “sell by date” on love. It lasts forever. There are moments in life that make a difference.

I am proud to be a loaf of bread.
Who Are Our Partners?

Programs We Serve

Stories we hear from the field are often motivating and inspirational. **Mother Scott’s** is a multi-faceted program on Milwaukee’s North side. Food, bread, clothing, programs for youth etc. Serving one of the poorest areas of our city.

**School Sisters of St. Francis** is a distribution point for nearly 30 meal programs and food pantries in the area on Milwaukee’s South side.

**UMOS** is a large program serving a variety of needs of the mainly Hispanic clientele. It too is one of our largest distribution points.

**Sharon’s Unique Salon** in Brookfield is *unique* in more than wigs and hair care. Bakery products spread out from the shop to six fire stations in Milwaukee’s inner city, low income senior centers as far away as Columbus, Wisconsin, to the homeless sleeping under bridges who receive sandwiches from a volunteer.

We have partnered with **Salvation Army** and **Hunger Task Force** to provide meals to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

During the **summer**, when school is not in session, children who depended on their School Lunch Programs for their daily nourishment depend on meal programs and mobile canteens. We are proud to be a part of these needed programs.

There are many programs we partner with, including:

- St. Ben’s
- The Gathering
- Village Church
- Hope House
- Mukwonago Food Pantry
- Several Church food programs
- UMOS
- New Berlin Food Pantry
- Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in St. Francis

Some of our volunteers waiting for bakery products to deliver to meal programs and food pantries. Hot or cold, rain or shine, through ice and snow, our dedicated volunteers deliver food to the needy.

**Agape Food Pantry** provides a wide range of services, including medical care of a doctor and needed meds for the poor.

**Repairs of the Breach** deals with nearly 150 homeless men and women daily, with services for medical needs, rehabilitation, food, clothing, or something as simple as getting a birth certificate to start the process of obtaining assistance.

**The Gathering** provides over 100,000 meals to Milwaukee’s hungry and homeless annually, as well as mental health, medical referrals, legal assistance and other services as needed.

**OASIS** provides a variety of services for Seniors on Milwaukee’s South side, including a meal program, legal and medical referral services.

**Veterans Food Pantry**

The wounds of combat do not end when the tour of duty is over. 21% of those who return are jobless. An even higher number suffer emotional stress. Some 200,000 will be homeless. 300 to 400 of these homeless vets are in Milwaukee.

**Veterans for Peace** works with veterans in transition with the homeless men and women in Milwaukee who once served in the military.

We are proud to work with **Veterans Food Pantry** in West Allis. They provide food to over 200 veterans, delivering food to about 35 who are elderly or disabled.

Asking for help is often hard to do, and the program works hard to respect the dignity of the men and women who served our country, and finds them a place to live, providing them with clothing, furniture, and helping them apply for Social Security and Veterans benefits. The program is an advocate for benefits that veterans are entitled to receive.

They work out of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church on 55th and Greenfield.

**Check their web site at neverhomeless.org**

**Archie** loading his truck for delivery to several inner city food pantries and meal programs serving the neediest in our community.
Thank You!!!

Our Providers

Most items that go on the shelves in a grocery store have a sell by date. These products have a useful life that extends beyond that date. It is in this “window” that we are able to provide food to the needy.

Currently we receive food products from about 200 locations. We pick up at appointed times, leave the donor sites in a neat condition, and deliver the food to the receiving locations.

While we do not have space to mention all of our donors, know that the poor we serve are grateful for what they receive.

Brownberry is one of our major sites, both at their Bluemound and Oconomowoc locations.

Pepperidge Farms is another important donor, from their warehouse in New Berlin and Racine.

Aldi’s provides a variety of food products from several locations.

Pick N Save stores at several locations provide surplus from their bakery departments.

Einstein’s Bagels at several locations provide us with their leftover bagels.

From Starbucks we get bakery (but no coffee, darn!) We receive buns from Jimmy John’s which are often used for sandwiches distributed to the homeless around the city.

Panera Bread at several locations provides a variety of bakery products

Atlanta Bread Co and Breadsmith at several sites work with us, G. Weston Bakery in Waukesha, Grasch Foods in Brookfield, Kaiser's Bakery in Milwaukee, National Bakery at several sites, Piggly Wiggly at three stores, Sendick’s, Pizza Express, Roma Bakery, a couple Sentry Foods and Wild Flour Bakery at three sites.

The volume and variety of what we receive will vary from day to day and site to site. We try to collect all that is offered, and distribute it to the needy in our communities. We never seem to run out of people who are poor and need food to get them through another day. When we began the program 10 years ago, we had no idea the extent of the needy in our communities.

We hear stories of food that still has useful life thrown in the dumpster and hauled to a landfill, while people in our communities are going hungry.

Many of the receiving locations share with other programs. For example Open Door Café at St. John’s Cathedral shares with ARCW (Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin)

The Native American community on Milwaukee’s South side writes that in tough economic times, many cannot afford

Hunger Task Force partners with us in serving over 80 local food pantries, in particular those that work to provide food to children who lose access to school lunch programs during summer vacation.

Salvation Army partners with Food for the Hungry, Inc. In distributions in Racine and Kenosha, as well as programs over the holidays and throughout the year.

We occasionally get clothing from re-sale shops and rummage sales. Recently we received a stack of men’s clothing that went to Veterans for Peace, distributed to needy veterans, some of whom were homeless.

We have noticed over the past few years that more and more churches are reaching out to the basic needs of the community, needs like food, clothing etc. It’s not just pray and pay and obey. Churches are living the gospel… I was hungry, I was naked, I was homeless, I was in prison.

The Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee reaches out to seniors, families and international students...and frequently homeless visitors looking for necessities.

The Amish Community in and around Hartland is grateful for the bakery products distributed to their poor.

The 211 Program serving poor children who would otherwise receive meal programs at their schools is a cooperative program with Hunger Task Force.

Several of our pantry locations are Crisis Centers for women and children. We had no idea when we began the program the extent of abuse of women and children that all too often accompany poverty.

Food for the Hungry, Inc.
405 Lynnwood Lane
Brookfield WI 53005

We are a 501 (c ) 3 organization, so your donations are tax deductible.