



Food for the Hungry, Inc

January 2013



From the President's Desk

It's over eleven years since Mike Czarnecki delivered his first few bags of bakery that was the beginning of Food for the Hungry, Inc. A handful of other sites followed. Then John Schmitz met a reporter from the Journal-Sentinel and told him about the program. A front page article appeared in the Sunday edition...and the phone started ringing. It hasn't stopped.

At Thanksgiving, **Hunger Task Force** delivered boxes with Turkeys, dressing, and the "fixins" We worked with **Brownberry** and were able to supply croutons for the stuffing.

At Christmas, **Radio 1290 & Salvation Army** had Christmas dinner at the Delta Airlines Center. Working again with **Brownberry & Hunger Task Force** we were able to supply the bakery needed.

Urban Heart delivered toys and food to needy families on Milwaukee's South side, bakery from us..

Every day of the week our volunteers collect and deliver food to the needy. Some goes to homeless people sleeping under bridges, many delivery sites share with other programs in their area. The area we cover now includes places as far west nearly to Tomah, south to Mukwonago, Fort Atkinson, Delavan, Union Grove, etc.

We have grown to one of the largest charitable groups in the state, and have done it without any paid staff, just wonderful people: our donors, our volunteers, and the programs we partner with.

John Schmitz
Board President

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 28th
3:00 to 7:00 PM



Our Annual Spaghetti
Dinner
\$7.00

Knights of Columbus
1800 S 92nd St
West Allis

We're again inviting needy
Veterans

How can you Participate?

- Come to the dinner
- Talk to your friends
- Donate a Raffle Prize
- Donate Cash
- Sponsor a needy Veteran
- Volunteer to help

Send donations to :

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

Phone 262-784-6591

Your donation is tax deductible

Coordinator's Notes

We often are asked "How did you get started?"

We can look back to nearly every donor site and find similar beginnings. Someone asked! The worst thing that can happen is they might say "no."

A couple examples: John stopped at Aldi's when their store opened in Brookfield. He asked the manager "What do you do with your excess, dented cans, etc?"

"We throw it in the dumpster"

"Let me tell you about *Food for the Hungry, Inc.* and what we could do with the food that goes in your dumpster."

We now regularly get food from **Aldi's** stores all around the area.

Another day John stopped at **National Bakery** in Brookfield and asked a similar question, and talked about what we're doing for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Now every day we receive their left over bread, rolls and sweets, and it goes to the those who have sacrificed so much so we can remain free, We've done the same with our major donors, **Brownberry and Pepperidge, and nearly 30 Pick N Save's, etc.**

Word gets around too.

Panera's called us...and is one of our regular donors.

And it's not just bread any more. One of our volunteers bought a chair from **Biltrite** and asked a few questions. Now the backside of their receipt has **Food for the Hungry, Inc.** We always find needy who need furniture.

Mike Czarnecki,
Coordinator

Officers and Team Leaders

President John Schmitz
Vice Pres. Jim Luther
Secretary Betsy Derfus
Treasurer Jerold Fetzer
Directors Frank Jelen
Sharon Kimball
Doris White
Charlie Ruzick
John Marino
Doug Schuh

Team Leaders

Sharon Kimball
Fran Powell
Mary Williams
Dick Bielefeld
George Berger

Operations Coordinator

Mike Czarnecki

Administration Assistant

Irene Czarnecki

Technical Dr. Steven Johnson

Phone Numbers:

Mike 414-771-0715

John 262-784-6591

Address:

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

*Food for the Hungry, Inc.
is a 501 (c) 3 organization
EIN # 20-8277733*

Donations are tax deductible.



Partners!

We've expanded our operations to include not only the Milwaukee area, but reaching north to Campbellsport and West Bend, west to Columbus, Adams, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Lake Mills and Ixonia.

South we reach into Racine, East Troy, Eagle and Kenosha.

We deliver food to over 100 receiving pantries that reach out and share with other outlets in their area, with many working with dozens of other programs that share the food received from Food for the Hungry, Inc.

Over 1,500 programs are helped by Food for the Hungry.

What is interesting is that the quantity and type of food we receive will vary from day to day. One day we may have over 4,000 loaves of bread, while another day it may be a tenth that much.



The challenge every day is to find a place for what we receive, to be fair, to get the product to those who need it most, and to find the volunteers to deliver it.

That job has fallen on our coordinator, Mike Czarnecki, and our team leaders. About 450 volunteers help with the delivery, including students from Wisconsin Hills Middle School who come to Brownberry in Brookfield to help load the bread.

Our Creed

As we've grown there are rules and regulations we have had to put in place. Among them:

- None of the things we receive are ever to be sold.
- Each of our receiving pantries and programs must sign a hold-harmless agreement.
- Nothing is to be delivered to any program that has not signed a hold-harmless
- We will take all the product given to us on any given day
- We will respect the workers at our donor providers. This includes respecting their time for pick-up.
- We do not discriminate among our recipients by race, creed, gender or national origin.

It is remarkable that with the huge numbers of programs we serve and the over 450 volunteers that we have encountered only a handful of problems over the years. And we dealt with them quickly. This is a credit to the wonderful volunteers working with us, as well as the wonderful people in our donor bakeries and stores.



What's In the Future?

Over the past several years we have seen closer collaboration among the programs serving the needy in our area. We have worked closely with **Hunger Task Force** and **Salvation Army** for their big events.

A few years ago we began working the **Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative** that has a food pantry as well as a meal program, and finds housing, furniture and clothing for needy veterans. Our president also serves on their Board.



Other collaborations are on the horizon. Many programs have some duplication, while many others are able to serve specific needs, such as child care, addiction treatment, housing, etc.

We anticipate working with programs that will give us greater visibility and hopefully support in the wider communities that we serve. We can learn from them and they can learn from us.

We find with most of the pantries and programs we serve that if they have excess of products, they're more than willing to share with others who are in need. Nobody wants to see anything go to waste when another needy family could use it.

As the word gets out, we find more and more people want to help: product, financial support, volunteers, and contacts with potential providers.

Two Most Important Words

As we thumb through our dictionaries (some of us still have the printed versions) we wonder which words are most important. My opinion is that the **two most important words in the English Language are THANK YOU.**

Each year we send our notes to our receiving programs to send us a letter of thanks for what they have received. This serves several purposes.

- It gives us needed information for our records
- We share this with our providers. Some of them post this in their place of business to let their customers know of their good deeds.
- It helps our receiving programs and the people they serve that the donors and volunteers put out a great deal of effort on their behalf.



- Some of our "partners" send a note whenever they receive a delivery. Others do so on occasion, while there are a few we never hear from. We have to prod them a bit.
- We do on a regular basis give donor receipts from those we receive bread, groceries, clothing, furniture etc. It has our tax ID number so their donations are tax deductible.

What's It Like Being Poor?

An abandoned car in a vacant lot...I saw someone getting out one morning...and then I looked for others. I saw a man looking in the large ash tray at the entrance of a building, looking for cigarettes...a woman with a little cart walking on the sidewalk, checking every waste basket along the way, pulling out each aluminum can, hoping to find enough to buy a meal for another day.

Homeless, nearly homeless, no furniture, all their clothing and possessions in an old shopping cart taken from the parking lot of a store.

Evicted, utilities cut off, no job, lacking skills or employment history to compete with the hundreds of others who apply, no medical insurance, can't afford their prescriptions, or even basic hygiene products., often addictions to try to ease the pain, criminal records haunting every day.

Sure there are programs to help them, but getting through the bureaucracy is frustrating.

It's dangerous out there. Robbery and assault from other destitute people is always a threat. There are no safe places.

Many try to deal with mental issues, particularly those trying to cope with the trauma of their military experience, often decades ago.

Many hit "the bottom" - are territorial, find it difficult to trust anyone else, and have lost hope, trying to survive for another day. They come to food pantries for a bag of food, search for warm place to spend a cold winter night. These are the people Jesus meant "I was hungry, homeless..."

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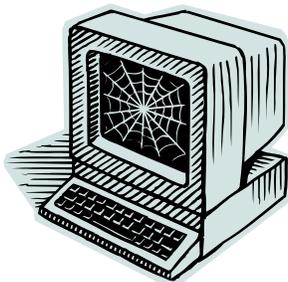
Place Postage
here

Visit our Website

foodforthehungryinc.org

You'll see some of our history, as well as up-coming events, news, etc. We're grateful to Steven Johnson for his expertise in setting up the program and updating it on a regular basis. And he donated all his time! Thanks, Steve.

There is another Food For the Hungry, operating out of Arizona. That's not us, but recently they have added "inc" to their web address. We're the one operating out of Brookfield.



Put Your Money Where It Does Some Good

Ever get a phone call asking for a donation to some cause. It happens at various times of the year. Did you wonder how much of your donation goes to the fund raiser?

Or did you wonder when a charity does extensive advertising asking for funds?

Do you ever check out the salaries of the executives at the top? Do you donations "disappear" in some foreign country?

Our "Bread" program is local. We do not pay any professional fund raisers, or expensive media advertising. We pay no salaries. All our people are volunteers. The food received is donated, and is never re-sold. Given to those who need it most.

Yes, that's who we are!

*Poverty and need
Have many causes
Speak many languages
And are of many faiths*

We serve one of the poorest cities in the country. The number of homeless is staggering. Our volunteers see it every day.

The causes are many: plant closings, broken marriages, chronic illness, mental and physical handicaps, addictions, lack of job skills, criminal history, and the list goes on.

The truth is the gap between the "have's" and "have not" continues to grow. Among the things in the "have not" category often is **hope**. To give hope again is our mission, and the mission of those who partner with us.