

Food for Thought

Fall 2019

The Newsletter of The Food Bank of Siouxland, Inc.



FOOD BANK



OF SIOUXLAND INC.

Leading Siouxland in the fight against hunger.



Food Bank of Siouxland, Inc.

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We now have more than just Facebook! Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn are all new social media channels for us.



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Dear Friends,

Later on in this newsletter, in a segment called "What a Year," we share the dramatic numbers we have been experiencing here at the Food Bank of Siouxland. In short, we are seeing records falling and the number of pounds we are distributing growing. We are currently projecting we will distribute a record-shattering 2.5 million pounds of food in fiscal year 2019 (ending 9/30/2019). I have spoken before about the contradiction these numbers seem to present in this era of low unemployment, when the news is full of positive reports about the economy. Unfortunately, the story told by these numbers says clearly that working does not always equate an income that keeps pace with demand and need. So many people live paycheck to paycheck with no room for unexpected expenses or extras. "Making ends meet" is a challenge for many, and so we are grateful that we, along with our partners, can help fill that gap and ensure that everyone has access to sufficient nutrition. My focus here is helping to explain who that "WE" represents, and how do our partners help us with this work?

First of all, it's important to understand that the Food Bank of Siouxland operates as a warehouse and the majority of our foods are distributed by the case and by the pallet. We don't directly serve individuals and families for the most part, but rather our focus is bringing foods together from many resources, and distributing it to our network of agency partners so that they can assist the people who come to them. That network of agency partners, nearly 100 of them across our 11 county service area, are primarily food pantries and meal sites. These partners are a critical component of the food bank process, and we couldn't meet the needs of food insecure Siouxlanders without them! Agencies order by the case from our online menu, and either pick up those orders or have us deliver pallets of food to their location. In addition to this aspect of our work, we have several programs that also address hunger but in a more direct way: the Backpack Program: *Food for Kids*, the Mobile Pantry Program: *Food to You*, the Mobile School Pantry: *Food for Families*, and the newest concept for providing food to those in need, School Pantries.

As you can see, our business has many elements that all require resources – food, infrastructure, and funds. That represents the next type of partner in our work: our donors. Food donors, financial donors, even donors who help us fix, maintain, or improve the things we need to operate. We need the building, the freezers and coolers, the racking, the pallet jacks and forklift, the computers and software, and the ability to pay the bills just to keep all this food coming in and out. It is important to note that we are a relatively small nonprofit and again, we could not do this vital work without the generosity of our Siouxland community!

Throughout the year, we reach out to you all in a variety of ways – newsletters, mail pieces that talk about current activities in each season, and our all-important fundraising/friendraising events. Every one of these mailings and opportunities are our chance to tell the story of the needy in Siouxland and ask you to be our partner in fighting hunger. You are a vital part of this team and we simply couldn't do this work without each of you. I believe, as I hope you do, that TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER.

Linda Scheid

Linda Scheid, Executive Director

"You are a vital part of this team and we simply couldn't do this work without each of you."

Hunger Action Month & Hunger Heroes

HUNGER
ACTION
MONTH™



September is **Hunger Action Month**, a month-long campaign to create awareness of the hunger issues, and to mobilize our community in the fight against hunger. Check out the Hunger Action Month calendar on our website (siouxlandfoodbank.org/events/hunger-action-month) to see how you can join us in helping to end hunger.

We also invite you to join our **“Hunger Heroes”** club! Join Wells Enterprises, Oyboe Institute, Interstate Mechanical, and Artisan Home Builders in taking a stance against hunger by committing \$2,500 a year as a Hunger Hero during September’s Hunger Action Month campaign. Contact Development Director Jennifer Hart at 712-255-9741 to find out how YOU can be a HERO and help provide 32,500 pounds of food for families and children struggling with food insecurity!

Throughout the month we’ll be asking you to consider the universal feeling of an empty stomach, and how on an empty stomach, we cannot reach our full potential.

Together, We Can Solve Hunger!

Leader of the Pack: Hunger Games Edition

The 9th Annual “Leader of the Pack: Hunger Games” run-walk-bike event attracted 82 registrations this year and raised over \$16,000! Despite the threat of rain and closed trails due to flooding, the weather during the morning on Saturday, June 22 still allowed for a nice day for our runners, walkers, and cyclists to join us in the fight against hunger.

New this year was a Cycle-Run event that started with a 16 mile bike ride and ended with a 5K run. Thanks to our friends at Siouxland Cyclists, this event and the other bike rides continue to grow in popularity.

MEDIA SPONSOR: KCAU 9

HUNGER WARRIOR: Oyboe Institute

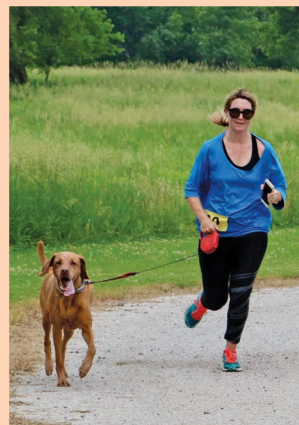
HUNGER CHAMPIONS: Interstate Mechanical, Manley & Obbink Chiropractic, the Marlow Family, Metal Specialists, Siouxland Cyclists, Woodhouse Auto Family

HUNGER VICTORS: AC&R Specialists, CNOS, CrossFit BEO, Profile by Sanford, Thorpe & Co. Jewellers, UnityPoint Health-St. Luke’s

HUNGER FIGHTERS: My Best Friend Dog Grooming, Physical Therapy Specialists, United Healthcare, Wall of Fame

PRODUCT SPONSORS: Blue Bunny, Caribou Coffee, Koated Kernels, Pepsi Cola of Siouxland, Hy-Vee, Rosenthal Foods

Special thanks also to Adams Homestead & Nature Preserve for hosting us, to CrossFit BEO for providing some fun fitness challenges, to Profile by Sanford for joining us, to all the runners, walkers, cyclists and individual donors, and to all those who donated items for the prizes and drawings including: Scheels, Stone Bru, CrossFit BEO, Profile, Tamme & Paul Saul, VIP Gymnastics-Ninja-Cheer, My Best Friend Dog Grooming, Walmart, and Blue Bunny.



Will Golf for Food



Our 16th Annual “Will Golf for Food” Charity Golf Tournament presented by Title Sponsor Wells Enterprises and Eagle Sponsor PREMIER Bankcard was held on August 5, 2019. Thanks to the 26 teams participating, many sponsors, generous donors, and amazing volunteers, the event raised over \$37,500 for the Food Bank to help fight hunger in Siouxland.

This year’s first place team for the second year in a row was BenStar Packaging, followed by Pioneer-Wooldridge Insurance in second place, and Central Bank in third place. A fun day was had by all and it felt good to be raising funds to help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors:

PRESENTING TITLE SPONSOR:

Wells Enterprises

EAGLE SPONSOR:

PREMIER Bankcard

GOLF BALL SPONSOR:

Oyboc Institute

GOLF CART SPONSOR:

Mollet Industrial Group

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR:

Mollet Industrial Group

LUNCH BOX SPONSOR:

RKD Alpha Dog

SCORECARD SPONSOR:

United Healthcare

CONTEST SPONSORS:

Nor-Am Cold Storage • Olson’s Pest Technicians • Rosenthal Foods • Security National Bank • Woodhouse Auto Family

HOLE SPONSORS:

BenStar Packaging • BoDeans Baking Group • Cargill, Inc. • Central Bank • CMBA Architects • FiberComm
Greenberg’s Jewelers • Hy-Vee • Coated Kernels • Manley & Obbink Chiropractic • Nichols Rise & Company, LLP
Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom • Sysco – Lincoln • Thompson Electric Company • Tyson – Dakota City
Up From the Earth • Williams & Company Communications

2019 TEAMS:

AC&R Specialists • BankFirst • BenStar Packaging • “Bomb Squad” • Central Bank • FiberComm • Greenberg’s Jewelers
Grainger • Tyler & Katie Hayden • Coated Kernels • Kollman Appliance • KTIV • L.P. Gill, Inc. • Manley & Obbink Chiropractic
Mid-American Boy Scouts • Mollet Industrial Group • Northwest Bank • Peoples Bank • Pioneer-Wooldridge Insurance
PREMIER Bankcard • Schrunck Roofing • Smithfield • SoHo Kitchen & Bar • Thompson Electric Company
Tyson – Dakota City • Wells Enterprises



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The Food Bank of Siouxland is very blessed to have so many individuals, foundations, and corporations that give of themselves and their resources to support our mission of fighting hunger in Siouxland. Some of this year’s highlighted sponsors are:

- **Seaboard Triumph Foods:** Taking our annual Empty Bowl’s soup dinner and auction to the next level, Seaboard Triumph Foods stepped in as Presenting Sponsor to make our 15th annual hunger awareness event a huge success, raising over \$80,000.
- **AC&R Specialists:** From event sponsorship to donated services, AC&R Specialists have really given of their time, talent and treasure to support operations and help maintain our warehouse and equipment.
- **Berenstein Family Foundation:** Thanks to the Berenstein Family Foundation we have expanded our Child Hunger Initiatives to include a second School Pantry. Their donation made it possible to open the new “Bear’s Den” food pantry at West High School.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stacie Hays, President
 Doug Collins, Vice President
 Jason Sweitzer, Secretary
 Matt Campbell, Treasurer
 Mark Eganhouse, Past President
 Lee Bobier
 Rob Costello
 Ryan Gehling
 Mike Gormally
 Tyler Hayden
 Brooke Hensley
 Zac Johannsen
 Matt Raveling
 Mandi Sievers
 Allison Skouge
 Dale Tigges

FOOD BANK STAFF 2019

Linda Scheid
 Executive Director

Jacob Wanderscheid
 Assistant Executive Director

Jennifer Hart
 Development Director

Jennie Allen
 Operations Director

Tiffany Kissinger
 Program and Administrative
 Coordinator

Rico Linares
 Senior Truck Driver /
 Warehouse Assistant

Nick Todd
 Driver / Warehouse Assistant

Tom Kuchera
 Part-time Warehouse Assistant

Avery Blackhawk
 Part-time Warehouse Assistant

Board Member Spotlight



"The Food Bank of Siouxland can only do the work they do because of the commitment of the dedicated staff, board, and volunteers."

Jason Sweitzer

Meet Board Member Secretary Jason Sweitzer. Jason joined the Food Bank of Siouxland's Board of Directors in January of 2015 and became Secretary in January of 2018. Jason frequently helps supervise our volunteer groups that support the **BackPack Program: Food for Kids**. Jason is particularly fond of this program because of the service it provides to so many kids in the community. "I, like so many others in Siouxland, was unaware that there is a hunger problem right here in our own communities," says Jason. Jason also participates in many Food Bank events like Empty Bowls and the Letter Carrier's Food Drive. Jason says, "After attending my first Empty Bowls event as a guest nearly 10 years ago, my eyes were opened to the problems so many of our neighbors face trying to secure nutrition for their families. Seeing how the Food Bank of Siouxland can assist those in need in so many different ways is the reason I enjoy my time as a Board Member and volunteer." Jason has also taken the extra step in getting Forklift Trainee certified so when a new employee is hired for the warehouse, Jason can train them on the forklift, eliminating the cost involved when using an outside resource for training.

Jason was born in Des Moines but moved to Sioux City shortly after and has lived in Sioux City ever since. He graduated from Southeast Community College in 2000 with a degree in Automotive Technology. Formerly employed at Charlie Zook Motors and CF industries, Jason currently works as Sales Manager at Gen Pro, LLC in Sioux City. Jason and his wife of 17 years, Emily, have two children, Olivia, 9, and Bennett, 5. He loves spending the weekends in the summer with his family camping and boating at Lake Okoboji. Jason served as a Past Grand Knight for the Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus. He is a huge fan of Notre Dame, traveling to places like NYC, Dallas and Dublin, Ireland to watch Notre Dame football games. Jason is passionate about the work of the Food Bank, saying, "The Food Bank of Siouxland can only do the work they do because of the commitment of the dedicated staff, board, and volunteers."

WHAT A YEAR!

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on 9/30/2019, we are looking back in amazement! The top three months (in terms of pounds distributed) in our entire history are February, March, and April of this year! Of the top ten months in our history, SIX of them are during this fiscal year. Not only are records being set, but it's happening consistently. We are saddened by the number of individuals and families seeking assistance, but gratified that we are able to make such a difference. The generosity of Siouxlanders has enabled us to keep food in the warehouse to meet the demand, and the hard work of our agency partners and friends have ensured those in need have access to the food they seek. It's also wonderful to recognize that the top two food categories responsible for the incredible number of pounds distributed are meat and fresh produce. Make no mistake – through the combined efforts of all, we are making a difference!

**SAVE
THE DATE**

16th Annual "Empty Bowls" Fundraiser Auction, Dinner, and Hunger Awareness Event

Friday, February 7, 2020, at the Sioux City Convention Center

Tickets are limited and go on sale Thursday, December 12, 2019. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. To reserve your seats/tables (after 12/12), become a sponsor, or donate to the auction, please call or email Development Director Jennifer Hart at 712-255-9741 or Jennifer@siouxlandfoodbank.org.

"Celebrate Our Friends Day" – a way to thank those who consistently go above and beyond and the presentation of our annual "Legacy Award" at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at the Food Bank of Siouxland. RSVP by calling 712-255-9741.

