

NORTH VALLEY FOOD BANK

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear community,

What a year it has been. In 2020, every one of us struggled in one way or another. Covid-19 brought an unprecedented crisis and many of us dealt with challenges such as loss of employment, isolation or anxiety. The pandemic threw people into food insecurity at a rate not seen since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

When reflecting on 2020 with my wonderful predecessor, Jessie Lee, she shared the following note: "When I reflect on our response to COVID-19 and to massive growth in need, I am proud of our team and our community. Our individual distributions shot up from 18,000 in 2019 to over 30,000 in 2020. We doubled the amount of food distributed to folks in need. We quadrupled the number of neighbors served. While 2020 did not turn out the way we'd planned, we nonetheless did our best to serve our community in the best possible ways."

North Valley Food Bank responded to the pandemic by rapidly ramping up services to address the immediate needs of our neighbors. We restructured our volunteer force, hired additional staff, and purchased a box truck. We expanded our local distribution hours five-fold, doubled our senior delivery program, and started our mobile pantries in Essex, Evergreen, Olney, and Trego, all of which are located in food deserts. Further, we regularly delivered federally-funded food boxes to the FAST Blackfeet program, which has limited storage space for larger deliveries.

In 2020, we learned once again how fragile food security can be. Many community members have newly experienced what others face on a regular basis – the fear and struggle of not being able to provide food for their families.

While this past year has been overwhelming, it also brought a record amount of support. So many of you have stepped up in one way or another to help us. You continue to inspire us with your generous funds, your many volunteer hours, your daily food donations, and your motivating feedback. Your encouragement means a lot to us.

We are and will remain focused on providing the most dignified and highest quality services possible. Thank you for being a part of it all.

With gratitude,
Sophie Albert



north valley
food bank

whitefish, montana

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

With the dramatic increase in food bank customers throughout the northern reaches of the Flathead Valley, North Valley Food Bank moved over 500,000 pounds of food through its building in 2020. What seemed like a more than adequate food bank building for Whitefish when it was built is now "bursting at the seams". This year, North Valley Food Bank is expanding the existing building in order to increase refrigeration, freezer, and dry-goods space to store and distribute more nutritious, perishable foods and to keep up with the additional mobile pantry and delivery routes. Later in the year as the pandemic subsides, North Valley Food Bank would like to switch to a "Choice Model" and offer its customers the option of choosing the food they would like to have each week in the food bank instead of receiving pre-loaded boxes in the drive-thru. This grocery store model will further reduce food waste and supports a more dignified approach to food assistance.

North Valley Food Bank intends to install a commercial kitchen in the building in the final phase of the renovation project. A commercial kitchen would allow the North Valley Food Bank team to offer food preparation skills training to targeted groups such as youth-at-risk and people with disabilities. A commercial kitchen would also allow North Valley Food Bank to preserve more food from local growers for distribution to our customers.

The total cost of this expansion of North Valley Food Bank is \$1,183,559. So far, North Valley Food Bank has raised \$578,325 leaving a balance of \$605,234 to raise. We would love for all of you to join our efforts of addressing food insecurity in the Flathead Valley through a donation that will support our capital campaign and remodel. Please reach out to us at sophie@northvalleyfoodbank.org if you have any questions. We are grateful for your continuous support.



OUR IMPACT IN 2020



1,540 households and 4,445 individuals served.



30,498 weekly groceries to families provided.



518,211 pounds of food distributed.



70 senior households served weekly through deliveries.

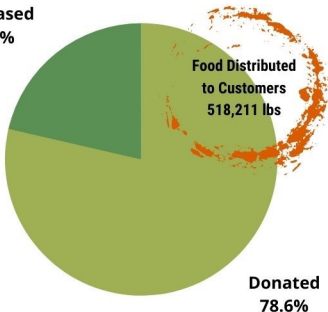


900 summer meals provided to kids through our summer meals program.



80 families supported with applications for housing assistance.

Purchased
21.4%



Donated
78.6%

VOICES OF CUSTOMERS

"I have 6 children and one day we had no food so we came by the foodbank and they gave us more than enough food to make it to my next check. The staff is incredibly friendly and judgement free, we are incredibly grateful! Thank you!"

"Thank you for being there for our family. We love you!"

"Always upbeat and cheerful in any weather. Gave masks, food, and necessities every week. Thank you, you guys rock."

"It's been a great help in this time with job uncertainty due to Covid-19 that I have access to food staples and less food worry."

"Always helpful in so many ways! Love North Valley Food Bank. You all are a blessing."

VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you!

As we reflect on all that has taken place this past year, we are reminded of the abundant light radiating from our food bank. We are filled with gratitude for our volunteers, who are the heart of the food bank.

These are our volunteer champions who spent more than 100 hours at the food bank in 2020:

Donnie Bestwick 200+, Joan Paulson 200+, Dusty Hosek, Kendra Hope, John Phelps, Melisa Phelps, Tony Veseth, Reed Kuennen, Brenda Wilmore, Zac Weinberg, Lynette Murphy, and Danny Swift



BECAUSE OF YOU...



6,672 total volunteer hours.



1,891 total volunteer shifts.



270 individual people volunteered.



FINANCIALS

Revenue

In-kind	
Donated Food	\$ 751,531
Other In-kind donations	\$ 3,452
Total	<u>\$ 754,983</u>

Financial	
Donations	\$ 695,753
Grants	\$ 131,579
Donations Great Fish Challenge	\$ 85,379
Restricted	\$ 100,157
Investments and Interest	\$ 46,866
Total	<u>\$ 1,059,734</u>

Expenses

Donated Food Distributed	\$ 751,531
Purchased Food Distributed	\$ 89,765
Operating Expenses	\$ 229,211
Administrative Expenses	\$ 67,572
Special Programs	\$ 54,364
(Summer Meals and Covid-19 Restaurant Project)	
Contractor Services	\$ 16,382
Fundraising and Marketing	\$ 66,861
Total	<u>\$ 1,275,685</u>

Change in Net Assets*	\$ 539,031
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*Includes food inventory and funds for capital campaign, 2021 operations and reserve.
All numbers are rounded to nearest full dollar amount.





north valley
food bank

251 Flathead Avenue
Whitefish, MT 59937

www.northvalleyfoodbank.org

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ANNUAL REPORT

Take a look at what
we did in **2020**.

**We need you more
than ever in 2021.**

THANKS AND LOVE FROM OUR TEAM

