

Sharing the Harvest

Great Plains Food Bank • Fall 2011



Your Support is Changing Lives

Day after day, your gifts are hard at work meeting the needs of our hungry neighbors statewide

Great Plains Food Bank
Volunteer - Keri, Age 8

**what's
INSIDE**

- As the Waters Recede: Our Minot Flood Response
- A Behind the Scenes Look at the Great Plains Food Bank
- In Their Words: Patricia's Story
- Above and Beyond - Our Partners in Service

Recently more than 100 people from across the region gathered in Fargo for the first Taking Action to End Hunger Summit. I was asked to update the group on progress made since the *Creating A Hunger Free North Dakota Study* was released three years ago, and was pleased to present the following highlights:

director's DESK by Steve Sellent

- Out of the 26 counties identified as underserved by the charitable feeding system, 16 now exceed minimum service standards as determined by the study, and significant progress has been made in five additional counties;
- Emergency feeding programs in the state operated or supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank are providing 1.3 million more meals annually to those struggling with hunger, representing a 37% increase; and
- 16,350 more individuals are receiving food assistance, an increase of 30%, resulting in the percentage of people needing services that are being reached by charitable feeding programs growing from 64% to 82%.

Your belief in our efforts to change how services are being delivered across the state, and your support of the eight new programs we have developed as a result of the study's findings have been instrumental in making the major progress outlined above possible.



But as I shared with summit attendees, much more work lies ahead. Over the next few years we must focus on not only bringing every county up to minimum service standards, but also developing additional creative new programs and initiatives to help them achieve the even higher service levels needed to fully address hunger.

In many ways, it has been a remarkable three years, but we are even more excited about what the future holds as we continue on our shared journey towards a hunger-free North Dakota and western Minnesota.

WAREHOUSE WEIGH-INS JAN - SEPT 2011

6.6

MILLION
pounds of food
distributed

\$11.0

MILLION
worth of
food recovered

60.5

THOUSAND
people served

190

THOUSAND
food baskets
provided through
partner agencies

2.4

MILLION
hot meals
served by
partner agencies

BackPack Fever

We are excited to share that the Cass Clay Backpack Program has expanded to 14 schools this year, aiming to serve 750 students who don't have access to an adequate amount of food over the weekends or over school holidays when other resources are not available. Also,



in collaboration with our community partners, 550 children struggling with hunger in the communities of Grand Forks, Edgeley, LaMoure, Jamestown, Bismarck and Hawley, MN will also have access to food for four meals plus snacks including juice, milk, vegetables and fruit this school year.

Parents with children in the program are reporting improved behavior, concentration, health and academic performance.

Major Impact

Since May our SNAP Outreach Team has assisted 124 eligible new households apply and qualify for SNAP benefits totaling \$21,485 each month. Annually, this amounts to \$257,820 now being

targeted toward meeting the hunger needs of our neighbors, and being re-invested back into businesses and communities statewide.

Feeding Hope Partner

Hunger is a year-round issue. Each and every day, children, seniors and working families struggle to make ends meet.

With your monthly donation to the Great Plains Food Bank, you offer more than nourishment to people in need, you provide hope!

To join us as a monthly Feeding Hope Partner, visit us online at www.lssnd.org/GreatPlainsFoodBank or contact our donor relations department at 701.232.6219.

Thank You

Nationwide Support is Overflowing

Donations Pour in for Minot Flood Response

When the water rose in Minot, so did the support and prayers from people across North Dakota and the nation. The Great Plains Food Bank is honored to serve as a conduit of this support, and we extend our appreciation to the thousands of individuals, businesses and churches who, along with Feeding America - the nation's food bank network, other food banks in the region, and food industry partners who donated nearly half a million pounds of food, personal care and cleaning supplies for those in the region impacted by record flood waters.

Beyond supply coordination, aiding emergency shelters and mass feeding, offering food boxes to those evacuated from their homes, we are distributing cleaning supplies during the clean-up and rebuild phase, and providing additional supplies to food pantries and other charitable feeding programs

who will see increased demand for a prolonged period of time due to the financial hardships felt by so many.

Alongside the generous support from food industry donors and those involved with dozens of food drives regionwide, an estimated 400 volunteers have demonstrated their passion and commitment in the fight by helping us prepare these supplies for distribution - giving nearly 1,000 hours of their time.

"I am overwhelmed by the amount of love, in this time of need."

-Burlington, ND Resident

Even as our partner agencies in Minot, (Our Lady of Grace, the Lord's Cupboard, Community Suppers and the Salvation Army) felt the strain of the

flood personally, they stepped up to make sure their neighbors were fed, including this family as reported by Child Care Resource & Referral, another program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota.

A child care provider's parents' home near Oak Park Bridge was totally submerged. Having just received word that the federal government was offering \$13,000 to those considering a buyout option, the provider's mom shared, "I guess nobody cares." The provider took her mom out to the car where she had a box of food and supplies for her and told her, "Someone cares."

As part of our core business, we respond with support to local, regional and national disasters. We know the recovery process is long for families and communities and we are committed to assisting in all possible ways through the duration.

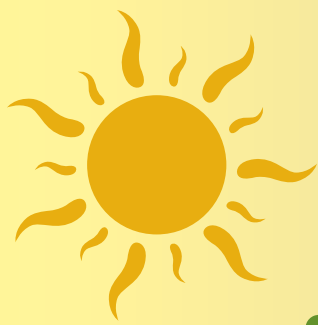


▲ Volunteers in Burlington, ND distribute 300 disaster relief boxes filled with food, grocery and cleaning supplies prepared by the Great Plains Food Bank for families in the region.



▲ 35 volunteers from Rasmussen College and Fargo South's Cheer Team spent an afternoon at the Great Plains Food Bank packing relief boxes for those evacuated from their homes.





Fighting Hunger Dawn to Dusk



A Day in the Life of the Great Plains Food Bank

As the sun rises on a crisp fall morning, a new day begins at the Great Plains Food Bank statewide distribution center, quietly nestled in Fargo's former industrial park neighborhood. One by one, team members assemble with a steadfast commitment in the fight to end hunger and feed hope for individuals struggling across North Dakota and western Minnesota.

6:30 AM: The first truck to leave the loading dock supports Daily Bread, the Food Bank's perishable food recovery program in Cass and Clay counties. A second truck collects food in Bismarck-Mandan. Today's routes include morning food pick-ups from a dozen grocery stores, bakeries, hospitals, and restaurants, and afternoon deliveries to shelters, soup kitchens and food pantries serving the hungry and homeless.

7:00 AM: A semi, filled with product from a Feeding America national food industry partner, travels up I94 from Minneapolis with a donation headed for the Food Bank.

7:45 AM: In southwest North Dakota Patsy and Linda, coordinators at the Amidon Community Cupboard, prepare to receive their order of food and grocery products from the Food Bank's warehouse facility in Fargo. Their delivery today includes frozen turkeys and fresh potatoes to be included in Thanksgiving baskets for dozens of families this holiday season.



8:00 AM: Work in the Food Bank's 36,000 sq.ft. warehouse begins, as a full team of associates weigh and inventory product, and prepare partner agency orders for a semi load headed for Grand Forks later in the week. On it's return trip, this truck will haul back frozen grocery products from a variety of Grand Forks manufacturers and distributors. ◀

8:15 AM: Totes filled with food packages are loaded for delivery to 14 schools in the Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo school districts participating in the Cass Clay Backpack Program - ensuring 750 children have access to food for four meals plus snacks on the weekend when other resources are not available. ▶



9:15 AM: As the second Food Bank semi leaves the loading docks headed to Minot with supplies destined for food pantries and feeding programs hard hit by record breaking flood waters, the semi from Minneapolis pulls up to unload 38,000 pounds of frozen chicken, breakfast sandwiches and ice cream.

10:00 AM: The first of many volunteers arrive for their shift. Today, 28 volunteers from a local business will be assembling Mobile Food Pantry boxes for distribution to those in need in rural under-served communities that don't have, or can't support a traditional food pantry, while a second group of 23 volunteers from a church will be repacking bulk pasta.

12:00 PM: Staff and volunteers gather to review applications for the 5 Star Program, aimed at building agency capacity. A food safety training is being conducted in another conference room to help partners in the charitable feeding network meet food industry standards for safety and quality, and provide healthy choices to those seeking food assistance.

1:15 PM: The phones ring as agencies call in their monthly orders. Calls come in throughout the day from corporations, foundations, donors, volunteers and special event partners stepping forward to join the Food Bank in hunger-relief efforts.



1:30 PM: As the Daily Bread driver delivers food to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry in Moorhead, 345 miles west, the Food Bank truck pulls up to the front door of the Amidon Community Cupboard. ◀

"Those we serve can't always afford fresh produce. The items we receive through this program fill a tremendous need."

- Ruth Smith,
Dorothy Day Pantry Coordinator

2:00 PM: The sound of children echos throughout the warehouse as Small Wonders Day Care volunteers arrive for their monthly shift. Today they will be labeling cans. ▶

2:30 PM: Members from a local service club stop by for a *Behind the Scenes* tour and see first-hand their gifts in action. Back in the warehouse, associates unload a delivery of frozen meat into the freezer. In the cooler, thousands of pounds of produce donated from individual gardeners and growers is awaiting distribution.

3:15 PM: Judy Kuehl and her team of volunteers from 1st Assembly of God Food Pantry stop by the warehouse to pick up food and personal care items. ▶

"The products we receive help us develop relationships with families in need, and assist them on a variety of levels."

- Judy Kuehl, 1st Assembly of God Food Pantry Coordinator



3:30 PM: A husband and wife who recently became the guardians of their four grandchildren come in looking for emergency food assistance. A SNAP Outreach specialist provides them a list of food pantries in the community and walks them through the SNAP application to determine eligibility.

4:00 PM: Collection barrels filled with items gathered from one of hundreds of community food drives are unloaded and prepared for sorting. ◀

6:00 PM: The Food Bank semi returns from it's trip to western North Dakota and backs up to the loading dock. It's the end of another incredible day at the Great Plains Food Bank, but the job is not over. Until a hunger-free North Dakota and western Minnesota is realized, the work must continue.



In Their Own Words

Meet Patricia, she's 86 and lives in a small town just outside of Killdeer, ND. She is disabled and is now taking care of Harry, her husband of fifty-five years who has Alzheimer's. Patricia and her husband were smart, they planned ahead. They used to farm and diligently put money away. But Patricia needed several back surgeries that nearly depleted their nest egg. Now, their medications run nearly \$300 a month and their social security is only \$600.

Patricia knew there was a food pantry in their area, and now she's a regular customer. "I go there every month. The first time, they gave me a box full of food and it was too much for Harry and me. So I asked if I could just come and get a small bag. I usually write a list of what we can use and they get it for me." Patricia shares her appreciation for the food pantry, but with a twinkle in her eye, she insists that the sweets she puts on the list are for Harry.

The Great Plains Food Bank supplies 273 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other charitable feeding programs in 99 communities across North Dakota and western Minnesota.

Your support is impacting lives!





A

A. We say goodbye to outgoing advisory committee members Jill Gustofson, Scott Seiler, Rev. Peter Schmidt, Lloyd Smith, Wayne Allard and Shirley Dorrheim. Thank you for your passion and commitment in the fight to end hunger and feed hope!

B. Rep. Rick Berg tours the Great Plains Food Bank, discusses the future of federal nutrition programs and learns of their impact on North Dakotans.



B

ABOVE ^{AND} BEYOND



C

C. Julie Klein, State Bank and Trust, presents \$3,000 to the Great Plains Food Bank in support of the Backpack program on behalf of bank employees Jon Berg and Patsy Clapper. Funds were matched by the bank's Pay it Forward initiative.

D. Volunteers from Bremer Bank share their time as part of their annual Taking Action Against Hunger campaign. In addition to their hours given, Bremer raised \$8,233 – providing nearly 33,000 meals to people in need.

E. Residents of Jamestown conducted a food and cleaning supply drive for western North Dakota flood victims. They collected \$3,470 and “Filled the Zeb” with items which were later distributed by the Great Plains Food Bank.



D

F. The following foundations have invested their resources in the Great Plains Food Bank: **Toyota Dealer Match Grant** (\$10,000) and **Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation** (\$5,000) for the Cass Clay Backpack Program; **ELCA Hunger Education & Advocacy Grant** (\$5,000) for 2011 Hunger Summit; **Walmart Foundation Hunger Outreach Facility Grants** (\$4,000) and the **Otto Bremer Foundation** (\$40,000) for Great Plains Food Bank operations; and the **City of Fargo Spirit Fund** (\$5,000) and **United Way Cass-Clay** (\$10,000) for Minot flood relief.

Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota

Taking Action to End Hunger

At the opening session of the 2011 Taking Action to End Hunger Summit sponsored by the Creating a Hunger Free North Dakota Coalition of which the Great Plains Food Bank is a founding member, Lt. Governor, Drew Wrigley addressed attendees and shared, "In the middle of our prosperity, there is also need. I'm impressed with your innovative collaboration and creative approaches in meeting this need." Attendees concluded the summit with an exercise that afforded them the opportunity to share their ideas and commitment to ending hunger – leaving them with a renewed enthusiasm for their work, and a deeper connection to other hunger-relief advocates across the state.

Great plains Food bank, I have had so much fun volunteering here that I set up a lemonade stand at my grandmas garage sale, I raised \$136.80. It was hot out there but everyone was happy that I was trying to raise money for you.

Love,
Julia Zacharison

Julia does her part to end hunger in her community. Her gift provided 548 meals to children in need.

Thanks Julia!



Recipe for Success

More than 550 guests enjoyed outstanding food prepared by the area's finest chefs, all in support of the Daily Bread perishable food recovery program operated by the Great Plains Food Bank.

Funds raised will provide more than 450,000 meals to those struggling with hunger. We extend our special thanks to lead event sponsor, Merrill Lynch, and the 23 chefs and their respective restaurants who gave so generously of their time and resource.

Save the Date! Next year's Chefs' Gala & Auction is set for October 10th and will be held at the Ramada Plaza & Suites.



Check Out Hunger

This year's Check Out Hunger campaign surpassed its goal to become the most successful campaign to date as Hornbacher's invited their guests to support Daily Bread, the Great Plains Food Bank's perishable food recovery program with a \$1, \$3, or \$5 donation at time of check out. Hornbacher's associates were instrumental in raising more than \$35,400 to support our hungry neighbors in Cass and Clay counties.

Since starting this campaign 17 years ago, Hornbacher's has helped raise an astounding \$116,000 - providing for 1.16 million meals to children, seniors and families in our community.



From Farm to Family

A group of 250 first year students enrolled in Valley City State University's *Learning to Live, Living to Learn* program teamed up to support Dan Faust in not only providing nourishment, but hope, to thousands of individuals living with hunger. The program includes a component on team building which was clearly demonstrated when the students harvested nearly 28 tons of squash to be distributed by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens serving the hungry and homeless. When asked why did you do this? Dan shared, "Because there are hungry people. My only regret is that I didn't plant more."

Great Plains Food Bank

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(701) 232-6219

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A program and member of

Lutheran
Social Services
of North Dakota

FEEDING
AMERICA

The Great Plains Food Bank strives for a hunger-free North Dakota and western Minnesota by recovering and distributing surplus food, engaging in community partnerships and advocating for social change.

NOV 2011

Nov. 5: FM Derby Girls Charity Bout
Learn more at www.fmderbygirls.com

Nov. 8: Mobile Food Pantry - Edmore, Osnabrock, Langdon and Cavalier

Nov. 11: Pubs Revisited Art Show
Kim Jore, Riverzen Studio, www.riverzen.com

Nov. 21-22: 5th Annual Fill the Dome
Get details at www.fillthedome.org

DEC 2011

Dec. 1-31: Hornbacher's Holiday Hunger Campaign, visit www.Hornbachers.com

Dec. 8: Mobile Food Pantry - Devils Lake, Shyenenne, New Rockford and Carrington

Dec. 15: Mobile Food Pantry - Bisbee and Dunseith

JAN 2012

Jan 3: Mobile Food Pantry - Garrison, Center, and McClusky

Jan 12: Mobile Food Pantry - Grassy Butte, Watford City, and Killdeer

FEB 2012

Feb 7: Mobile Food Pantry - Edmore, Osnabrock, Langdon and Cavalier



BECOME A FAN

Get news and event updates from the Great Plains Food Bank on Facebook.

Cause & Effects

You supported the cause. Here is the change you've effected.



One of the sources of food we rely on each year comes from the hundreds of families, individuals, businesses, schools, churches, and service clubs that conduct community-wide food and fund drives. Over the past five years, the Great Plains Food Bank has witnessed a 172% increase in the total number of pounds collected. This is incredible! Together, we are creating hunger-free communities.

Food Drive Pounds Collected

