



FOOD BANK OF IOWA

WINTER 2020

A FOOD BANK OF IOWA NEWSLETTER

Mission

We provide food for Iowa children, families, and seniors to lead full and active lives, strengthening the communities where they live.

Vision

A hunger-free Iowa.

Our service area



Food Bank of Iowa distributes to approximately 175,000 Iowans via more than 625 partners in 55 counties.

Fabulous Food Fact

Food Bank of Iowa distributed 17,432,201 pounds and recovered 4,708,117 in 2019. Both are increases of over 30% from 2018!



TYSON GRANT PROVIDES NEW VEHICLE

It takes many moving parts to acquire, handle, distribute, and ultimately deliver 1.5 million pounds of food across 30,000 square miles. Yet that's what Food Bank of Iowa does every month! We are fortunate to have a safe and efficient facility. We are grateful for a committed team of donors, volunteers, and staff. In addition to a functional facility and devoted people, it takes vehicles.

"When I joined the Food Bank of Iowa team four years ago, my trucking knowledge was limited, but I knew enough to realize our fleet, which was the cornerstone of our operation, needed attention," said Michelle Book, president & CEO of Food Bank of Iowa. "I went to Dan Van Alstine, president of Ruan Transportation for help."

In addition to providing safety training to distribution center workers and drivers and evaluating our truck routes for efficiency, our friends at Ruan Transportation also assessed the condition of the fleet. "The news was not unexpected. Replace four of the six trucks within two years," said Book.

In 2019, having completed a building renovation which provided a watertight roof over our food and desks and a functional distribution center, it was time to turn our attention to the fleet. With Ruan's expertise and their equipment purchasing network, coupled with invaluable negotiation assistance from Ruan Transportation and the financial support of several committed donors, Food Bank of Iowa took delivery of one fully funded truck this January.

continued on page 3

A Note From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Coming just after January, February is the month of new beginnings. Meaning “to purify,” February was known as the “Month of Purification” during ancient Roman times. It is a transitional time, finding itself just after a month of reflection and New Year’s resolutions.

It’s hard to believe that as of February 1st, I have been at Food Bank of Iowa for four years. Joining this passionate team of hunger fighters after thirty years of corporate work was a huge transition. The move from working for shareholders to serving food insecure folks has been and will continue to be an act of purification.

As I embraced my many corporate opportunities and challenges, I was extremely fulfilled by the accomplishments of the teams with whom I worked. I continue to be grateful for the leaders and experiences which prepared me to lead this complex food rescue and distribution business. But nothing prepared me for the heartache of looking into the eyes of poverty every day.

This past fall, I embarked on a journey to visit every county in our service area and before the end of the year I met with 26 of our northern rural partners. Each is unique. Each is addressing poverty. Each has a story of heartbreak. Single moms without good job prospects. Hopelessness and drug addiction. Lack of affordable housing and homelessness. And the biggest heartbreak of all - children raising themselves.

And each has a story of success. An antiquated small-town hotel turned community support center with a food pantry and a congregate meal program. An alternative high school making sure non-traditional students can acquire a high school degree along with food, clothing,

and love. An elementary school teacher whose parents make deliveries from the school pantry to the country for students whose parents can’t afford gas to come to town. And so many more.

In these contentious times, I am amazed and inspired by the work of tireless passionate volunteers across our network. To see the remarkable amount of love and selflessness with which these folks support their community is truly an act of purification.

I encourage you to join me on this journey – our journey – to learn more about the power of collaboration. It’s simple – just “Like” and “Follow” the Food Bank of Iowa Facebook page. You can cover hundreds of miles of Iowa backroads with me without enduring my favorite podcasts and frequent requests to stop for photos.

Thank you for your generous investment in accomplishing our shared vision of a hunger-free Iowa.

Together, we do make a difference.

Sincerely,



Michelle Book
Chief Executive Officer
Food Bank of Iowa

www.foodbankiowa.org



GOVERNOR’S PROCLAMATION/HUNGER FREE HOLIDAYS



On December 13, Governor Reynolds signed a proclamation declaring December 2019 “Hunger Free Holidays Month.” With partners and food bank representatives across the state looking on, Governor Reynolds showed her support for the statewide awareness campaign and encouraged the public to get involved in the fight against food insecurity.

TYSON GRANT PROVIDES NEW VEHICLES ... *continued from page 1*

Food Bank of Iowa received a \$150,000 grant from Tyson Foods to put toward a transportation and equipment package which included the purchase of our first new truck along with equipment for the distribution center.

"We're proud to support Food Bank of Iowa and its mission to fight hunger," said Debra Vernon, senior director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Tyson Foods. "Equipping our partners with the right resources to address food insecurity by providing more effective transportation and supporting mobile pantry programs is a critical part of our hunger relief strategy."



The modernized fleet will offer improved fuel economy, and importantly, each new truck will be equipped with the latest safety technologies to provide a safe unit for our drivers to operate.

"We are extremely grateful for our wonderful partnerships with Ruan Transportation and Tyson Foods," said Book. "With their assistance, we are in a significantly better position to deliver on our mission of providing food for Iowa's children, families, and seniors to lead full and active lives, strengthening the communities where they live."

Food Bank of Iowa trucks and drivers, vans and volunteers are on the road five days a week picking up donated and rescued food and delivering much needed nutrition to 175,000 struggling Iowans via 625 trusted, passionate partner agencies – pantries, schools, homeless shelters, daycares, and more. Food Bank of Iowa runs 83 routes each month, with our friendly and helpful drivers completing over 3,600 deliveries in 2019.

Our fleet of trucks and vans is now safer and more effective than ever before. However, even with optimal efficiency, it still takes dollars to fill diesel tanks and change oil filters. We rely on donor support to "fuel" our efforts to get milk, eggs, and produce to food insecure Iowans. Ending hunger in Iowa is possible due to your generous support.

BACKPACK/PANTRY SPONSORSHIP AT PERRY ELEMENTARY

The poverty rate in Iowa is 11%. Iowans struggling to make ends meet are having difficulty putting nutritious food on the table. In your community, there are hungry children.

Food Bank of Iowa provides weekend food which goes into the backpacks of 5,367 elementary school children every Friday during the school year. In addition, we have provided refrigerators, freezers, and supply all the food for 100 school pantries – pantries in elementary, middle and high schools. Food Bank of Iowa delivers all of this to schools without handling or delivery fees.

We are currently seeking business and industry partners who are interested in sponsoring school pantry and Backpack Programs in their community. In addition to the satisfaction of doing a good thing for your neighbors, your company will contribute to a well-fed community, one which is better positioned to thrive – kids learn, outlooks improve, and crime diminishes.

Osmundson Manufacturing in Perry was one of the first to sponsor a Food Bank of Iowa community program. Their commitment will provide funding to support the Backpack Program at Perry Elementary for three years.

"As a family owned company for five generations, we

have aspired to support families in our community," said Heather Bruce, president & CEO of Osmundson Manufacturing.

"One of the greatest feelings is knowing you can make a

difference, and battling hunger is within our reach. The youth in Perry are the future of our community, and we want to give them the tools necessary to develop skills for future growth. We are proud to support the Backpack Program at Food Bank of Iowa to grow a stronger community for Perry."

To learn more about sponsoring a local Backpack Program or school pantry, please visit www.foodbankiowa.org/partners/programs or contact Bergetta Beardsley at bbeardsley@foodbankiowa.org.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JEANNE AND ELIOT NUSBAUM



It was during her first year of teaching that Jeanne Nusbaum became aware of children struggling from food insecurity in her community.

“At first all we could do was hand out crackers to hungry kids and give information about food stamps, but it wasn’t enough,” she said. “It is unconscionable that in our country of wealth and plenty, so many families go without.”

Jeanne and Eliot Nusbaum volunteer at Food Bank of Iowa every Tuesday. They help tackle a variety of tasks including working with one-time food donations, food

rescue, ensuring our Backpack Program is operating at full capacity, and a variety of other special projects. Over the past three and a half years they have built skill sets as volunteers that are invaluable to our organization.

“When I retired, Jeanne and I decided to volunteer at the Food Bank,” said Eliot. “We chose the Food Bank based on a simple premise: there’s no excuse for hunger in Iowa. Volunteering is what we can do to combat hunger.”

With the help of the Nusbaum’s and other key volunteers, Food Bank of Iowa has started assembling Backpack sacks on-site to make sure more than 5,000 children across our service area are sent home with nutritious food to help them get by on the weekends. We could not have reinstated this in-house program without the help of this team.

“The Nusbaum’s are consistent and bring an efficiency to our team that can only come from a deep understanding of our mission and operations,” said Michaela Devaney, Food Bank of Iowa volunteer training and development manager. “I appreciate the passion and energy that they have brought to our organization and I feel really thankful that I have had the opportunity to work with them.”



To learn more about volunteering at Food Bank of Iowa, visit www.foodbankiowa.org/volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE FOR EVENTS IN 2020!



March 14

*Another Plate
On the Table*

May 7



July 26



Sept. 17



FOODBANK
OF IOWA

PO Box 1517
Des Moines, IA 50305
515-564-0330

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Stay connected to
Food Bank of Iowa

Find us on



www.foodbankiowa.org