

# THE HUNGER TASK FORCE



## Annual Report 2016

May 2017

### A Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

As we finish the year 2016, I want to extend a most sincere “Thank You” to our partners, donors, supporters, and volunteers of the Hunger Task Force who all played a pivotal role in our successes and growth of this past year as the greater La Crosse area’s only “Free & Local” food bank. We are now providing food to over 90 food pantries, meal sites and youth programs.

“Harvesting community resources and being the voice of the hungry” in the Coulee Region continues to be the mission of the Hunger Task Force. We remain focused on educating the public of our mission as we reach out to our donors and supporters through education, advocacy and special events.

I encourage you to check out Shelly Fortner, our executive director’s annual report to read first-hand the amount of food we recovered from businesses and distributors to eliminate waste while supplementing our agencies’ food supply. Again this year we were extremely fortunate to be the recipient of the High School Rotary Interact clubs’ “iFeed”. In November, the Interact clubs from Aquinas, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska and West Salem worked together to not only pack over 50,000 meals for Nicaragua, but also collected 34,000 food items for HTF in conjunction with Rotary Lights. Without the leadership and cooperation shown by the Interact students and the outstanding generosity of Rotary Lights, our food shelves would be rather empty during the winter months.

Three times each year we host advocacy/education meetings to bring our agencies together to share best

practices and discuss current issues. During this time, those in attendance are able to gain a greater insight into what is currently being done in our area to alleviate food insecurity as well as methods to educate the public on how best to help those in need

Springtime brings further growth as Festival Foods hosts our “Seeds of Hope” campaign which is the catalyst for providing funds for the Kane Street Community Garden. Through the efforts of our master gardeners, Todd Huffman and Ryan Knox and countless volunteers we are able to enhance thousands of families’ meals each year with fresh fruits and vegetables.

A volunteer board of directors continues to govern HTF as they have done for the past 20 years. Their dedication, along with our excellent staff, phenomenal volunteers, the cooperation of our partners and the generosity of our donors will allow us to make 2017 a year of further growth. All of us working together can eliminate hunger.

Sincerely,

*Joanne Stephens*

Joanne Stephens  
Board President

# Executive Director's Report

## 2016 Board of Directors:

**President:** Joanne Stephens

**Vice-President:** Tiffany Olson

**Secretary:** Barb Buswell

**Treasurer:** Scott Turnbull

Marilyn Hurt

June Gale

Terry Witzke

Ken Schmocker

Monica Lazere

Nancy Fee

Keith Buswell

Nick Lichter

Christine Smith

Anthony Gingrasso

Jill Hamilton

Ken Alexander

Cedric Friesen

Bonnie Nesbitt

Jeannie Grosskreutz

Gene Linse

Jessica Leone

Friends,

Our community is important to us, but we would actually prefer to not be in business. That would mean that there are no hungry people in our area and everyone has enough to eat. Every month. Every day.

Our mission is to "Eliminate hunger by harvesting community resources and being a voice of the hungry". We work to nourish our communities and with the help of our network of food donors, financial supporters, volunteers and partner programs, we are "harvesting" those resources to keep people fed.

Advocacy has become much more important. We have kept up the "Food Movement" by securing and distributing over 1.3 million pounds of donated food to our partner food pantries, meal sites, and youth programs. We also need to continue to educate community members and legislators on the necessity to keep the door open for resources to help the needy. Our 2017 Hunger Forum focuses on the difficult job we have ahead of us. Policy changes will affect us all, especially those of us who have a mission to make sure there are food resources for the neediest among us.

I am proud to work with our area's only FREE and LOCAL Food Bank. FREE because we don't believe that our partners should pay for food, delivery or membership with us. LOCAL so that community donors don't see their gifts leave the state; they help right here in the neighborhoods they do business in.

We continue to look for the funding that will sustain our programs. We invite your support through your donations and your volunteerism. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to eliminate hunger!

In Service,

*Shelly Fortner*

Executive Director



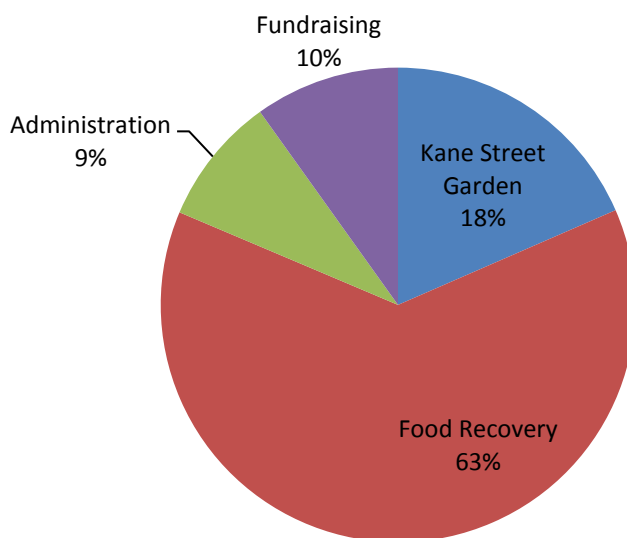
# Financial Report

## 2016 Expenses

### HTF Expenses During 2016

1. Kane St. Garden	\$ 54,658	18%
2. Food Recovery	\$186,216	63%
3. Fundraising	\$ 29,236	10%
4. Administration	\$ 25,886	9%

**TOTAL: \$295,997**



### HTF Income During 2016:

Grants:	\$126,054
Fundraising:	\$98,824
Unsolicited Donations:	\$78,297
United Way:	\$29,369
Partner Support:	\$12,088
Other Income:	\$1,250
Investment Income:	\$616
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$336,044</b>

**Fund Balance 12/31/16:** Treasury Index Account: \$213,359    Checking: \$38,276  
Unaudited-For Internal Use Only

## Food Recovery Partner Programs 2016

\* denotes an Outreach Program

African American Mutual Assistance Network (AAMAN)  
AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW)  
Bangor/Mindoro Christmas Baskets  
Bethel Butikk  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse  
Cavalier Cupboard-WTC  
Cashton Cupboard & Closet  
Cashton Trinity Lutheran\*  
Catholic Charities  
Central Lutheran Church-Winona\*  
Clearwater Farms\*  
Come for Supper  
Coulee Council on Addictions  
Couleecap  
Crossfire Youth Center  
Ecumenical Food Pantry - Sparta  
Emerson Elementary  
Feed the Kids\*  
First Evangelical Free Church  
Franklin Elementary  
From the Heart Food Pantry  
Hamilton Elementary  
Headstart\*  
Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA)  
Ho-Chunk Nation Youth & Learning Center  
Holmen's Hope  
Holtan House\*  
Horizon Christian Fellowship\*  
Housing Authority of Lax (7 low- income sites)  
La Crosse County WIC  
La Crosse Public Library\*  
La Crescent United Methodist\*  
La Crescent Lunch Wagon\*  
Logan High School

Logan Middle School  
Longfellow Middle School  
Monday Meals  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Centers  
Northside Elementary  
North Woods International School  
Onalaska Schools Food Pantry  
Onalaska United Methodist Church  
Onalaska/Holmen Food Basket  
Oxford House (3 sites)  
Place of Grace  
Reaching Out Ministries\*  
RiteWay Club\*  
River of Life Church  
River's Harvest Church  
Salvation Army  
School District of La Crosse-Integrated Support  
St. Patrick's School - Sparta  
Stoddard Community Food Pantry  
Summit Elementary  
Three Rivers Fellowship Church  
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
Viking Elementary - Holmen  
Viterbo  
Westby Area Youth - WAY  
Wesley United Methodist\*  
West Salem Presbyterian Church  
YMCA  
YWCA

## The Kane Street Community Garden

In 2016, 34,537 pounds of produce were grown in the garden; nearly a record year! Partnering with others, the garden was able to secure and distribute nearly 75,000 additional pounds of food to low income individuals and families. Surplus produce not given out at the garden was distributed through The Food Recovery Program to the 90+ partner programs The Hunger Task Force Food Recovery Program serves.

## 2016 Food Donors

Ashley Furniture  
Blue Stars  
BMO Harris  
Boy Scouts  
Boys & Girls Club  
Carlos O'Kelly's  
Central High School  
Centurylink  
City Brewery  
Community Hunger Solutions  
Coulee Region Humane Society  
Canadian Pacific Holiday Train  
Craig's Meats  
Dahl Automotive  
Delta Sigma Pi  
Edwardo's  
Elmaro Vineyard  
Family Fest  
Festival Foods  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Fort McCoy  
Fox 25/48  
Girl Scouts  
Good Greens  
Great Lakes Cheese  
High Rollers Skating Center  
Hedgehog ATV  
Home Depot  
I-Feed  
IrishFest  
Kaplan Professional  
Kane Street Community Garden  
Kemps  
Keystone  
Kwik Trip  
L & M Tavern  
La Crosse Radio Group  
La Crosse Vet Clinic  
Little Minds Daycare  
Logan High School  
Logistics Health Inc.  
Marco's Pizza  
Marine Credit Union  
Mathy Construction  
Mayo Health System

Merchants Bank  
Midwest Family Broadcasting  
Mid-West TV & Appliance  
Nabisco  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Onalaska Emergency Food Basket  
Organic Farming Conference  
Organic Valley/Organic Logistics  
Private Donors  
Radisson Hotel  
Reaching Out Ministries  
Reinhart FoodService  
Republican Party  
River City Corvette Club  
Rocky Mountain Elks  
Ron Kind-Kind Communities  
Rotary Lights  
Salvation Army  
SAP  
Sara Lee Outlet  
Share The Bounty  
Sprint  
Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carrier's Food Drive  
St. Joseph's Equipment  
St. Patrick's Parish  
Stoddard Community Food Pantry  
Thanksgiving Dinner Committee  
Trane Company  
UnitedHealthcare  
UWL  
Wal-Mart Distribution Center  
Western Technical College  
Westby Coop Creamery  
WIC  
WKBT News Channel 8  
WXOW  
YMCA

And So Many More!

*Thank You!*