

THE HUNGER TASK FORCE



Annual Report 2017

May 2018

A Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

20 years.... we have certainly grown. From our humble beginnings of becoming a 501(c3) in 1998 and servicing 3 pantries to 2018 and being able to meet the needs of over 90+ partner programs and meal sites, we have indeed come a long way. “To eliminate hunger by harvesting community resources and being the voice of the hungry” continues to be our mission as we reach out to the above mentioned programs within a 100 mile radius of La Crosse.

All of our growth and additional services we have been able to provide over the past 20 years could not have been made possible without the yearly support of our generous benefactors, the tireless efforts of our countless volunteers and our dedicated staff. I encourage you to check out Shelly Fortner, our executive director’s annual report to read first-hand the tremendous progress we made in 2017 as we distributed over 1.5 million pounds of food. The Hunger Task Force’s Kane Street Community Garden harvested over 34,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to share with the public during the growing season. In addition, as the greater La Crosse area’s only “**Free & Local**” food bank, we remain focused on informing the public of our mission through education, advocacy and special events.

A volunteer board of directors continues to govern the Hunger Task Force as they have done so 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 2018 a year of further growth and opportunity. All of us working together will help us to keep on making gains on achieving our ultimate goal of eliminating hunger.

Sincerely,

Joanne Stephens

Joanne Stephens
Board President

Executive Director's Report

2017 Board of Directors:

President: Joanne Stephens

Vice-President: Gene Linse

Secretary: Jill Hamilton

Treasurer: Scott Turnbull

Marilyn Hurt

June Gale

Ken Schmocker

Monica Lazere

Nancy Fee

Keith Buswell

Nick Lichter

Christine Smith

Anthony Gingrasso

Barb Buswell

Cedric Friesen

Jeannie Groskreutz

Jessica Leone

Steve Daniel

Angie Limberg

Friends,

To have a non-profit be able to say they are celebrating 20 years of service says a lot about the company. In our case, it's the "company" we keep.

We keep company with the many food providers in the counties we serve. They work every day to make sure their clients get the healthy meals they need. They come together to share ideas and successes to make a difference in their communities.

We keep company with the generous donor suppliers who give us the food we distribute. They know that they are eliminating the waste of perfectly good food by donating to our Free and Local Food Bank, and they know we will keep it safe and temperature controlled until we do.

We keep company with our fabulous staff, board, and volunteers. We know that we could not make it through the day without the talents of those who give of their time so generously. Whether it is in the food bank warehouse or the Kane Street Community Garden, we are so very fortunate to have the help and commitment of our team members and volunteers.

We keep company with our invaluable financial supporters. They believe, like we do, that everyone deserves access to food, the most basic of human needs. They give to their community with open hearts.

For 20 years, The Hunger Task Force has been in good company. We can't credit you all enough for being partners in our mission to eliminate hunger.

We thank you for your support, past and present. And we ask you for your continued support in our future. The future of our community. The future for those in need of food.

In Service,

Shelly Fortner
Executive Director

Thank you to outgoing members:

- Tiffany Olson
- Ken Alexander

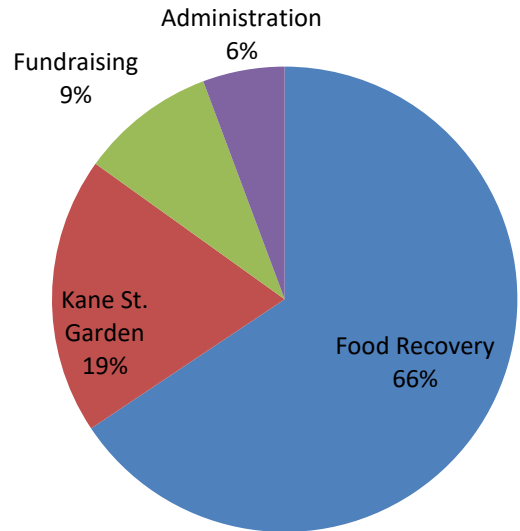


Financial Report

2017 Expenses

HTF Expenses During 2017

1. Kane St. Garden	\$ 66,141	19%
2. Food Recovery	\$225,374	66%
3. Fundraising	\$ 32,315	9%
4. Administration	\$ 19,541	6%
TOTAL:	\$343,370	



HTF Income During 2017:

Grants:	\$93,284
Fundraising:	\$93,807
General Donations:	\$90,499
United Way:	\$29,170
Partner Support:	\$9,707
In Kind:	\$2,440
Investment Income:	\$862
TOTAL:	\$319,769

Fund Balance 12/31/17: Treasury Index Account: \$201,460.05 Checking: \$58,057.52
 Unaudited-For Internal Use Only

Food Recovery Program (Food Bank)

- Provided FREE to partners-no membership, delivery, or per pound fee
- 102 individual food pantries, meal sites and youth programs served.
- Counties served:
 - La Crosse (WI)
 - Vernon (WI)
 - Trempealeau (WI)
 - Monroe (WI)
 - Houston (MN)
 - Winona (MN)
- 1,527,288 lbs. recovered
- Partners reported 64,359 individuals served

The Kane Street Community Garden

- In 2017, 34,236 pounds of produce were grown in the garden; nearly a record year!
- 3,262 recipient visits
- 10.5 lbs. average per recipient
- 2,247 unique volunteers
- 9,757 volunteer hours
- 25 Children's and 25 Adult workshops given with 465 participants
- Partnering with others, the garden was able to secure and distribute nearly 75,000 additional pounds of food to low income individuals and families through outreach sites
- 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.