

THE HUNGER TASK FORCE



Annual Report 2018

May 2019

A Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

In January of this year I stepped into the role of Board President of the Hunger Task Force. Joanne Stephens retired at the end of 2018 after 3 years as President so she can spend more time with her family. In this short space I cannot adequately express our great appreciation for the contributions she has made to our organization and to the fight against hunger. While stepping down as President, she is still committed to our mission and will continue to share her time and talents with us as a board member.

As our local economy continues to flourish it is disappointing that so many of our neighbors and friends still suffer from a food shortage. The number of food pantries and meal sites that the HTF supports grew from 100 in 2017 to 116 by the end of 2018. In 2018 we collected, warehoused and distributed over 1,540,700 pounds of free food to 116 food programs within a 100 mile radius of La Crosse. Our Kane Street garden recorded another successful year providing 28,893 pounds of fresh produce.

The Hunger Task Force Board of Directors continues to search for new ways to raise the finances to support this continued growth. As a 501©3 organization we receive no government support and rely solely upon the generosity of donors and volunteers and the hard work of a small but dedicated staff. 2019 promises to provide new challenges, but with your help and the help of many people just like you, the HTF will continue to harvest community resources and provide free food to all of the deserving clients at the meal sites and food pantries across the Coulee Region.

Sincerely,

Gene Linse

Gene Linse
Board President

Executive Director's Report

2018 Board of Directors:

President: Joanne Stephens

Vice-President: Gene Linse

Secretary: Jill Hamilton

Treasurer: Scott Turnbull

Marilyn Hurt

June Gale

Ken Schmocker

Monica Lazere

Keith Buswell

Nick Lichter

Christine Smith

Anthony Gingrasso

Cedric Friesen

Jeannie Groskreutz

Jessica Leone

Steve Daniel

Angie Limberg

Thank you to outgoing members!

- Barb Buswell
- Nancy Fee

Friends,

Before I came to Hunger Task Force (HTF), I really had no idea how many people in La Crosse did not have enough food. Sure, I coordinated a food pantry, but did not understand the scope of the community problem.

At HTF, by partnering with the majority of food programs in the area, I've been able to get a clearer picture. I know that nearly half of our school age children qualify for free or reduced meals in the La Crosse school district alone. I know that parents are making tough choices between providing food or paying bills. How could we let kids go without food? Our Food Bank makes sure that doesn't happen.

In recent years, our Kane Street Community Garden staff and over 2500 volunteers harvested nearly 30,000 pounds of nutritious produce and shared it with those in need. We also teach people HOW to garden so they can take home the skills to grow their own vegetables. It feels great watching the community come together to grow food and share it with each other

I come to work each day to do my part to help provide our partners with food so their choices are a little easier. I am proud to be part of an organization that has such an impact when it comes to hunger relief.

In Service,

Shelly Fortner
Executive Director



"We are a voice of the hungry, harvesting community resources to alleviate hunger"

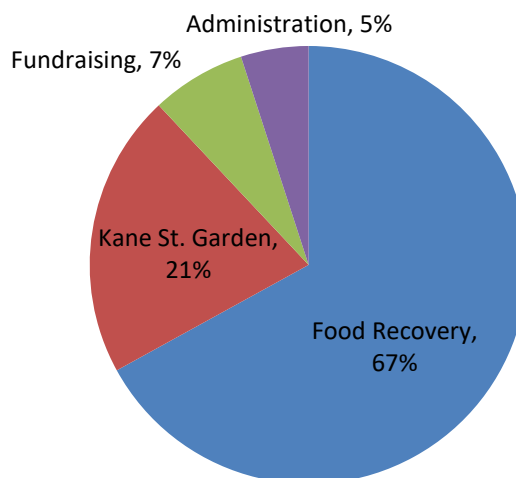
Financial Report

2018 Expenses

HTF Expenses During 2018

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| 1. Kane St. Garden | \$ 66,615 | 21% |
| 2. Food Recovery | \$216,412 | 67% |
| 3. Fundraising | \$ 16,301 | 5% |
| 4. Administration | \$ 22,132 | 7% |

TOTAL: \$321,460



HTF Income During 2018:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grants: | \$45,148.50 |
| Fundraising: | \$74,715 |
| General Donations: | \$96,492.34 |
| United Way: | \$29,217.89 |
| Partner Support: | \$11,970 |
| In Kind: | \$3,171.02 |
| Investment Income: | \$992.20 |
| TOTAL: | \$261,706.95 |

Fund Balance 12/31/18: Treasury Index Account: \$145,666.20 Checking: \$53,815.47
Unaudited-For Internal Use Only

Food Recovery Program (Food Bank)

- Provided FREE to partners-no membership, delivery, or per pound fee
- 114 individual food pantries, meal sites and youth programs served.
- Counties served:
 - La Crosse (WI)
 - Vernon (WI)
 - Trempealeau (WI)
 - Monroe (WI)
 - Houston (MN)
 - Winona (MN)
- 1,560,266 lbs. recovered
- Partners reported 275, 494 individuals served

The Kane Street Community Garden

- In 2018, 28,893 pounds of produce were grown in the garden.
- 4,787 volunteer visits
- 16.8 lbs. average per recipient
- 1,250 unique volunteers
- 7,821 volunteer hours
- 25 Children's and Adult workshops given with 169 participants
- Partnering with others, the garden was able to secure and distribute nearly 34,227 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 100+ partner programs The Hunger Task Force Food Recovery Program serves.