Nearly 1 in 10 Minnesotans are food insecure. 1 in 10. That’s half-a-million Minnesotans who don’t always know where their next meal is coming from. Hunger can seem like a big, insurmountable problem. It won’t go away overnight. But if we work together, we have the power to solve it.

In 2016, Hunger Solutions continued our work to build a strong, statewide hunger relief network through collaboration, connecting struggling individuals with resources, and advocating for strong anti-hunger policies and programs.

Our work with both federal and state government agencies advances programs that tackle hunger on a large scale. We work with food banks and food shelves to distribute food and connect people struggling with hunger with the help they need to put food on their table. And we work with public and private sector partners to bring community resources to the table to move us closer to a Minnesota without hunger.

As the only anti-hunger organization whose services reach every county in the state, we are fighting hunger not only today, but also finding long-term solutions to end hunger in the future as well.

Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director
VISITS TO FOOD SHELVES
Minnesotans made 3,327,388 visits to food shelves in 2016—the sixth consecutive year with more than 3 million visits.

Food shelf visits by region, 2016

Share of food shelf visits by type, 2016

↑38.6% from 2012

THE OPEN YOUR HEART FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE LEVERAGED

$150,000 matching funds → $1.2 million in local fundraising by 159 food shelves

STATE GRANTS TO FOOD SHELVES
Hunger Solutions, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, distributes state grants to food shelves.

In 2016, $2.6 million was distributed to 276 food shelves throughout Minnesota.
Mobile food shelves increase access to nutritious food for individuals who experience barriers to accessing traditional bricks-and-mortar food shelves because of transportation or mobility challenges. In 2016, mobile food shelf funding resulted in:

- **3 vehicles** purchased
- **41** new service sites
- **1.77 million** pounds of food distributed
- **102,688 visits**
  - 50.2% of which were by seniors

**THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Hunger Solutions partners with the Minnesota Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to administer USDA’s The Emergency Food Assistance Program. TEFAP is the backbone of the emergency food system, providing commodity foods to food banks, food shelves, and meal programs. In FFY 2016, we distributed:

- **70** products
- **10,452,148** pounds of food
- **valued at $7.8 million**
  - to 7 food banks serving 270 food shelves.
MINNESOTA FOOD HELPLINE
A program of Hunger Solutions Minnesota

The Minnesota Food HelpLine answered 6,230 calls, emails, and live chats from people looking for help with food resources in 2016. We connected 8,010 people with food resources.

HelpLine Calls by Type, 2016

- Live calls: 4,478
- Emails: 841
- Voice mails: 741
- Live chat: 166

Where HelpLine Callers Were Referred, 2016

- County Office: 1,689
- Food Shelf: 1,276
- Farmers Market: 927
- ApplyMN: 838
- EBT Service Center: 766
- Fare for All: 378
- Meal Program: 151
- NAPS: 119
- Other: 111

Calls to the HelpLine came from 85 of Minnesota’s 87 counties.

MINNESOTA FOOD HELPLINE BY-THE-NUMBERS

- 1,132 callers were screened and qualified for SNAP
- 2,259 callers were already enrolled in SNAP
- 1,044 SNAP applications were mailed
MARKET BUCKS
Hunger Solutions helped pass legislation to make Minnesota’s Market Bucks program the first publicly-funded farmers market incentive program in the nation. Market Bucks double the amount SNAP customers spend at farmers markets (up to $10 per market visit) and were offered at 85 market locations during the regular farmers market season from May 1 to October 31, 2016.

MARKET BUCKS
BY-THE-NUMBERS
3,380
first time SNAP customers using Market Bucks at farmers markets

2x
Market Bucks double the amount of money SNAP customers have to spend at farmers markets

$554,745
Market Bucks & EBT were spent by customers at farmers markets—153% more than the year before

$992,993
the amount of economic activity created by Market Bucks
PARTNERS TO END HUNGER
Hunger Solutions convenes and chairs the Partners to End Hunger Coalition, a group of over 25 organizations working together on a common legislative agenda with three priority bills aimed at reducing hunger across the state of Minnesota.

- Increase funding to Minnesota’s food shelves,
- Improve SNAP for adults without dependents, and,
- Support the Good Food Access Fund.

VOICE OF HUNGER NETWORK
The Voice of Hunger Network connects anti-hunger advocates to lawmakers via through action alerts, emails, phone calls, and Hunger Day on the Hill. In 2016, constituents made 139 contacts with lawmakers on behalf of Partners to End Hunger legislative priorities.

HUNGER DAY ON THE HILL
The 2nd annual Hunger Day on the Hill brought 100 advocates together to learn about legislative bills and meet with their legislators.

“Hunger Day’ is great! I was nervous about meeting my legislators for the first time, but the handouts and training at the event were so helpful. I’m excited to take my advocacy on food issues to the next level.”

~Hunger Day on the Hill Participant
95.4% of Hunger Solutions Minnesota’s funding goes to program services.

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AND FOUNDATION DONORS

$50,000+
Food Research & Action Center
Hunt Electric
Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

$15,000-$49,999
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Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
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MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Otto Bremer Trust
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Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
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Barr Engineering Company
Blue Cross Blue Sheild of Minnesota
Cargill
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation

For additional financial information, including our audited financial statements, Form 990, and list of contributors visit http://hungersolutions.org/annualreport.
Hunger Solutions Minnesota works to end hunger in our state. We take action to assure food security for all Minnesotans by supporting programs and agencies that provide food to those in need, advancing sound public policy, and guiding grassroots advocacy.

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We’ve been ranked the most efficient civic nonprofit by Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal 3 years running.