At Hunger Solutions Minnesota, we believe having access to food is a basic human right. Our focus and commitment are to take action to assure people struggling to avoid hunger are provided with consistent access to affordable, nutritious food to feed themselves and their families. With nearly 1 in 12 Minnesotans facing food insecurity, we advocate for the 500,000 Minnesotans who don’t always know where their next meal is coming from.

In 2018, Minnesota adults, children, and seniors made 3.4 million visits to food shelves—a new record high—marking the 8th consecutive year food shelf visits exceeded 3 million. The number of food shelf visits roughly reflect each region’s percentage of the state’s overall population. So, it doesn’t matter if you live in a rural area, a suburb, or urban area – hunger is a serious issue throughout the state. This is where we come in.

Our work is to end hunger in Minnesota by addressing food insecurity on all fronts. We provide resources to put food directly on the table through the Minnesota Food HelpLine, Market Bucks, and SNAP Rx programs. Our food shelf capacity initiatives assist our nearly 300 food shelf members in their work to distribute food to 3.4 million visitors annually. We work with federal and state government to coordinate the acquisition and distribution of commodity food to Minnesota food banks and food shelves through TEFAP, which in 2018 was $8.2 million dollars’ worth of food. Serving as the anti-hunger community’s leading voice at the Minnesota legislature, we remain steadfast defending Minnesota’s food safety net and addressing systemic issues of poverty in order to end hunger long-term. And through collaborative action, we engage in initiatives that support the strength of the community-wide alliances needed to eliminate barriers to food access to assure food security for all Minnesotans.

We thank you for your support last year and we look forward to our future work together. Let’s keep up the fight!

Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director
Visits to food shelves
Minnesotans made 3,424,406 visits to food shelves in 2018—the eighth consecutive year with more than 3 million visits.

Share of food shelf visits by age, 2018
- **Children** - 35.7% 1,222,671 visits
  - Down 3.1% from 2013
- **Seniors** - 10.2% 349,387 visits
  - Up 50.3% from 2013
- **Adults** - 54.1% 1,853,348 visits
  - Up 8.0% from 2013

The Open Your Heart Fundraising Challenge leveraged

$100,000 matching funds → $1.44 million in local fundraising by 130 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 2018, nearly $2 million was distributed to 276 food shelves throughout Minnesota.

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 2018 (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018), we distributed TEFAP to 7 food banks serving 325 food shelves:

- **$7.8 million**
- **$9,600,000** pounds of food
- **60** products
The Minnesota Food HelpLine answered 4,026 calls, emails, and live chats from people looking for help with food resources in 2018. We connected at least 5,852 people with food resources.

604 callers were screened and qualified for SNAP
1,153 callers were already enrolled in SNAP
754 SNAP applications were mailed

Calls to the HelpLine came from 84 of Minnesota’s 87 counties.

SNAP Outreach

SNAP Rx partners with health care providers to improve the food security their patients. Clinics screen their patients for food insecurity during routine care and refer food insecure patients to the Minnesota Food HelpLine where we connect them with food resources in their local community. In 2018, we received 295 referrals from clinics. Of those, we connected with 54.3% of patients.

295 referrals received
160 patients reached

50% already on SNAP
22.5% screened & likely eligible for SNAP

In addition to SNAP, we made referrals to other food programs:
78 Food shelves
67 Meal programs
58 Fare for All
45 Farmers Markets
20 WIC
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). Market Bucks were offered at 99 market locations during the regular farmers market season from May 1 to October 31, 2018.

### Market Bucks By-the-Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time SNAP customers using Market Bucks at farmers markets</td>
<td>6,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Bucks double the amount of money SNAP customers have to spend at farmers markets</td>
<td>2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Bucks &amp; EBT were spent by customers at farmers markets</td>
<td>$346,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The amount of economic activity created by Market Bucks</td>
<td>$619,474</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 four priority bills aimed at reducing hunger across the state of Minnesota:

1. Continue mobile food shelf funding,
2. End school lunch shaming,
3. Fully funding milk grant to food shelves, &

The Partners to End Hunger Coalition was successful in fighting off cuts to the Good Food Access Fund, as well as a bill that would've brought back the asset limit for SNAP in Minnesota. Mobile food shelf funding and lunch shaming were included in initial budget negotiations but failed to pass because the omnibus bill was vetoed by the Governor.

### Voice of Hunger Network

The Voice of Hunger Network connects anti-hunger advocates to lawmakers through action alerts, emails, phone calls, and Hunger Day on the Hill. In 2018, constituents made 466 email contacts and countless phone calls and visits with lawmakers on behalf of Partners to End Hunger legislative priorities.

### Hunger Day on the Hill

The 4th annual Hunger Day on the Hill brought 100+ advocates together to learn about legislative bills and meet with their legislators.
95% of Hunger Solutions Minnesota's funding goes to program services.

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$50,000+
Otto Bremer Trust
Food Research & Action Center
Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

$15,000-$50,000
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$1,000-$4,999
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Barr Engineering Company
Cargill
Felhaber Larson

For additional financial information, including our audited financial statements, Form 990, and list of contributors visit http://hungersolutions.org/annualreport.

Our apologies for any omissions or errors in presenting our 2018 donor listing. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Development Manager, Timi Bliss, at 651-789-9845 or tbliss@hungersolutions.org.
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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