

# Annual Report 2019



In 2019, nearly 1 in 12 Minnesotans were food insecure - that's close to 500,000 Minnesota adults, children, and seniors who didn't know where their next meal was coming from. 2019 marked the 9th consecutive year with over 3 million visits to food shelves, setting a new record with 3.4 million visits made to food shelves by our family, friends and neighbors. These visits happen in every corner of the state, so it doesn't matter if you live in a rural, suburban or urban area - hunger exists in every community.

Hunger Solutions Minnesota works to end hunger in three ways: connecting hungry people with food today, working with food banks and food shelves to distribute food tomorrow, and advocating for programs and policies that will lead to long-term solutions to hunger. Through the Minnesota Food HelpLine, Market Bucks, and SNAP Rx programs we were able to connect almost 8,000 Minnesotans to local food resources in 2019. Our food shelf capacity work helped our 300 food shelf members in distribute food to 3.4 million visitors, and we worked with federal and state government to coordinate the acquisition and distribution of 17.2 million lbs of commodity food to Minnesota food banks and food shelves through TEFAP. Serving as the anti-hunger community's leading voice at the Minnesota legislature, we remained 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 engaged 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.

Not all Minnesotans are impacted equally though. Black and Hispanic/Latino Minnesotans reported food insecurity at more than double the rate of White residents. Hunger Solutions Minnesota is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential components to fulfilling our mission to end hunger in the state. Hunger Solutions believes transformative change requires authentic inclusion of those directly impacted by food insecurity in identifying the most meaningful solutions to dismantle barriers. We passionately work as an active partner bridging the perspectives of people experiencing hunger, organizations on the front lines of hunger relief, and multi-sector food system leaders to advance equity and achieve a more just food system that works for everyone.

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

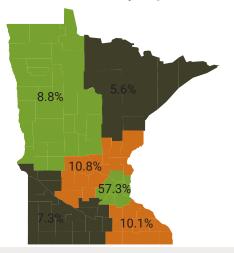
Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director

# **Food Shelf Capacity**

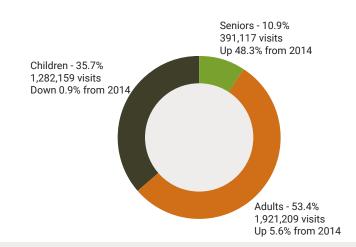
#### Visits to food shelves

Minnesotans made 3,594,545 visits to food shelves in 2019—the nineth consecutive year with more than 3 million visits.

#### Food shelf visits by region, 2019



#### Food shelf visits by age, 2019



# The Open Your Heart Fundraising Challenge leveraged

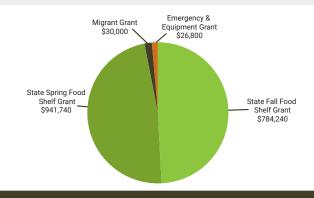
\$80,000 matching funds

\$1.55 million
in local fundraising by 123 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 2019, \$1.78 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 2019 (October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019), we distributed TEFAP to 7 food banks serving 325 food shelves:



17,200,000 pounds of food





The Minnesota Food HelpLine answered **5,318 calls**, emails, and live chats from people looking for help with food resources in 2019. We connected at least **7,869 people** with food resources.

# HelpLine Calls by Type, 2019 Live Chats 247 Voicemails 655 Live Calls

# Top 5 Referrals



506
callers
were
screened
and
qualified
for SNAP

1,578
callers
were
already
enrolled in
SNAP

1,151 SNAP applications were mailed

1.) Food Shelf	1,961
2.) County Office	1,517
3.) Fare For All	1,017
4.) ApplyMN	826
4.) EBT Service Center	483
5.) Meal Program	277

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

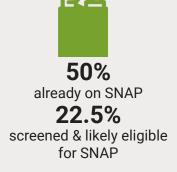
#### SNAP Rx

SNAP Rx is a program of Hunger Solutions Minnesota that strengthens the connection between health care and hunger relief organizations. Clinics use the Hunger Vital Sign screening tool to screen their patients for food insecurity during routine care. Patients who screen positive for food insecurity are referred to the Minnesota Food HelpLine and connected with food resources in their local community. The HelpLine connects people with places like their local food shelf and programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP Rx helps clinics to leverage the food access expertise of the Minnesota Food HelpLine to address their patients' social determinants of health. In 2019, we received 1109 referrals from clinics. Of those, we connected with 58% of patients.







# **Market Bucks**

#### 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). Market Bucks were offered at 106 market locations during the regular farmers market season from May 1 to October 31, 2019.

# Market Bucks By-the-Numbers

6,436

first time SNAP customers using Market Bucks at farmers markets **2**x

Market Bucks double the amount of money SNAP customers have to spend at farmers markets \$305,272

Market Bucks & EBT were spent by customers at farmers markets \$546,436

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 30 organizations working together on a common legislative agenda with five priority bills aimed at reducing hunger across the state of Minnesota:

- 1.) Fully fund the Good Food Access Program,
- 2.) Improve school breakfast and end school lunch shaming,
- 2.) Farm to school and early care,
- 3.) Urban Agriculture Grant Program, &
- 4.) Hunger Free Campuses.



The Partners to End Hunger Coalition was successful in achieving continued funding for the Good Food Access Fund, secured \$400,000/year in fudnign for the Farm to School iniatives, continued funding for the Urban agriculture program, maintained funding for Market Bucks, and advocated with state and federal partners against proposed rule changes that would've harmed millions of SNAP recipients.

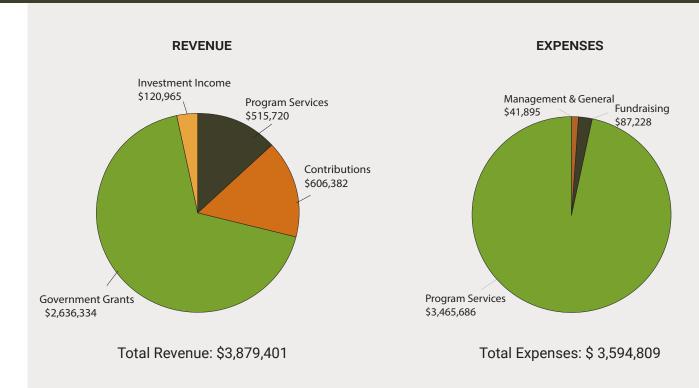
## Voice of Hunger Network

The Voice of Hunger Network connects anti-hunger advocates to lawmakers through 2, 500+ action alerts, emails, phone calls, and Hunger Day on the Hill. In 2019, constituents made 330 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 5th annual Hunger Day on the Hill brought nearly 300 advocates together to learn about legislative bills and meet with their legislators.



96% of Hunger Solutions Minnesota's funding goes to program services.

# Corporate, Business, and Foundation Donors

#### \$50,000+

Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

## \$15,000-\$50,000

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Jime & Yvonne Sexton Family
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## \$1,000-\$4,999

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Minnesota
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen
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Greater Twin Cities United Way
Barr Engineering Company
BNSF Railway
Summer Fund
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 2019 donor listing. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Development Coordinator, Abbie Tish, at 651-789-9848 or atish@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, building grassroots advocacy, and informing and educating critical stakeholders about the status of hunger in Minnesota.

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