



The Montana Food Bank Network

Feeding Montana since 1983, the Montana Food Bank Network's mission is to end hunger in Montana, through food acquisition and distribution, advocacy and education. Guided by its sixteen member Board of Directors and core values of Justice, Excellence, Trust, Integrity, Respect and Diversity, the organization fills a unique niche in solving Montana's hunger problem, through its broad statewide network. Its support base of hunger fighters include over 25,000 individual donors, multiple foundations and corporations, legislators, government agency directors, school administrators and nearly 200 local Partner Agencies, which include all types of crisis feeding programs such as your local food pantry, low income daycares, homeless shelters and senior citizen centers. The Montana Food Bank Network provides up to 90% of the food some of our Partner Agencies distribute, in order to meet the emergency need the most vulnerable among us have for one of life's most basic human needs – food. The organization simultaneously works to address the root causes of hunger, in order to provide long term solutions to the problem.

Currently, hunger in the state of Montana is at an all time high. Contributing factors include the reality that only 20% of the jobs provide a living wage, which explains why hard working Montanans often work two jobs yet are still not able to pay their bills and provide enough food for their families. Hunger affects every demographic, including seniors, children, the disabled and veterans. Last year, over 175,000 Montanans needed emergency food. More than 40,000 of them were children. In truth, 1 in 5 of our kids in Montana lives in poverty and 1 in 10 lives in *deep* poverty. It is known that poverty leads to empty tummies and that has long lasting ramifications for the future of not only our children, but for our state. For chronically hungry children, consuming an adequate amount of nutritious food is a significant problem. Chronically hungry children do not live healthy, happy lives. They cannot learn and often do not develop physically, socially or mentally to their full potential so that they can become individuals that make positive contributions back to their communities. They simply need adequate amounts of nutritious food in order to grow into strong, capable adults. Research associates chronic hunger with a host of educational problems among grade school children, which include a negative impact on regular attendance, attention problems, low math scores, and impaired social interactions. Innocent, helpless children experience hunger as perhaps the most unfair and cruellest of life's hard lessons. As you saw in the video, their eyes reveal bewilderment at their terrible need. Alarming, this is happening right now, right here in Montana

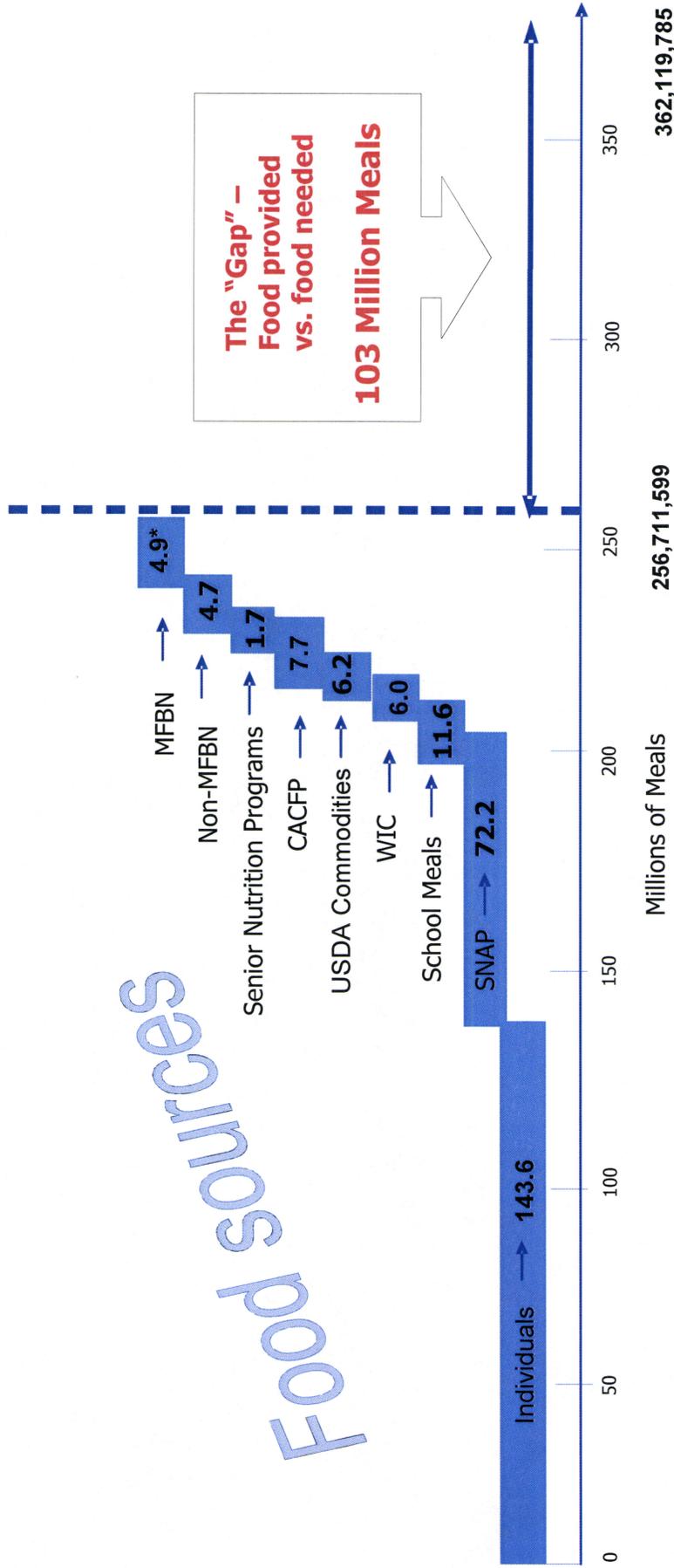
The organization's programs are indicative of a consistent focus: find and distribute food to hungry Montanans and work to eliminate the root causes of hunger. Montana Food Bank Network programs include 1.) The Food Distribution Program which provides food to Partner Agencies statewide for distribution on the local level, 2.) The Backpack Program to provide food on the weekends and school breaks for children that depend on school lunch and breakfast, 3.) The Mobile Pantry Program which brings a full semi truck full of food (20-40,000 pounds) into areas without enough local infrastructure to support those in need, 4.) The Community Engagement Program to create relationships, collaborations and grassroots involvement at every level, and 5.) The Food Purchase Program which leverages purchasing power in order to provide as much food as possible to those most in need. In addition, the Montana Food Bank Network has a Food Security Council that has identified 10 steps to end child hunger by 2021, through the End Child Hunger Program.

The efficiency of the Montana Food Bank Network is demonstrated best by its administrative costs of just 6% according to its 2010 audit, which earned Charity Navigator's four star rating. Through economies of scale and leveraging power, the organization can distribute 9 pounds of food for every donated dollar. A staff of sixteen talented and motivated individuals is led by its Chief Executive Officer and Senior Staff, whose goals include, being as effective as possible in all endeavors, while continually evaluating the cost efficiencies of various programs and processes. Volunteers are engaged in a wide variety of ways, which greatly enhance the organization while keeping operating costs low.

The Montana Food Bank Network is committed to ending hunger in Montana, through its statewide system of partners, associations, relationships, collaborators and donors. The organization provides an opportunity to *make a profound difference in the lives of the most vulnerable among us*. Many are joining together to help their hungry neighbors, because together we can end hunger in Montana.

How big is the gap?

- 132,281 households live at or below 185% of Poverty in Montana. A Household is considered to be 2.5 persons
- Below 185% of poverty means < \$32,747 /year for a household of 2.5 individuals (2011)
- Total annual meals required for these children, families and seniors struggling with hunger is 362,119,785
- Meals currently provided through all programs listed below is 256,711,599.



*MFBN meals do not include TEFAP distributed by MFBN
 Non-MFBN emergency food from local communities
 USDA Commodities include TEFAP, CSFP, SIP, and FDPPIR
 School Meals include lunch, breakfast and summer for Free and Reduced Priced meals.



Unmet Food Need in Montana Supporting Documentation

Montana Food Bank Network, September 2011

Methods are based on Food Lifeline, Seattle *Missing Meals 2008* methodology.

Unit of Measurement: Meals. When the source data was available in pounds, pounds are converted to meals by dividing the pounds by 1.49. There are 1.49 pounds in a meal according to the average compiled from Thrifty Food Plan guidelines.

When source data was available in dollars, dollars are converted to meals by dividing the dollars by \$2.53. The Map the Meal Gap report by Feeding America shows data collected by The Neilson Company in Montana to reveal the average cost of a meal to be \$2.53 in the state.

The need is measured by the number of households in Montana at and below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. 185% of the poverty level is used as the highest income bracket to determine the total number of people because:

- It is the maximum income level qualification for *most* of USDA's food programs (with the exception of SNAP; however it is unlikely that many people between 185% and 200% of FPL are actually eligible for SNAP)
- USDA research has shown that households with incomes at or below 185% of poverty are likely to be at risk of hunger.

Total Low Income Households:

1. Determine the income level for a household of 2.5 at 185% of poverty using 2011 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Income level cut off= \$32,747
2. Determine number of households below \$32,747 using 2009 US Census America Community Survey estimates for Montana. Data is available in income categories (e.g. \$20,000 to \$24,999; \$25,000 to \$29,999). The income category ceiling closest to \$32,747 is \$29,999. There are a total of 132,281 households below this \$29,999 income ceiling that is closest to 185% of poverty.

Total Low Income Individuals:

FORMULA: Multiply the number of households by 2.5 (The average household size in Montana is 2.5 people (US Census Bureau Fact Finder)). $132,281 \text{ households} \times 2.5 = 330,703 \text{ Individuals}$.

Annual Meals Needed to Feed all Low Income People:

FORMULA: Multiply the number of individuals by 3 (meals per day) by 365 (number of days per year). $330,703 \times 3 \times 365 = 362,119,785 \text{ total meals needed}$.

Total Meals Provided by Individuals:

Weighted average income per person is \$7,780.30 x 14.12% of income spent on food = \$1,098.58 spent on food per person x 330,703 individuals = \$363,303,702 divided by \$2.53 cost per meal = 143,598,301 meals provided by individuals.

To determine the number of meals low income people can provide for themselves, the average individual income and the percentage of income spent on food must be determined.

Average household income: We use a weighted average calculated by multiplying the number of households in each income category by the ceiling dollar amount for that category, summing these

categories, and dividing the sum by the total number of households in all categories. The average household income is: \$19,451.

Percent of income spent on food: US Bureau of Labor Statistics 2009 survey of consumer expenditures shows that households with incomes between \$15,000-\$19,999 spend 14.12% of their income on food. We use the income category which includes the average household income established for this report: \$19,451.

Food Program Meals calculations:

SNAP: FY 2010 average participation 117,035 individuals multiplied by the average benefit \$129.86 per month multiplied by 12 months= \$182,798,727 divided by \$2.53 average cost per meal = 72,252,461 meals.

School Meals: Average Daily Participation (ADP) for Free and Reduced Price (FRP) school lunch, breakfast and summer meals. School Lunch: 2010 FRP ADP students= 43,523 multiplied by 180 school days= 7,834,140 meals. School Breakfast: 2010 FRP ADP students= 18,523 multiplied by 180 school days = 3,334,140 meals. Summer Food: 2011 total lunches served 302,372 plus total breakfast served 105,533 = 407,905 meals.

WIC: Program dollar amount 2009 \$15,148,321 divided by \$2.53 = 5,987,478 meals.

USDA Commodities:

- TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) TEFAP includes food distributed through MFBN, non-MFBN food banks and pantries, and soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Calculated using pounds: 2,560,982 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,718,779 meals
- CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) calculated using dollars: \$1,787,454 divided by \$2.53 = 706,503 meals. (If calculated using pounds: 2,899,988 divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,946,300 meals)
- FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) calculated using dollars: \$1,245,995 divided by \$2.53 = 492,488 meals. (If calculated using pounds: 1,982,892 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 1,330,800 meals)
- NSIP (Nutrition Services Incentive Program): data source is meals: 1,250,000 meals.

CACFP: Data source is meals: 2010 total meals 7,708,962.

Senior Nutrition Programs: Includes Home delivered Meals on Wheels (non-commodities) and Senior Congregate meals. Reported in meals: 630,371 home delivered meals + 1,108,184 congregate meals = 1,738,555 meals.

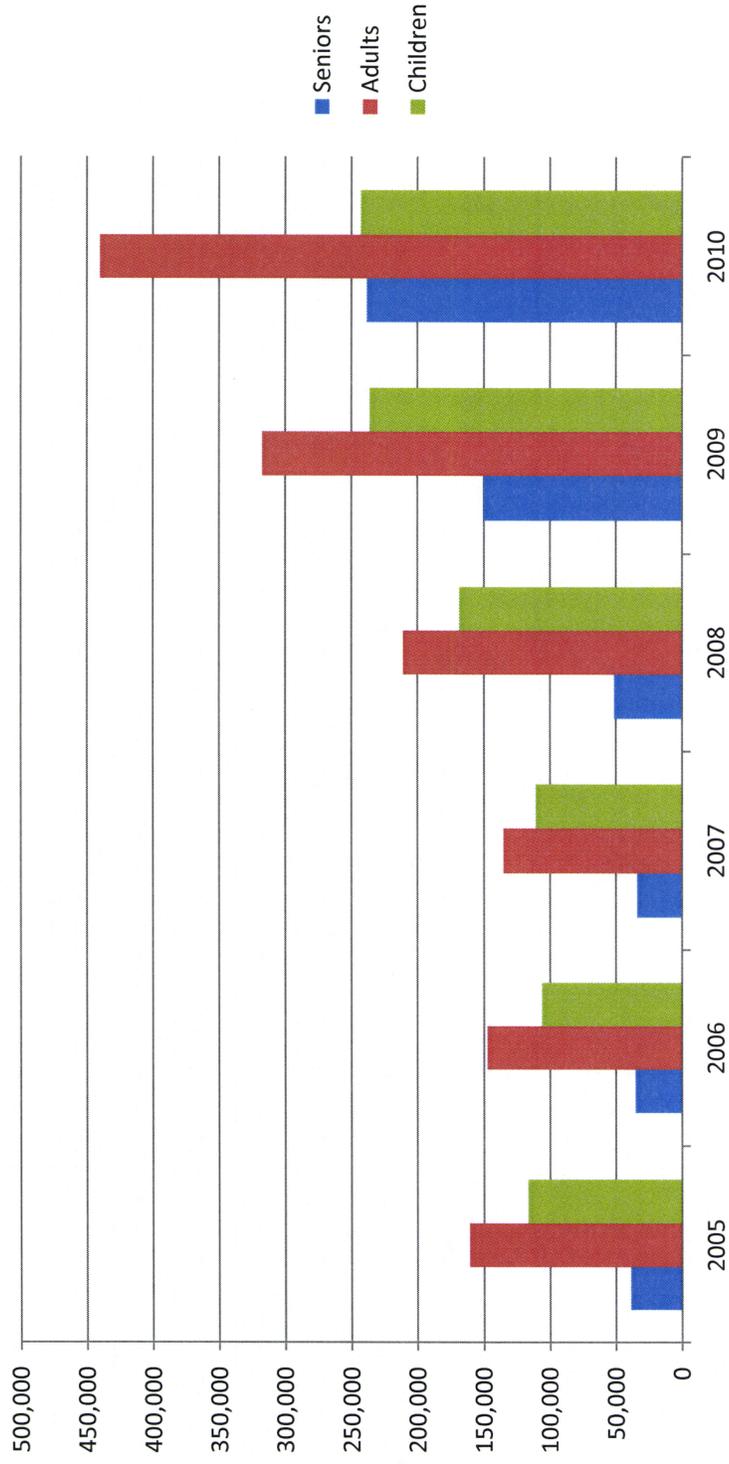
Non-MFBN: Emergency food from local communities not acquired and distributed by Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN). Calculated using pounds: 4,900,000 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal= 3,288,590 meals. Non-TEFAP soup kitchen: 2,080,776 total meals minus 687,840 TEFAP meals=1,392,936 meals. Total 3,288,590 +1,392,936 = 4,681,526 meals.

MFBN: Calculated using pounds: 8.4 million pounds minus 1,044,881 pounds of TEFAP food distributed through MFBN = 7,355,119 pounds divided by 1.49 pounds per meal = 4,745,238 meals.

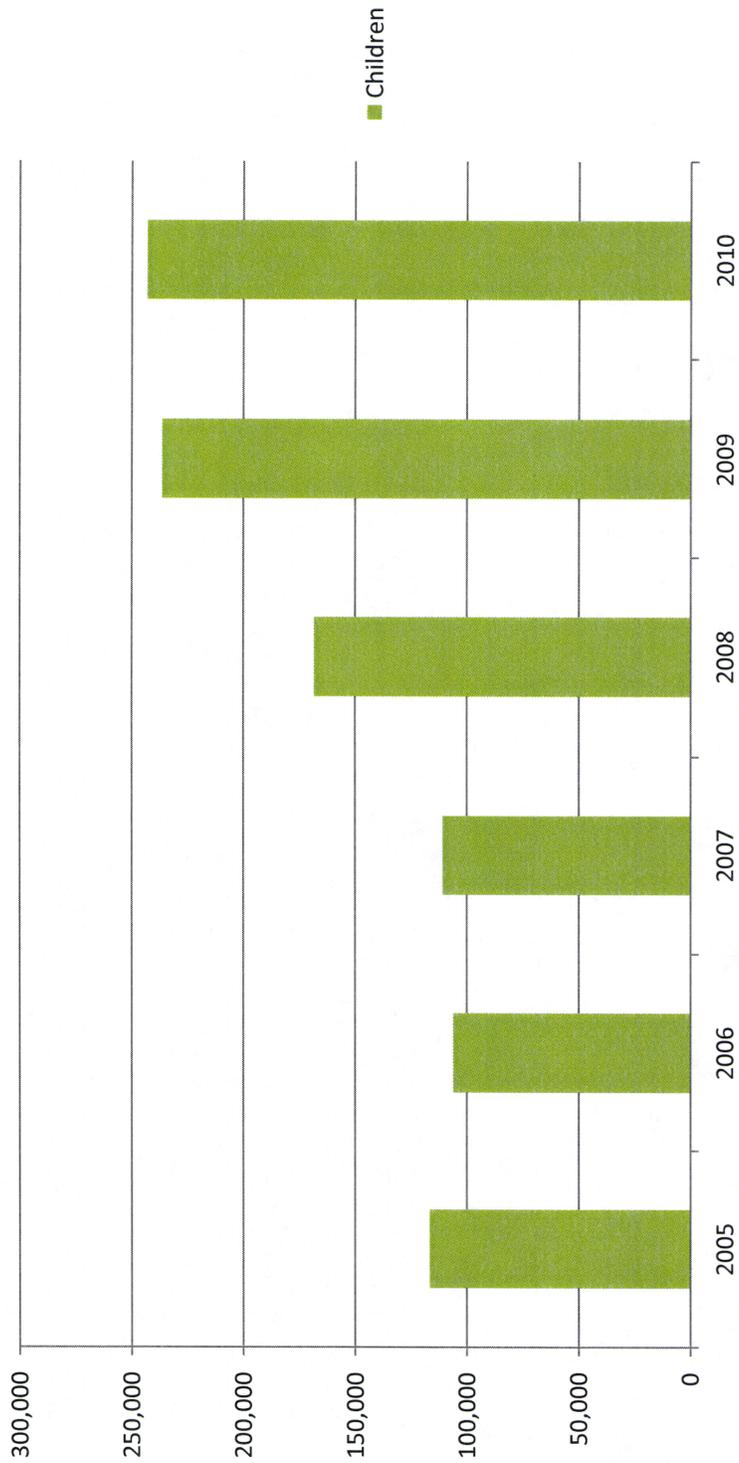
Client Profile

Repeat Visits Annually

Seniors, Adults and Children

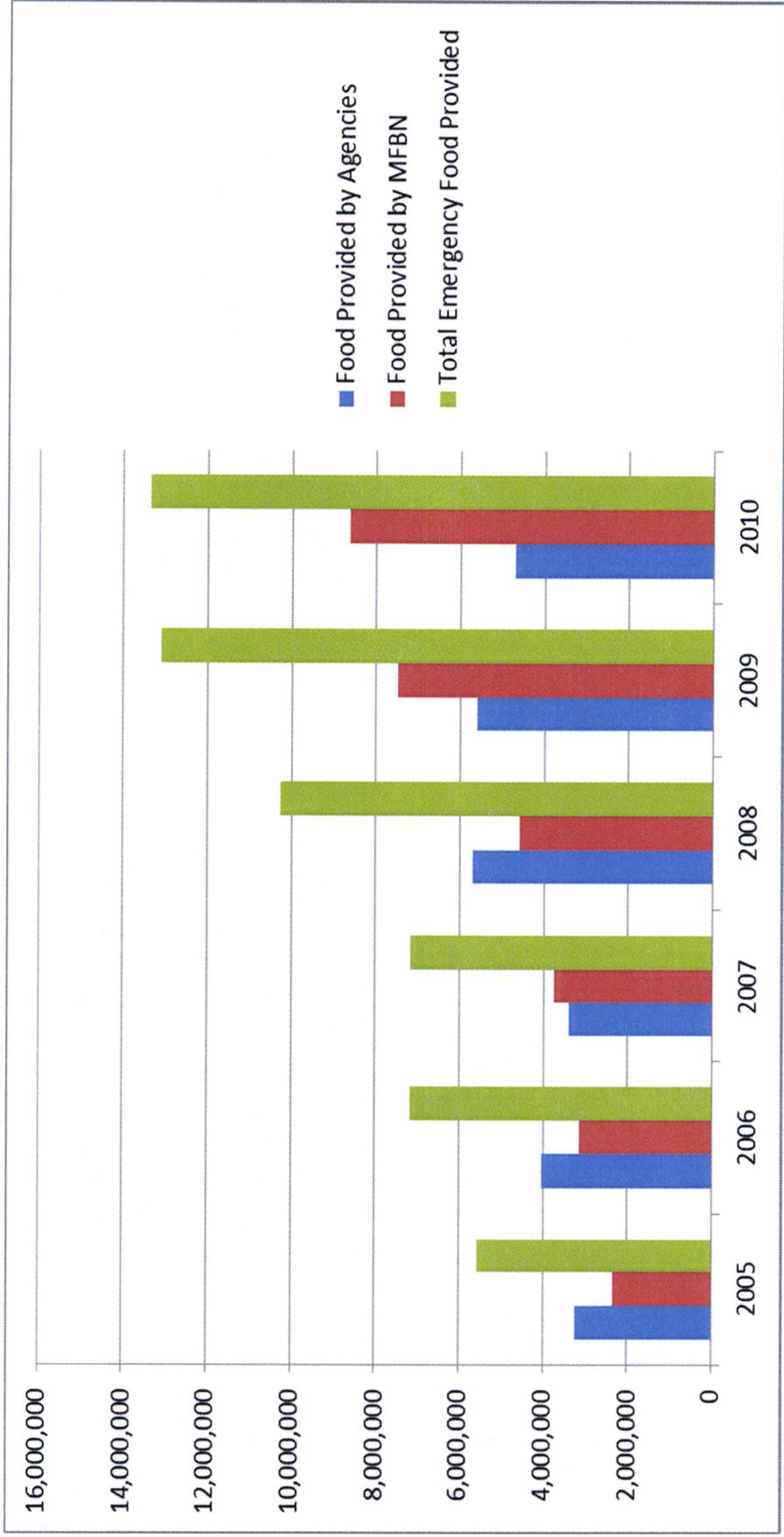


Repeat Visits by Families with Children



Pounds of Food Distributed Through the Emergency Food System

Millions of Pounds





The Back Pack Program – A Step Toward Ending Childhood Hunger in Montana

We are passionate about ending child hunger in Montana. The Back Pack (BP) program is in perfect alignment with our mission, which is to eliminate hunger in Montana through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy. The Back Pack Program is a labor of love and one that all of the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) staff members take particular pride and joy in. The Back Pack Program is an integral part of who we are as an organization, rather than simply one of the activities that we do.

MFBN's Board of Directors and Food Security Council both identified the problem of childhood hunger in its long-range plan and implemented the BP program to address the needs of hungry children, by placing food directly into their outstretched hands. There are no hassles, no questions, no charges and no stigma attached to receiving the food and every child in the household receives food regardless of whether or not they attend school or are in other grades than the child bringing home the food. The dignity of the children is upheld, not just by the discretion in the way the program is administered, but also in the simple validation of their genuine need.

Chronically hungry children cannot explore their passions or develop to their full potential, much less enjoy their fleeting childhood. They experience hunger as perhaps the most unfair and cruelest of life's hard lessons. Their eyes reveal bewilderment at their terrible predicament, as their tiny fingers reach out for life's most basic human need- food.

The truth is, 85% of Montana children are at risk of hunger and live between 100 to 185% of the Federal poverty level. There is a dreadful gap on the weekends when children are not receiving the school breakfast and lunch programs they depend upon. To the best of our knowledge, the Back Pack Program is unique. There are no other programs that are meeting the urgent need our children have for food on the weekends, on a statewide basis. Other states have implemented the Back Pack Program and Montana is just coming on board. Many, many communities have expressed interest, have put in place the infrastructure required and are ready to launch.

Principals, counselors, teachers and many other collaborators agree that this program is highly effective and fills a critical need. It is our goal to assure that no child is hungry over the weekend and during school holidays. This program should be expanded into every school in Montana.

LEVERAGE YOUR DONATED DOLLAR

How The Montana Food Bank Network

Maximizes Every Dollar You Donate

For Every Dollar you donate to the Montana Food Bank Network, we can leverage that dollar into enough food for 7 meals. How? The Montana Food Bank Network acquires food in three ways: (1) Food is donated to us outright; (2) There are instances in which we pay for food on a wholesale basis, i.e. discounted due to volume considerations; and (3) For some food we pay only certain incidental charges. (transportation fees, warehouse charges, value-added processing fees, etc.).

HERE'S HOW
WE CALCULATE OUR LEVERAGE FACTOR →

- Every dollar you donate helps us distribute 9 pounds of food.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Thrifty Food Plan states that an average meal is 1.30 pounds of food.
- 9 lbs. of food divided by 1.30 pounds per meal equals 7 meals. This means you can help us distribute enough food for 7 meals for every dollar you donate.



Montana Food Bank Network

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Montana Mobile Food Bank

By KFBB News Team

Story Created: Sep 16, 2011 MDT

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It's been a tough year. Unemployment remains high at 9%. And new census data shows poverty is the highest it's been since 1993 at 15%.

Amy Arnold from Lewistown is not only feeling the dour economy, but her husband is out of work and they have two toddlers.

"My husband was working construction with his father's company in 2008 and then with the economy going so bad no one was building," said Arnold. "They lost a lot of work and then my husband ended up getting laid off. It's been a little tight."

Which is why she's came to the mobile food drive.

Tons food provided by the Montana Food Network was distributed to about 400 hundred people in Lewistown today at the mobile food bank.

Starting at the beginning of the line, Amy was able to grab as much bread, coffee, mac and cheese and cereal she could hold. It will save her about \$600 this month...and feed her family food that is getting harder and harder to come by.

Susan Mack from Lewistown owns a small ranch which is dealing with rising feed prices and a slow market for livestock. She is also raising her three grandsons and trying to feed a family of five with a shrinking budget.

"We're going on food stamps," said Mack.

This mobile food pantry is helping her family as it prepares for a tough winter.

"Numbers-wise it might not be as bad as last year but its taking a long time to pull out of the recession, really," said Montana Food Bank Network Manager Jeff Gutierrez. "And so it makes it even more important right now to have events like this and get more assistance into the communities."

To help people during the upcoming holiday season, visit www.mfbn.org