

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS,

Gratitude is the word that comes to top of mind when we reflect on the past year. Sheboygan County is truly a special place overflowing with people who carry extraordinary qualities of compassion, generosity, and service. At the center of our accomplishments were dedicated companies, organizations, individuals, and families who supported us throughout the continued hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A pair of recognitions early on in 2021 well-represented our community's devotion to our mission. United Way presented one of our volunteers with the **Volunteer of the Year Award** for their 2021 Spirit of Sheboygan County Awards. Moreover, Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce awarded Sheboygan County Food Bank as the **2020 Nonprofit Charity of the Year** at their 2021 Chamber Champions Gala – an honor that simply would not have been possible without our community giving their time, skills, and financial gifts during a time of such adversity.

Throughout the year, we focused on building new collaborations to ramp up our healthy food distribution, reach more marginalized populations, and implement a program to better serve our neighbors beyond exclusively providing emergency food.

We made sure families going through tough times had access to nutritious food and produce by forging partnerships both locally and nationally. We took care of our neighbors with unwavering focus and teamed up with organizations that serve diverse communities to expand our reach to those who are underrepresented in Sheboygan County.

Then we took it a step further. We implemented a client intake process and card system program at food pantries to help address the root causes of hunger. We started to learn more about individuals and the challenges that they were facing – linking them to programs that give boosts of money to buy groceries, referrals for health assistance, help with financial sustainability, and more.

What's truly exciting is that we have begun to expand from the traditional food bank model. Instead of solely gathering and storing non-perishable food and then distributing to other organizations, we're now maximizing the benefit of the healthy and fresh food we provide by equipping a variety of individuals with tools to aid them in overcoming their challenges.

At Sheboygan County Food Bank, we care deeply about all of our neighbors having the opportunity to enjoy healthy lives. **We distributed nearly 1 million pounds of nutritious food and we were able to help thousands of families who faced hunger because of our strong community of supporters who believed in our mission and we're incredibly grateful.**

Thank you for being an important part of our work!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Boyle".

Patrick Boyle
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lizabeth Kroll".

Lizabeth Kroll
Senior Director of
Programs and
Community Impact



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Pellegrino".

Michael Pellegrino
Board President

BY THE NUMBERS: GETTING FOOD TO OUR NEIGHBORS WITH HELPING HANDS

VOLUNTEER HOURS

4,591 volunteer hours

\$131,027 is the estimated value of volunteer hours

The current estimated national value of each volunteer hour is \$28.54 via Independent Sector.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS

925,301 pounds of food distributed to:

- **16** food pantries
- **6** shelters
- **3** housing authority locations
- **3** community meals
- **6** other partner organizations

NEIGHBORS WE HELPED

1,790 families were provided food each month at partner food pantries

400 children were given healthy, weekend meals and snacks each week during the school year through Food for Thought program

551 individuals were assisted with applying for FoodShare

70 seniors were delivered a nutritious box of food each month through Stockbox program

fresh protein and dairy

33%

Non-perishable
and other

45%

fresh produce

22%



Sam Dekker (Professional Basketball Player and Sheboygan native) and **Olivia Dekker** (Sports Reporter and Sam's wife) helped us share our message of gratitude and the significance of continuing to work as a community-wide team.

ENGAGING IN PARTNERSHIPS TO PROVIDE FRESH & HEALTHY FOOD



Learn more about
Fork Farms:



SCAN ME

HOWARDS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL & FORK FARMS

Howards Grove High School partnered with us to unleash the power of fresh food production for our neighbors facing hunger by purchasing indoor farm kits from **Fork Farms**, an agriculture technology company based out of Green Bay. Students of the Advanced Horticulture class became proud owners of three vertical hydroponic systems called **Flex Farms**. Flex Farms are portable and only require a standard electrical outlet and less than 10-square-feet of space to produce harvest after harvest of nutritious vegetables, herbs, and more.

With a two-year plan in place, students are in charge of maintaining the vertical agriculture technology units, including harvesting lettuce and then delivering their haul to our warehouse.

FRESH FOOD CONNECT

Looking for ways to streamline and track local gardeners' donations, we connected with **Fresh Food Connect**. Fresh Food Connect shares its mobile app technology with hunger relief organizations to coordinate homegrown produce to be donated. Individual gardeners use the app to donate their backyard grown produce that would perhaps otherwise go to waste.

Learn more about
Fresh Food Connect:



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NOURISH FARMS

We worked with **Nourish Farms** to help empower our neighbors to make more wholesome food choices. With food ingredients provided by us, Nourish Farms began offering meal samples of familiar favorites with healthy twists to individuals and families who visited food pantries, including handing out recipes and links to preparation videos.

Learn more about
Nourish Farms:



SCAN ME

PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA

We joined **Partnership for a Healthier America's (PHA)** Healthy Hunger Relief initiative to further uplift the health and well-being of Sheboygan County. PHA is a national nonprofit organization fighting for food to address hunger, malnutrition, and chronic disease by increasing the supply of healthier options and decreasing the supply of unhealthy options.

How this partnership works: Through 2023, we will continue to receive support from PHA to begin implementing a **comprehensive nutrition ranking system**, which was developed by experts at **Healthy Eating Research**. PHA also provides technical assistance to help us understand the nutritional quality of our inventory and make strategic decisions within and across food categories to make improvements, enhancing food equity for Sheboygan County.

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We are thrilled to work with PHA. This allows us to purchase and distribute fresh produce for families throughout the county and also become more accountable for the nutritional value of the food we distribute.

*– Patrick Boyle, Executive Director,
Sheboygan County Food Bank*

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Learn more about
**PHA's Healthy Hunger
Relief initiative:**



ANTI-HUNGER COALITION

We continued coordinating regular meetings with the **Sheboygan County Anti-Hunger Coalition** to ensure an efficient use of available resources in Sheboygan County and to share relevant information and programs related to reducing hunger.

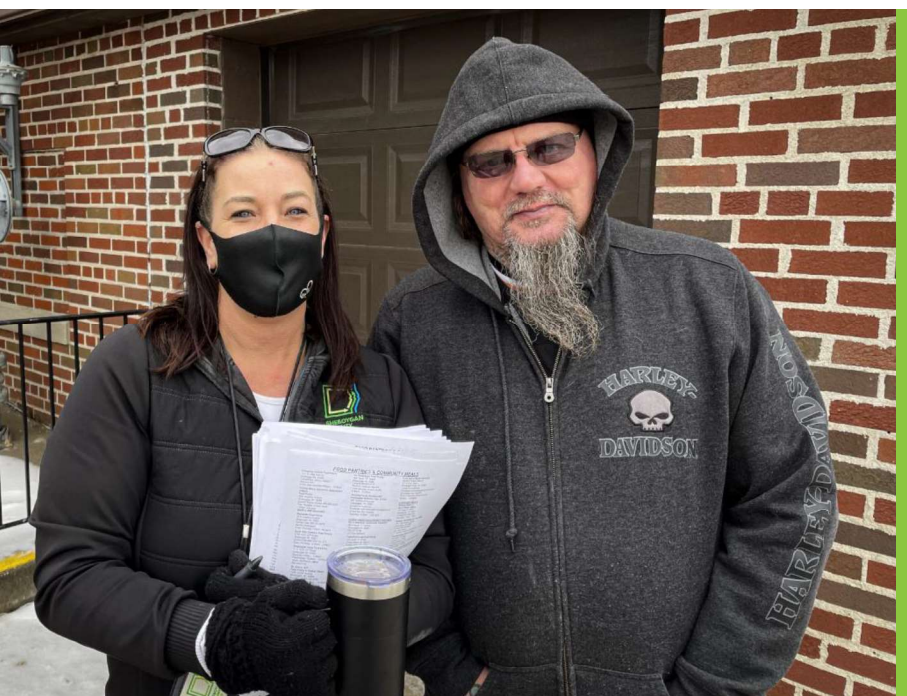
More members were added and the coalition now includes representatives from **Fresh Meals on Wheels of Sheboygan County**, **Hunger Task Force**, **Nourish**, **Sheboygan County (Division of Public Health and Division of Economic Support)**, **Sheboygan Area School District**, **Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization**, **United Way of Sheboygan County**, **University of Wisconsin – Madison (Division of Extension)**.

CONNECTING OUR NEIGHBORS TO LIFE-CHANGING HELP & HOPE

Despite the dynamic challenges associated with the pandemic, we focused on continuing to grow our impact and quality of service by helping address the root causes of hunger through a new program called **Food+ for Neighbors**. Food+ for Neighbors is a dignified client intake process and card system program coordinated in partnership with food pantries.

The program ensures the right amount of food is given to clients, based on their family size, and creates an opportunity for personalized support for clients beyond providing access to emergency food. During intake, staff and volunteers connect our neighbors to community resources and federal nutrition programs that directly help increase their food security. Resource examples are referrals for health assistance, help with safe housing options, employment leads, mental health support, child care opportunities, and FoodShare.

FoodShare is the first line of defense against hunger and 100% funded by the federal government. If a client is not enrolled, our FoodShare Assistant is ready to assist them in the enrollment process.



“

Me and my girlfriend were in a motorcycle accident. She ended up with eight fractured ribs. I ended up with surgery on my arm. We had road rash over our whole bodies and right now we still can't work. We were pointed towards Tracy (FoodShare Assistant, Sheboygan County Food Bank) to help us out. She helped us get FoodShare and connected us to the food pantries.

– Paul, Our Neighbor

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“

If I didn't have this food, I wouldn't be eating. That's what it boils down to. I'm a hair dresser and I lost my job. Around the same time, I fell and broke a shoulder and lost a sister. Then I lost my husband three months later. He died in the house – very emotional. And at first, I thought, 'I can't do this.' But it's been wonderful. Thinking of all that I've been through, I couldn't do it without the help. Everybody's very friendly and very nice.

– Patty, Our Neighbor

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SOAKING IN SUMMER BY BRINGING AWARENESS

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

We were invited by our friends at **Hunger Task Force** to join them for opening day at the **Wisconsin State Fair**. Weaving through interactive displays, fair-goers learned about the statewide pandemic response of **Hunger Relief Federation of Wisconsin** members – like Sheboygan County Food Bank – and their partnerships with Wisconsin agriculture. The Hunger Relief Federation is a statewide coalition of anti-hunger organizations and advocates who work together to end hunger in Wisconsin.



STRIKE OUT HUNGER

The **Sheboygan A's** teamed up with us to **Strike Out Hunger** during all Thursday home games for the 2021 season. Fans had the opportunity to hit a home run against hunger by donating two cans of soup in exchange for a free general admission ticket. For the last game, we gathered key volunteers for our annual volunteer appreciation party to celebrate this first-ever campaign and their passionate dedication.



BRAT DAYS PARADE

Volunteers and staff members hit the streets for the **Sheboygan Jaycee's Brat Days Parade**. The route kicked off downtown on 8th Street, turned down Michigan Avenue, and ended a few blocks away from the headquarters of the near-seventy-year-old tradition and nation-wide-known event.





MAKING SURE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION ARE AT THE FOREFRONT

Sheboygan County Food Bank is committed to ensuring that all Sheboygan County residents who need emergency food are served. Each of our partner organizations have agreed and signed our **Partnership Pledge** that includes vowing to treat everybody with dignity and respect and without discrimination. For a handful of years, we have supported low-income seniors and children living in families of low socioeconomic statuses through our programs, **Stockbox** and **Food for Thought (Supplemental Weekend Food Program)**, respectively. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we continued a new partnership program with **Love INC**, another local non-profit, to serve homebound individuals and families.

In 2021, we officially instated our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement:

Feeding our community is at the heart of our mission. We are committed to making sure all families are fed in Sheboygan County. Hunger doesn't discriminate on race, gender, age, religion, or identity and neither do we. Together, we can fight hunger.

We put our commitment to DEI at the forefront of our work by forging key collaborations to help reach our most vulnerable neighbors within our community. These new collaborations included:

- **Black-American Community Outreach.** We provided food and regularly rented out one of our trucks, at no cost, for the transfer of food to their facility and to use as a **mobile food pantry vehicle**.
- **Hmong Mutual Aid Association.** We purchased culturally relevant produce, meat, and rice for an average of 100 Hmong families each month.
- **Pay it Forward.** We provided food items for to-go lunches, personal care items, clothing, and blankets to support homeless individuals, which served an average of **66 individuals each week**.
- **Sheboygan County Warming Center.** We distributed personal care items, food for to-go meals, as well as ingredients and paper products for a nightly, onsite meal for about **20 individuals per week**.

TAKING EVEN BIGGER STEPS AGAINST HUNGER

HOLIDAY LIGHTS HUNGER RUN/WALK

The 4th Annual Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk held on Saturday, November 20 was our biggest year yet. This event is our primary, annual fundraiser event where participants enjoy an exclusive, on-foot “sneak peek” of **Making Spirits Bright**’s holiday lights displays. Staff and dedicated volunteers organized the event as a committee, while local businesses and organizations contributed generous in-kind donations and sponsorship commitments.

Thanks to our community’s thoughtful support:

- Over \$75,000 was raised, which is more than the first three years of the event combined.
- We welcomed a total of 1,922 runners and walkers – the most ever.

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Making Spirits Bright’s holiday lights show collected **131,077 pounds of donations in its tenth year**. As visitors donated food and personal care items, hundreds of our volunteers made sure the donations safely made the voyage from Evergreen Park to our warehouse, and then worked to sort and package them up into boxes for our partners to order. Making Spirits Bright also gave **\$30,000 to help us purchase healthy food**.

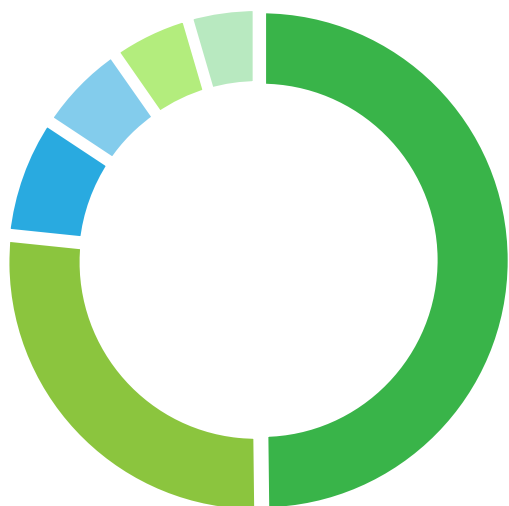


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The work of Sheboygan County Food Bank is funded in many ways. From donations made by individual community members to gifts from charitable foundations to the support of companies, large and small. Relying on a wide range of funding sources means we're able to continue to grow and make sure families facing hunger have the best opportunities to access healthy, emergency food.

Please note these figures have not been audited yet.

REVENUE



In-Kind Food Donations | 50%

General Giving | 27%

Corporate Donations | 8%

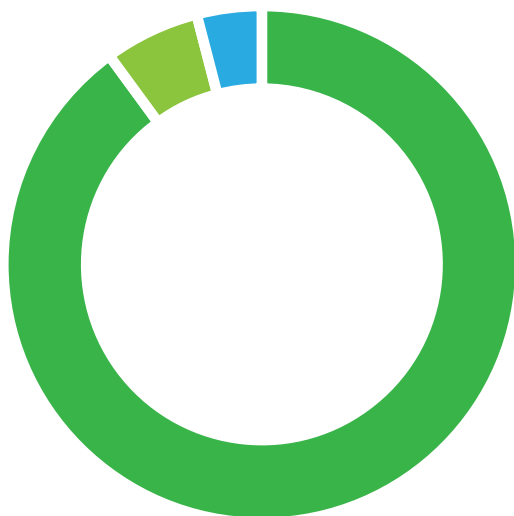
Other | 6%

Grants | 5%

Designated - Food Purchase | 4%

TOTAL | 100%

EXPENSES



Programs | 90%

Management and General | 6%

Fund Development | 4%

TOTAL | 100%

Sheboygan County Food Bank earned its **GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency**, which signifies that we share important information with the public about our goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements, and progress metrics – highlighting the difference we make in Sheboygan County.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vollrath Company (retired)

Sue Dennis | Board Secretary

Sheboygan Area School District (retired)

Jeff Froh

Rockline Industries

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The United Way of Sheboygan County
(retired)

Kathie Norman

KEES, Inc.

Mary Paluchniak

HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital (retired)

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Bert Sartori | Board Vice President

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Nicki Stayer-Suprick

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and Operations

Lauren Smith

Director of Development
and Marketing

Jodie Zajkowski

Warehouse Manager
and Volunteer Coordinator



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Mission: Lead Sheboygan County's efforts to increase the food security of its residents by distributing healthy emergency food and fostering innovative partnerships.

920.453.0169

SheboyganCountyFoodBank.com

Donate:



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