



Pantry Times

Contact Us

Phone - 406.443.3663

Email - info@helenafoodshare.org

Find us on Facebook!

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Learn more

Get a 'behind-the-scenes' tour the second Tuesday of each month, and enjoy lunch with us! Call or email us to sign up for a tour.



Helena Food Share *Upcoming Events*

- Aug. 8** Behind-the-Scenes tour of Helena Food Share, 12pm - 1 p.m. 1616 Lewis Street
- Sept. 5** Volunteer Appreciation Picnic Baseball Game, 6:30 p.m. Kindrick Legion Field
- Sept. 12** Behind-the-Scenes tour of Helena Food Share, 12pm - 1 p.m. 1616 Lewis Street
- Sept. 16** Kid Pack Food Drive, 10am - 4pm Heritage Food Store
- Sept. 23** Kid Pack Food Drive, 10am - 4pm Van's Thirttway
- Sept. 25** CANstruction Kickoff! Local participating businesses begin food collection
- Sept. 28** 30 Years of Creating a Hunger-Free Community, Open House, 5pm - 6:30pm

End Hunger and Reduce Your Taxes! *IRA Rollover Gifts*

If you are 70 1/2 or older with an individual retirement account (IRA) you are required to receive minimum distributions from your IRA.

This additional income may create a tax burden. Please consider using these funds to make a charitable gift.

By transferring all or a portion of your IRA distribution to Helena Food Share and you will not pay income tax on the amount you donate. Individuals may gift up to \$100k each year or \$200k for married couples.

Contact your IRA administrator to make your gift or call Helena Food Share at (406) 443-3663 or email Daneal@helenafoodshare.org to learn more.

Helena Food Share Staff

Bruce Day Executive Director
Kim Dale Program Director

Daneal Lightner Development Director
Hannah Stiff Communications Manager

Jami Kirksey Volunteer Manager
Kara Snyder Program Manager

Jackie Hanson-Felber Development Coordinator
Rachael Howard Executive Assistant

John Dendy Program Operations Assistant
Teresa Asleson Program Operations Assistant

Dave Anderson Driver
Steve Brewster Driver

Helena Food Share Board

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Chris Laslovich Vice Chair

Amanda Harrow Secretary
Meghan Bronec Treasurer

Marilyn Connor
Nick Dietzen

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Terry Johnson
Lisa Lee

Dan Minor
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David Shanight
Karen Smith

Susan Witte



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helenafoodshare.org | AUGUST 2017

30 Years of Creating a Hunger Free Community *You Are Part of a Big Story!*

In 30 years, Helena Food Share has had the privilege of serving thousands of our neighbors in need. From young children struggling to learn on an empty stomach, to senior citizens living on a very limited income, to working families trying to tie the ends together during a lean month, Helena Food Share donors, volunteers and staff have had the honor of being able to provide food to people in our community facing hunger.

Over 30 years, you have been the difference between hunger and hope for people like Kenneth, a 48-year-old painter who often wears a "World's Best Grandpa" shirt. He first showed up to the pantry after suffering a heart attack. Out of work and money, Kenneth needed a little help and compassion to get back on his feet.

Like 56-year-old Karen, a bus driver who wasn't earning a paycheck in the summers and couldn't scrape by on disability checks.

Or 34-year-old Sierra, a mother of three, who couldn't afford a potluck dish for her son's t-ball dinner and have enough left to buy groceries for the week.

And of course there's Libby, a local third grader who shares her Kid Pack with her older siblings on the weekends when they don't have enough to eat.

These stories represent just a few of the 8,200 people who walk through the Helena Food Share doors for help each year. These stories are infused with hope because of **YOU**. You believe no one should go hungry in our community. Each child, family, senior and individual who has visited Helena Food Share is greeted with dignity and respect and sent home with nutritious food. You make this possible.

On behalf of the countless customers who have visited the Helena Food Share pantry over the years for help, thank you!

As we look toward a future where we hope to end hunger, we need you. **YOU** are integral in creating a hunger-free community! Thank you for sharing with our neighbors in need for 30 years. ●



Without you, there would be no 30th anniversary, no story to tell, no shining moments.

This anniversary is brought to you by...YOU.

Thank you!



- ▶ 10-Gallon Water Cooler/Dispenser
- ▶ EZ Up Tents
- ▶ Hoop House for Our Garden
- ▶ Reams of White Copy Paper
- ▶ Pantry Tour Ambassador

Please contact Hannah for more information about the Helena Food Share wish list. Call 443-3663 x 105 or email at Hannah@helenafoodshare.org
Thank you!

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Looking back over 30 years at Helena Food Share, what stands out? There are certainly milestones to highlight, as the timeline below illustrates. But when I hear stories from those who've been a part of the Helena Food Share history through the years, a thread runs through and connects those milestones. It's the compassion and action of our community. It's you, providing food for our neighbors.

In the early days, people cared and responded to the rapidly increasing need to feed hungry neighbors. They came together to create a community center for emergency food sharing and Helena Food Share was born. You backed the effort and kept it alive.

And over the years, compassionate people shaped Helena Food Share in ways that met the need, no matter how big it got. By creating a partnership with local grocers to rescue good food that cannot be sold and putting it into the hands of those who need it. By putting a mobile pantry into action so food can be delivered to those who cannot get to our pantry. By opening a

pantry in East Helena and building a new pantry on Lewis Street when it was essential. By creating a food resource center where our neighbors can shop and make their own food selections. By partnering with other



local community organizations to make healthy food available to limited income seniors. And by building the Kid Packs program that brings essential food to elementary school and Head Start kids in our community. Compassionate people – you – did all that.

I hear the names in the stories. Founders like Tony, Gene, Rayleen, Jan and Joan. Carol who came to Helena Food Share, first, as a customer and then became an active volunteer and advocate. Brad who picked up food with a big heart and did all he could to keep Helena Food Share going. Ken, Greg and Ann stepped in to lead the way. We often say, "There are too many people to be mentioned." In this case, that's true. Helena Food Share exists because of many. We are here because of you.

In looking back, we find hope for the future. Our hope is that we can be here for those who need help getting food. Our hope is to meet the needs the future brings. Together, we hope that we can share food with our community for as long as there is a need. We look to our future with this vision: creating a hunger-free community.

Until All Are Fed,

Bruce Day, Executive Director

A Legacy of Giving; Start YOUR Legacy TODAY!

Ruby jokes that when she was growing up, her family wasn't poor, they were "hard up." The daughter of European immigrants, Ruby was aware of how hard her parents' lives were before they moved to the United States.

"I know my parents didn't have a lot to eat growing up," Ruby says. "That always stuck with me."

With only a third grade education, Ruby's father worked hard to provide his family with a better life than he had. Ruby's parents eventually landed on a farm where she and her siblings grew up on produce from the garden, protein from pigs, eggs from chickens, and milk from the family's cows.

"I've been very blessed," Ruby says. "I've never gone hungry. I may have only had two pairs of shoes, but I never had an empty stomach."

When Ruby married, she and her husband Edward moved to Helena to start a business. Though Edward passed away 26 years ago, Ruby distinctly remembers her husband's own connection to hunger.

Edward was working with youth in the community to distribute holi-



day meals. After identifying families in need of a turkey and the fixings, Edward went to deliver the holiday blessings. What he saw during those deliveries stayed with him.

"He couldn't believe there was so much poverty in Helena," Ruby recalls.

At 92 years old, Ruby is still touched by her husband's story. Ruby has been a Helena Food Share donor for more than 20 years.

"I can't believe it's been that long," Ruby exclaims. "When you give frequently you don't notice it as much. I guess it does add up over time."

In her decades of giving, Ruby has donated more than \$10,000 to Helena Food Share. Children struggling with hunger especially tug at Ruby's heartstrings. Ruby remembers hearing a local teacher talk about hunger in school.

"These kids can't function because they have nothing in their tummies," Ruby says sadly. "It's just awful."

Ruby keeps giving because she knows it matters to hungry school children and so many more neighbors facing empty cupboards and hopelessness.

"It would be nice if everyone could give something," Ruby says. "Anything you can afford helps." ●

"It always feels good being able to help someone who needs it."

-Ruby, Proud Helena Food Share Donor

To find out how you can create a legacy of giving to Helena Food Share, call Daneal at 443-3663 ext. 104 or email info@helenafoodshare.org. It takes a community to make sure everyone has enough!

