

2017 Helena Food Share Annual Report



Two weeks before 2017 came to an end, I answered the Helena Food Share phone. There was a woman on the other the other end. Her voice shaking, she asked, “Can you tell me if it’s possible to get help with food?” I started by saying, “yes, you can get help.” But before I could finish my answer she said, in relief, “thank you!” Then she began crying and told me her story. “I just got a layoff notice. I have my kids at home with me, and all our bills to pay. I don’t know how we will get by, but I need to have food for them.” I was grateful to know we could help.

When I think about the 8,455 people Helena Food Share was able to help with food for this past year, *I think about you*, the community that makes it possible. You give from your heart—money, food and your time—so we can keep helping. Your spirit of kindness ensures our doors are open to the many that come asking for help. Because of you, we were there when needed. With more than 73,000 food assistance services—like Grocery Share for families, seniors and those living alone or homeless, and Kid Packs for children at high risk of hunger—throughout the year.

We are grateful.

We hear gratitude daily from Helena Food Share customers, too. Many will often say, “I don’t know what I would do without Helena Food Share,” as they go on to tell their stories—each unique with its own power. By being a partner in sharing food, *you share hope*.

This past year marked 30 years of Helena Food Share’s service to this community. As much as we prefer that there be less need for food assistance now, we find ourselves looking back to see that *in 2017 the need was as great as ever*. The good news is that because of you, *the giving was also as good as ever*. This annual report shares numbers that tell that story.

Looking forward, we renew our commitment to keep providing food to neighbors who are facing hunger, for as long as there’s a need. Thank you for joining us and caring for those who are hungry. *Let’s make 2018 the year everyone in our community is fed.*

Bruce Day, Executive Director





1,670,126
pounds of food was shared from the Helena Food Share pantry in 2017



410
Emergency Snack Packs were given to individuals with immediate food needs



8,455
individuals were served in 3,884 different households



39,056
Kid Packs distributed to children at risk of going hungry on the weekend



2,234
holiday meals were distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas

By the numbers

Helena Food Share 2017



2,255
Senior Commodity food boxes distributed to low income senior citizens



310
senior citizens participated in the Senior Farmers Market Coupon Program



28,770
Grocery Share services provided



819,222
pounds of food rescued from and donated by local grocery stores

- Food donations\$2,270,121
- Individuals\$646,613
- Businesses\$147,228
- Community and church groups\$106,249
- Foundations\$103,654
- Federal and state grants\$13,958
- Investment/other\$6,888
- Total revenue:.....\$3,294,712**
- Food assistance\$2,897,421
- Communications and fundraising\$213,981
- Administrative\$134,193
- Total expenses:\$3,245,595**



4,537
volunteers donated 21,133 hours. That's the equivalent of more than 10 full-time employees!



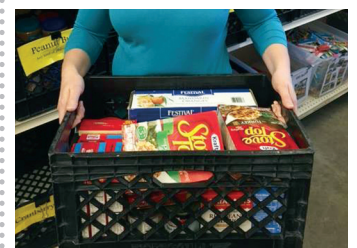
98%
of HFS's funding come from the local community



50%
of families visit the HFS pantry for assistance only 1-4 times per year.



97%
of households that access HFS programs are living below or near the federal poverty line



73,041
food assistance services provided