



Community Food Quarterly

WINTER 2025



We believe by sharing food, we share hope.

Helping Hands, Full Plates: Support During Times of Need

Life can be unpredictable, throwing curveballs that leave even the most prepared families struggling to make ends meet. For many, these challenges often lead to hard decisions about how to stretch limited resources. Thankfully, Helena Food Share's Grocery Share Market exists to bridge the gap, ensuring our neighbors don't have to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table.

These programs are not just about distributing food—they're about restoring dignity, relieving stress, and fostering resilience during life's toughest moments.

For example, Stephen is working two jobs to cover the costs of his rent, insurance, and other essentials, but one of his employers had to make staffing cuts, and Stephen is now down to one job. When his savings began to run thin, he discovered the Community Food Resource Center. Here, Stephen can stock up on essential items while he finds additional work to meet his monthly expenses. "I'm here for now until I get back on my feet," Stephen shared while expressing

his gratitude for the food and the vital support he's receiving during a difficult time.

Anne and her family faced a similar crisis when her husband, Dave, was sidelined by a car accident that left him unable to work for months. With their household income suddenly cut in half, Anne and Dave struggled to cover rent, utilities, and mounting medical bills.

The Grocery Share Market became a lifeline for her family. "Thank God for the food support here at the Market," Anne said. "This has been such a challenging

time, filled with worry about Dave's recovery and how we'll manage the expenses. My salary just can't cover it all."

Stories like Stephen's and Anne's highlight the importance of community-based food resources. These programs are not just about distributing food—they're about restoring dignity, relieving stress, and fostering resilience during life's toughest moments.



Joel ensures the Market is ready to open each day for customers.

By supporting Helena Food Share, you play a crucial role in ensuring food is available to those facing temporary setbacks. Every donation, every hour volunteered, and every gesture of kindness helps keep our neighbors nourished and hopeful. Together, we can build a community where no one has to go hungry, no matter what life throws their way.

Let's continue to extend a hand and make full plates possible for everyone.

A Year of Transformation: Helena Food Share in 2024



Last year brought remarkable changes to Helena Food Share as we worked tirelessly to expand our mission and better serve our community. While food programs continued at the Lewis Street Pantry, our focus broadened to include the construction of the new Community Food Resource Center on Boulder Avenue—a transformative space designed to support our neighbors in need.

Each week of construction brought exciting progress. From laying the foundation to installing coolers, freezers, and kitchen equipment, the new center began to quickly take shape. By October, the long-anticipated grand opening welcomed customers and the community to a vibrant new location. This center is more than a food pantry; it's a place for gathering, learning about cooking and nutrition, reducing food waste, and ensuring everyone feels welcome and respected.

As we celebrated the opening, we also marked a leadership change. In November, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Jordan Evertz, whose vision will guide us

into the future. At year's end, we bid farewell to Bruce Day, whose dedication and leadership laid the groundwork for completing the new facility.

As highlighted in our annual report, the need for food support continues to grow, and the new center is ready to meet the need. Thanks to the generosity of the Helena community, regional foundations, and local government, the completion of the building campaign is within reach. We're close to reaching our \$12.3 million funding goal, with just \$480,000 remaining to be raised.

We invite those who have already given to extend their gifts or pledges to help achieve our final goal. If you haven't yet participated in the campaign, please consider joining this extraordinary community endeavor with a capstone gift.

Touring the new facility is a great way to see the impact of your support firsthand and realize the transformational effect the building and programs have

Farewell and Welcome

At the close of 2024, we celebrated the service of one of our incredible Board members, **Andrea Groom**, Vice President of Communications & Marketing at St. Peter's Health. Dedicating six years to Helena Food Share, she brought valuable insights and public relations expertise. Andrea's leadership and passion helped guide many Board discussions, and we are deeply grateful for her dedication and service. Farewell, Andrea, and thank you for making a lasting impact!

We're thrilled to welcome two additions to the Helena Food Share Board this year: **Stephanie Hunthausen** and **Chad Odegard**. Stephanie is the Career Technical Education and Dual Enrollment Executive Director at Helena College, bringing her education and workforce development expertise to the team. Chad, retired from WPX Energy, is a familiar face at HFS, having volunteered in numerous roles. Both will serve three-year terms, and we're excited to have them on board.

2025 Board of Directors

Dan McCauley, *Chair*;
Christopher Cordingley, *Vice Chair*; Sarah Norcott, *Secretary*;
Thomas McArdle, *Treasurer*;
Candace Cain, Brenda Carney,
Brett Clark, Georgia Cummings,
Steve Fawcett, Sara Groves,
Stephanie Hunthausen,
Trish Klock, Chad Odegard,
Adrian Sagan, Jon Satre, and
Alyssa Sorenson

within our community. Tours are offered every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., and everyone is welcome. Call us to reserve a spot or to arrange a group tour. Together, we can realize the vision of a hunger-free community.

Your Food Donations Make a Difference!

Did you know that roughly **67% of the food shared each year through Helena Food Share** comes from donated items? This incredible statistic highlights the power of community generosity in helping provide food for our neighbors in need.

A significant portion of these donations comes directly from individual households and gardens. Whether it's food you've purchased, grown, or harvested, every contribution is vital in keeping our shelves and coolers stocked daily.

The newly opened **Community Food Resource Center** makes donating easier than ever with a specially designed **Donation Door**, located conveniently along Boulder Avenue. Here's how it works:

- 1 Drive up to the circular driveway on the south side of the building.
- 2 Get out, ring the bell, and come in.
- 3 A friendly staff member or volunteer will come out to assist you in bringing your items inside.
- 4 They'll weigh your donations and, if requested, provide you with a receipt for your records.

Many of you ask what food is most needed so you can pick up



Food donation drive-up.

items when you are out shopping. The items you purchase and donate are essential since they bring a variety of items to the Market shelves and offer a greater selection for customers.

We are now posting an updated list each month on our social media and website—[helenafoodshare.org/get-involved/food-drives](https://www.helenafoodshare.org/get-involved/food-drives).

January's wish list includes sugar-free, gluten-free, and low-sodium items, and whole-grain pasta. These are essential for many shoppers with dietary restrictions and are welcome throughout the year.

Every contribution, big or small, adds up to make a meaningful



Sample Food Wish List items.

impact. Whether its surplus vegetables from your garden or extra nonperishable items from your pantry, your donations help us ensure that everyone in our community has access to nourishing food.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Together, we're making a difference, one meal at a time.

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A publication of Helena Food Share

Contact Us:

(406) 443-3663

To Volunteer: ext. 106

To Donate: ext. 103

To Get Help: ext. 110

Grocery Share Market:

1280 Boulder Avenue, Helena

East Helena Mobile Pantry:

50 Prickley Pear, East Helena

Office: 1280 Boulder Avenue, Helena



[HelenaFoodShare.org](https://www.HelenaFoodShare.org)



Creating a Hunger-Free Community

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Community Food Quarterly

HUNGER HEROES

Are passionate monthly donors on a mission to end hunger in our community

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Support During Times of Need
- Report to the Community
- Food Donations Make a Difference



ANGELA IS A HUNGER HERO!

Angela's **\$100 each month** helped provide a family of 4 with dinners for the year.



BEN IS A HUNGER HERO!

Ben's **\$50 each month** supplemented milk for a single mom and her two girls last year.



CAROL IS A HUNGER HERO!

Carol's **\$20 each month** provided 150 meals for one of her neighbors last year.



YOU Can Become a Hunger Hero, too—it's easy!

- Sign up at HelenaFoodShare.org/Give
- Or check the Hunger Hero box on the enclosed envelope

