









At Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB), we believe that hunger is a solvable problem - and that solving it involves real commitment from and partnership between individuals and businesses, foundations, organizations, legislators, financial supporters, food donors, volunteers, advocates. Solving hunger involves you!

And, thanks to you, in our Fiscal Year 2019, WCFB and its network of local Partner Agencies - food pantries, community meal programs, and shelters - distributed **6.1 million pounds' worth of donated food (enough for 5.1 million meals) to 75,000 of our neighbors.**

Those neighbors are children and seniors, college students, parents and grandparents, working adults, people who are unemployed or underemployed, people with disabilities, veterans, folks of all races, backgrounds, and life experiences from all 60 cities and towns in Worcester County. Some have been struggling for a long while. For others, circumstances changed just recently (sometimes unexpectedly), resulting in a first visit to a food pantry.

Said Dale, "Before this experience, I probably had a different idea about who was hungry. One thing was for sure: I didn't think it could happen to me." Closing in on retirement, he picked up a second job to care for his grandchildren when his daughter - who struggles with drug addiction - went missing. Dale admits he's a proud man and he wishes circumstances were different. Visiting his local pantry for the first time was a "humbling but necessary" experience. "But those kids needed to eat, and I needed to feed them."

In this report, we highlight the ways **your support matters** to neighbors across the ages and stages of their life: from school children receiving Breakfast After the Bell, to college students visiting a campus pantry, to seniors supplementing shortfalls in their food budgets with a visit to their local food program.

For all that you have done (for your gifts of funds, food, time, talent, advocacy, partnership) and for all that you continue to do to be community for neighbors struggling with hunger, thank you.

Jean G. McMurray, Executive Director

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Robert Pulda, Chair, Board of Directors

HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS...

It's a serious problem. You're a part of the solution.



1 in 12 people
(1 in 9 children)
in Worcester County
don't have enough, healthy
food to eat.

75,000 PEOPLE

turned to pantries and meal programs in the Worcester County Food Bank Partner Agency network for help finding food in our Fiscal Year 2019.



32% WERE CHILDREN and 14% WERE SENIORS.

LAST YEAR, WITH YOUR SUPPORT...

we distributed the equivalent of **5.1 million meals'** worth of donated food.

Over half of the food we distributed fell into two broad categories:

fruits/vegetables and proteins.



Plus...

trainings in different parts of the county, mobilizing attendees to speak up for policies and programs that decrease hunger by improving access to healthy food.

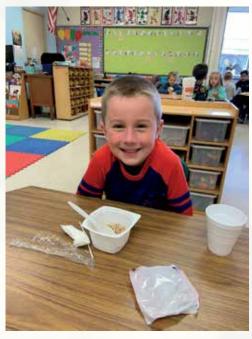
FROM HUNGER TO HOPE:

Ending hunger takes community

Frances Drake Elementary School: It starts with breakfast

Before Breakfast After the Bell, Wendy Hess, Assistant Principal of Frances Drake Elementary in Leominster, MA couldn't be sure most of the children she encountered each day had enough (or anything) to eat that morning. In fact, Hess said, she was pretty sure few of them had. Students had trouble concentrating, were falling asleep in class, and making hunger-related visits to the nurse's office.

Frances Drake, where the majority of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, adopted Breakfast After the Bell in 2014. Students receive breakfast in the classroom, free of charge, daily. Hess said the importance of the program is clear. "Since it was initiated, our school went from 28% of our children having breakfast to more than 80%."



Enjoying breakfast at Frances Drake Elementary

"...our school went from 28% of our children having breakfast to more than 80%."

A backer of Breakfast After the Bell at the state level, Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) staff have partnered with Frances Drake to showcase the program for legislators considering a bill that would require schools with 60% or more of students receiving free/reduced price meals to offer the program. Hess herself has even accompanied WCFB staff to the State House to testify in support of Breakfast After the Bell legislation. Hess calls the program a "win-win."

"Students are never hungry at Frances Drake now. They're consistently ready to learn each morning with full and satisfied bellies."

CHECK IT OUT.

Want to see Breakfast After the Bell in action? Visit Worcester County Food Bank's YouTube channel to watch a video featuring Frances Drake's breakfast program.

Mount Wachusett Community College provides food for thought (literally)



Food for Thought: a resource for students at MWCC

"Students who are food insecure are the hardest working students we see. They are determined to create economic stability for themselves and their families, and that's why they are attending school when they are struggling to meet their basic needs."

"We know that 66% of community college students are food insecure across the country, and in surveying our own students, we found the same to be true here," said Shelley Errington Nicholson, Director of the Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement. In 2019, MWCC partnered with WCFB to open a campus food pantry, Food for Thought, which currently serves over 250 students on MWCC campuses in Leominster, Gardner, and Devens.

Errington Nicholson noted that food insecurity isn't a new phenomenon on college campuses. (We've all heard tales of students subsisting on packaged noodles.) But - thanks to a number of high-profile stories in the national press, Errington Nicholson said it is "finally" receiving the attention it deserves.

"Students who are food insecure are the hardest working students we see. They are determined to create economic stability for themselves and their families, and that is why they are attending school when they are struggling to meet their basic needs. When I hear students being shamed or questioned for being in school when they cannot afford to eat, it angers me."

Still, said Errington Nicholson, the pantry is working hard to destigmatize food insecurity, too. "For every one student who visits us, there are two more who need our help but are reluctant to come forward."

Jeremiah's Inn: There for those who were there for us

Mary Tambling, Nutrition Center Coordinator at Jeremiah's Inn in Worcester, calls it a "sad subject."

Said Tambling, "Most of the elderly people we see here have worked their whole lives." Many pantry guests were themselves long-time caregivers earlier in life: parents, grandparents, providers.

Jeremiah's Inn - which serves a high percentage of seniors owing to the pantry's location in proximity to affordable housing for the elderly - served over 1,800 Worcester residents last year, including a number of aging veterans.

Seniors comprise 14% of people seeking food assistance at WCFB Partner Agencies. And at Jeremiah's Inn (like at other programs in the WCFB network), a visit to the pantry has become a long-term strategy for seniors whose income is insufficient to cover food alongside other expenses like housing, utilities, and medicine.

Tambling said she's grateful the pantry can be a resource for all who need the support. "Now it's our turn to be there for them."



Sammy (left) and Mary (right) prepare for distribution at Jeremiah's Inn.

"... we're going to be here until everyone in Worcester County is living hunger-free and healthy. That's our commitment."

A place for everyone in the movement to end hunger

"If there's one thing we at WCFB and our Partner Agencies know, it's that hunger affects so many different people. There's no one type of person who's hungry," said WCFB Executive Director, Jean McMurray. "Hunger impacts children and parents, adults, seniors, people with disabilities, people affected by poverty at a young age and people who have fallen on hard times somewhere along the way. And the same way that it impacts many, it will take all of us to solve it. As for WCFB, we're going to be here until everyone in Worcester County is living hunger-free and healthy. That's our commitment."

YOU CAN HELP.

Follow WCFB on social media. Stay informed. Share with others. Get even more involved.







FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets

 Cash & equivalents
 \$ 886,503

 Accounts receivable
 \$ 115,903

 Prepaid & other assets
 \$ 60,965

 Total Current Assets
 \$ 1,063,371

 Investments
 \$ 6,343,901

 Property & equipment (net)
 \$ 1,147,748

 Total Assets
 \$ 8,555,020

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable \$ 130,184 Accrued expenses \$ 129,025 Total Liabilities \$ 259,209

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions \$8,295,811
With Donor Restrictions -

Total Net Assets \$8,295,811

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$ 8,555,020

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Donated food & services \$ 10,023,388

Operating support & revenue \$ 3,367,189

Net assets released from restrictions \$ 51,298

Total Support & Revenue \$ 13,441,875

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program services \$ 11,995,185

Management & general \$ 533,451

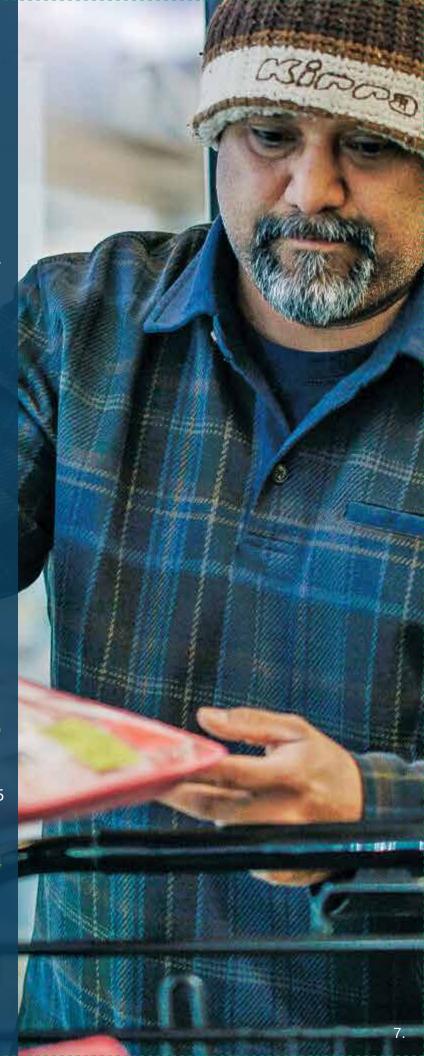
Fundraising \$ 480,788

Total Operating Expenses \$ 13,009,424

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net assets, beginning of year \$7,863,360 Net assets, end of year \$8,295,811

\$ 432,451



*** Draft audited financials dated 10/17/2019; final audited financials are published at foodbank.org when available ***



WORCESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK

474 Boston Turnpike Shrewsbury, MA 01545 (508) 842-3663 foodbank.org