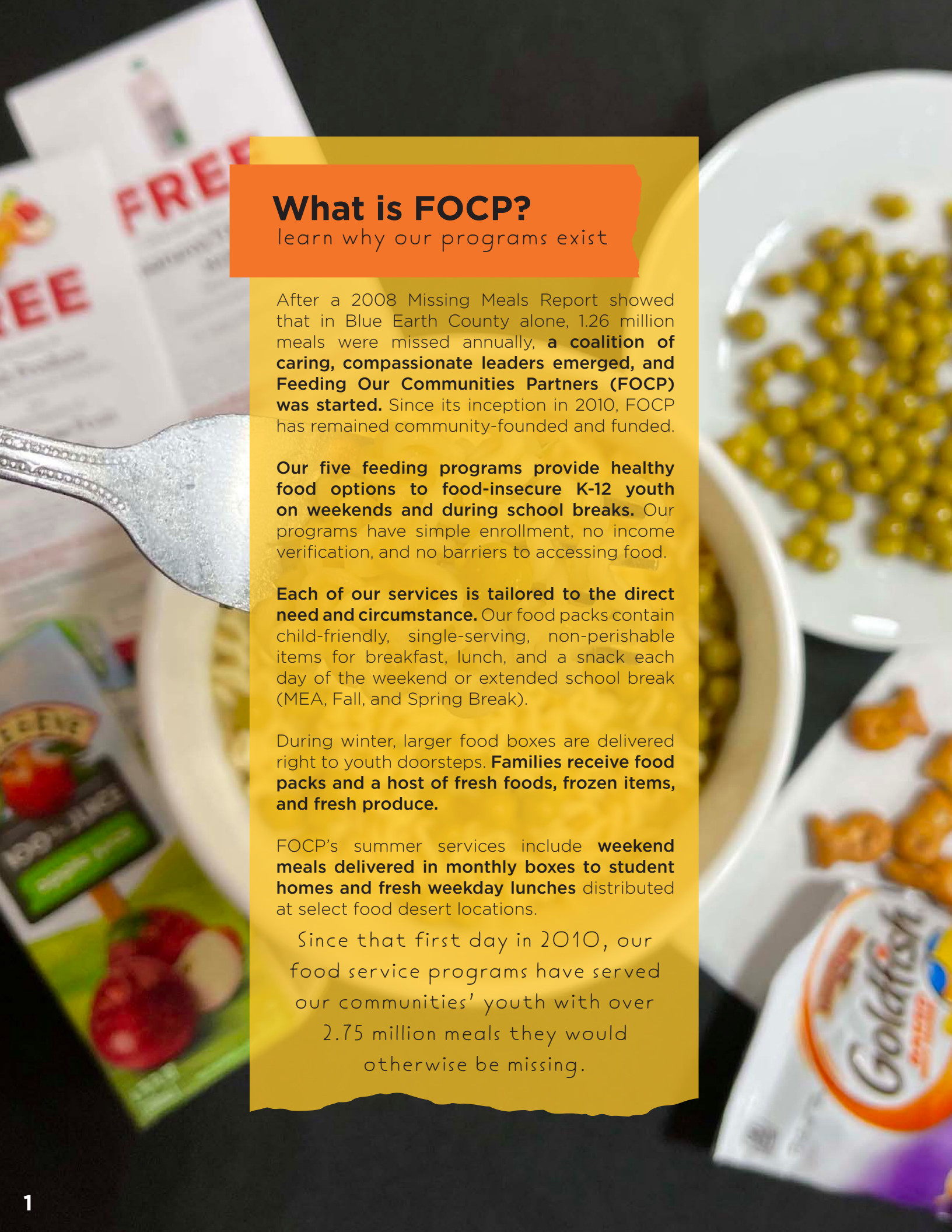




ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS



What is FOCP?

learn why our programs exist

After a 2008 Missing Meals Report showed that in Blue Earth County alone, 1.26 million meals were missed annually, **a coalition of caring, compassionate leaders emerged, and Feeding Our Communities Partners (FOCP) was started.** Since its inception in 2010, FOCP has remained community-founded and funded.

Our five feeding programs provide healthy food options to food-insecure K-12 youth on weekends and during school breaks. Our programs have simple enrollment, no income verification, and no barriers to accessing food.

Each of our services is tailored to the direct need and circumstance. Our food packs contain child-friendly, single-serving, non-perishable items for breakfast, lunch, and a snack each day of the weekend or extended school break (MEA, Fall, and Spring Break).

During winter, larger food boxes are delivered right to youth doorsteps. **Families receive food packs and a host of fresh foods, frozen items, and fresh produce.**

FOCP's summer services include **weekend meals delivered in monthly boxes to student homes and fresh weekday lunches** distributed at select food desert locations.

Since that first day in 2010, our food service programs have served our communities' youth with over 2.75 million meals they would otherwise be missing.

A Year In Review: From Team FOCP

The last year has been a big one for FOCP! **We maintained our mission of ending youth hunger and were ready for the challenge of expanding our services to feed more students within our area communities.**

In the summer of 2023, we had the opportunity to move our operations into a larger, neighboring warehouse space. **The additional 10,000 square feet allow our team:**

- Increased warehouse footprint, providing more space to store a larger volume of food
- Additional bay doors for seamless home deliveries
- A private volunteer entrance
- Access to functional office space

Besides the sweat that came with our July move, it also brought one of our largest accomplishments: **our service expansion to the Janesville - Waldorf - Pemberton school district.** These rural communities expressed a need, and we were relieved to have the capacity to meet it.

We also grew our high school pantry services to an additional high school, ensuring that six area high schools have healthy food options for students in grades 9-12. Besides providing nutrition, our high school pantries also empower these near-adults to make their own food decisions.

In response to the growing needs of our communities, we welcomed three new staff members to our small but mighty team of eight. However, it is not solely our passionate staff and dedicated board that make our work a success; **we rely on over 2,000 volunteers, motivated school staff, and generous businesses and individuals to help us achieve our goals.**

Team FOCP is constantly humbled by the community support that ensures our ongoing success in ending youth hunger.

Together we can positively impact lives,

Team FOCP



“I’m truly grateful for this program and cannot express enough gratitude towards all the people who make this happen. No shaming, no judgment or denial... this program is a blessing.”

- program parent



DATE:

BACKPACK
FOOD
PROGRAM

POWER
PACK

CONTENTS:

Malt O Meal

FROSTED
FLAKES
CEREAL

SUNCUP

Nutrition Facts

Serving size
1 bowl (28g)
Calories 110
per serving

Amount/Serving	% DV	Amount/Serving	% DV
Total Fat 0g	0%	Total Carb. 25g	9%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%	Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Trans Fat 0g	0%	Total Sugars 10g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%	Incl. 10g Added Sugars	20%
Sodium 130mg	6%	Protein 1g	

Vitamin D 0% • Calcium 0% • Iron 20% • Potassium 0%
Thiamin 45% • Niacin 6% • Vitamin B6 6% • Folate 25mcg DFE
6% (15mcg folic acid) • Pantothenic acid 6% • Zinc 6%

INGREDIENTS: MILLED CORN, SUGAR, CONTAINS 2% OR LESS OF: CORN SYRUP, SALT, BARLEY MALT EXTRACT, WHEAT STARCH, VITAMINS AND MINERALS: FERRIC ORTHOPHOSPHATE (SOURCE OF IRON), NIACINAMIDE (VITAMIN B3), ZINC OXIDE, THIAMIN MONONITRATE (VITAMIN B1), CALCIUM PANTOTHENATE (VITAMIN B5), PYRIDOXINE HYDROCHLORIDE (VITAMIN B6), FOLIC ACID.
CONTAINS WHEAT.

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NET WT 1 OZ (28g)

Farm & Orchard

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Not a sugar
No es azúcar
Percent D
calorie de
*Los porce
Incididos

Southpa
SKETT
PASTA Y
PESO NO

INGREDI
MAIZ, F
TODOS L
OVINOS

INGREDI
SARAR
CARAME
ALICIA
PACER B

Porción
servise (213g)

Serving Cantidad por Porción
Calories 200 Fat Cal./Cal. Grasa 60

% DV* / % DV*

Total Fat 9g 14%

Total Carb. 4g 20%

Total Sugars 20mg 7%

Total Protein 680mg 28%

Total Fiber 21g 7%

Total Fiber/Fibra Dietética 1g 4%

Sugars/Azúcares 4g

Protein/Proteínas 7g

Vit. A/Vit. A 4% • Vit. C/Vit. C 8%

Calcium/Calcio 2% • Iron/Hierro 6%

Hunger Doesn't Discriminate

fueling today's youth and tomorrow's leaders

We hear firsthand from families that **life circumstances can seriously undercut food budgets and force families to make difficult trade-offs:** medicine or meals, gas or groceries, housing over hunger.

Many enrolled families share stories of sudden life events, such as job losses or changes in family structure.

"We were financially and food secure until we weren't. My husband lost his second job and the economy turned making purchasing anything more difficult. FOCP allows our children to eat when they are hungry, rather than having to wait for a specific meal or ration their food. As parents, it allows us to continue to allow our children to navigate their own hunger cues, rather than having to say no for the purpose of sustainability until the next paycheck arrives."

- program parent

Hunger creates a ripple effect that impacts us all. **Hunger follows youth from home into schools and out into our communities.**

We believe that children can't thrive on an empty stomach. Research shows that hungry youth are more likely to experience chronic illness and have weakened immune systems. They also display impaired concentration and poor academic performance.

Although children can access breakfast and lunch during school days, they may have limited access to food options on weekends and school breaks.

With the help of our communities, we fill that gap by providing more than 1,100 local K-12 students with child-friendly food options.

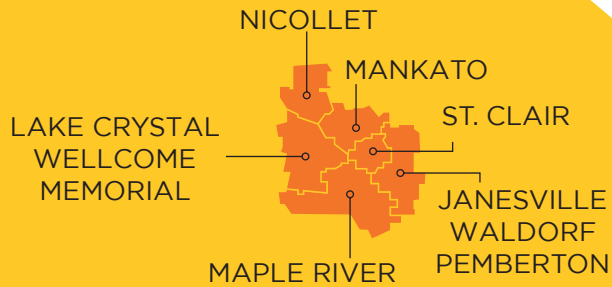
Beyond providing food, our services also empower and comfort youth during their critical formative years.

One student shared,

"The food packs make me feel less hungry and more focused."

We look forward to a future where no youth has to go to school encumbered by hunger pains or stomach grumbles.

1,150+ Students Fed 264,055 Meals Served



“As a working mom living in a smaller community with limited grocery options, the food packs have been a great help. Since most of the food is easy grab and go, my kids use it as snacks between school and sports practices.”

- program parent

BackPack Food Program

Established in 2010

Serving grades K-5 on weekends and school breaks

Power Pack Program

Established in 2017

Serving grades 6-8 on weekends and school breaks

Summer Pack Program

Established in 2019

Serving grades K-12 on weekends during the summer

High School Pantry

Established in 2020

Serving grades 9-12 on weekends and school breaks

STOMP

Established in 2020

Serving youth under 18 weekday lunches during the summer

From July 2023 - June 2024, FOCP served more than 189,000 school year meals through our Backpack, Power Pack, and High School Pantry Programs and distributed 75,000 summer meals to K-12 youth through Summer Pack and STOMP. We broadened our service area to JWP (Janesville - Waldorf - Pemberton), Maple River, St. Clair, Nicollet, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial, and Mankato.



Our Volunteers: The Backbone of FOCP

The remnants of food packs in colorful bins resting on pallets and disheveled papers and supplies lying on tables told the story of the incredible work that had just been completed.

This was the picture of purpose. It meant that FOCP had done its job, and what remained was the satisfying confirmation that over 1,100 students had received food when they otherwise may not.

"I feel blessed to work with the staff at FOCP who are committed to giving kids this important commodity. I enjoy working alongside other volunteers and the FOCP staff who make it fun and rewarding."

- Mary Hirn, FOCP Volunteer

As we complete yet another year of serving this mission, we are reminded of how truly humbling this work is. It is not completed as a solo act by the hands of our small team of eight alone.

It is completed in partnership with over 2,000 volunteers contributing nearly 4,000 hours of service.

The different ways in which volunteers help at FOCP during the school year are:

- Preparing food packs
- Aiding in the shipment to schools
- Distributing to school personnel
- Stamping vouchers

During our winter and summer break, we rely on hundreds of volunteers to pack and deliver boxes full of shelf-stable and perishable food directly to student doorsteps. This delivery method ensures that every student receives food regardless of barriers such as transportation.

Our summer months also host a slew of volunteers to help with the distribution of our SummerTime Outreach Meal Program (STOMP). **STOMP volunteers deliver fresh weekday lunches and produce to pre-determined food desert sites for youth under 18.**

The resilience of our Hunger Heroes has helped countless students enrolled in FOCP's program find a sense of comfort in knowing they do not need to ration or skip meals. **It is only together that we can continue to ensure that today's youth can reach their full potential.**



Together We Raised: Funds for Youth Food Security

FOCP receives no federal funding and we cannot accomplish our mission without the continued support we receive from generous sponsors, foundations, businesses, organizations, and individual donors.

Because of our commitment to providing youth hunger relief, we create a fund development and strategic plan annually and work vigorously to achieve fundraising goals. We are grateful for all of the partners who have stepped up to help meet the growing needs of our communities.

A majority of funding comes from grants. With those partnerships **we can maintain, sustain, and grow our services for fueling youth.** L&N Andreas Foundation founders, Lowell and Nadine Andreas, believed that no child in Mankato should ever have to worry about having enough quality food every day. L&N Andreas Foundation continues to support FOCP in meeting this goal.

Our gracious communities ensure that students grow into their best selves, regardless of current circumstances. This is seen through our partnership with Mayo Clinic Health System as a sponsor of STOMP. Erin Westfall D.O., Family Medicine with MCHS says, *“True health extends beyond the doctor’s office. Mayo Clinic Health System supports STOMP to ensure children have nutritious food over the summer break to fuel their bodies and keep them healthy.”*

FOCP hosts three fundraising events annually and relies on the support of committed sponsors and partners to ensure success. Presenting Sponsor of Beer, Brats & Bourbon, Scott Miller, United Prairie Bank President/CEO says, *“At United Prairie, we are proud to help our community fight food insecurity in the most vulnerable part of our community: our children. We will continue to be part of this program and other programs that benefit our community. All of us working together makes a huge difference.”*

With inflation, food costs have significantly risen, affecting many households. As families feel the strain, our enrollment rises at the same rate as our cost per student. Since 2019, our cost of services per student served has risen by \$50/child.

By providing a steady, reliable form of support, sustaining gifts ensure youth have adequate nutrition on weekends and school breaks. Rob and Lori Pietz, FOCP Sustaining Donors say, *“Organizations like FOCP need both volunteers and money to fulfill their mission. Financial support to help pay for operations and purchase food, and volunteers to help make the dollars go further by reducing costs. This in turn allows them to grow and provide food for more children.”*

FOCP is committed to financial transparency and accountability. We hold ourselves to high standards so you can be confident your gift is making a direct, local, and immediate impact on food-insecure youth in our communities.



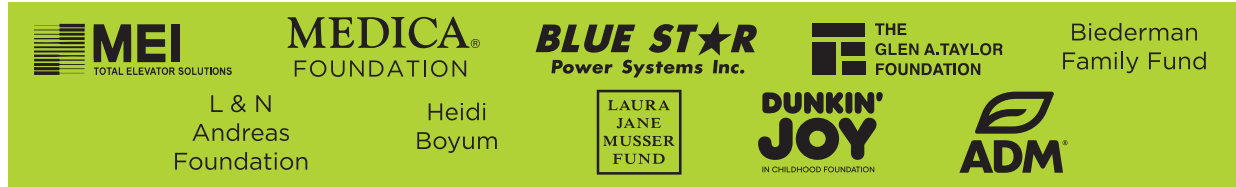


Fueling Partners

\$50,000 +



\$20,000 +



\$10,000 +



\$5,000 +



\$2,500 +



\$1,500 +



Feeding Partners

SUSTAINING DONORS

Jenny & Chris Adams
Gina & Ethan Anderson
Tricia & Keir Asher
Aaron Bartell
Robert & Katie Beadell
Scott & Teresa Bergs
Paulette Bertrand
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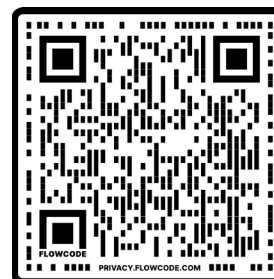
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Carol Orcutt
Chris Woodward
Mark Daby
Don & Darleen Baumberger
Heather Hallstein
Dr. Clare Slovick
John P. & Rosella Huettl
Judy Funk
Larry Ulmen
Mike Coy
Mollie Miller
Nancy Bruce
Sue Mueller-Story
Will Miller

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** value of \$500+*
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Fully Promoted - Mankato
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J. Longs
Kato Roofing Inc.
Kamra Joosten Photography
Kato Moving & Storage
Label Works
Louie & Kancy Vermillion
Lori & Chris Wollmuth
Malterer Mechanical
Mount Kato
Minnesota Homeworks, LLC
Minnesota Aurora FC
Navitor
NSP
Radio Mankato
Scheels
Social Indoor
Steve Kaitz
The Mankato Free Press
The Window Source
Volk Transfer

**SCAN QR CODE TO
VIEW ALL PARTNERS**



*Gifts recognized in this report were
received 7-1-2023 through 6-30-2024.
For corrections contact us at
focp.admin@focpmn.org*

THIS WAS A BIG YEAR FOR US, BUT WE BELIEVE THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

Since 2010, we have served nearly three million meals to local youth. It is only with the help of our communities that we've been able to do this, and we hope to continue to sustain, maintain, and fill gaps in youth food resources.

We aim to maintain our open enrollment policy throughout the year and avoid capping the number of students served in our communities.

Join us in the fight to end youth hunger!



WWW.FOCPMN.ORG

2120 Howard Drive West, Suite J
North Mankato, MN 56003

**FOCP HAS A MISSION TO ENGAGE OUR
COMMUNITY IN SOLVING YOUTH HUNGER**

FOCP is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization
Federal EIN: 27-2374187



MEET OUR TEAM

Front Row: Pictured left to right

Heather Bierer, Administrative Coordinator

BriAnna Dols, Creative & Operations Manager

Sheri Sander-Silva, Executive Director

Layne Boswell, Program Logistics Manager

Holly Dodge, Communications Coordinator

Back Row: Pictured left to right

Cliff Coy, Program Coordinator

Lori Wollmuth, Community Relations Manager

Josh Sorenson, Program Manager

FY 24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Bill Rose, Hunger Hero

Vice Chair: Leslie Vermillion, United Prairie Bank

Treasurer: Andy Thom, LJP Enterprises

Assistant Treasurer: Melissa Bradley, Snell Motors

Secretary: Mandy Hunecke, Crystal Valley

Assistant Secretary: Karla Njoku, Massad Group

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Chad Carlberg, PresenceMaker, Inc

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