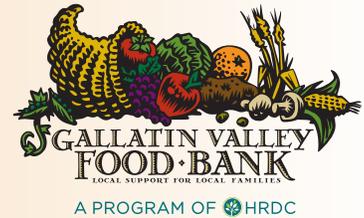


# Food For Thought

A Newsletter from the Gallatin Valley Food Bank  
gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org



## From the Operations Desk:

In an effort to share our story the Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) will be publishing a newsletter three times a year. You make a difference on a daily basis and you're the reason the Food Bank is able to serve 3,000 or more individuals every month. The GVFB's strength lies in numbers, as many hands make light work. This is evidenced by the volunteers who donated over 22,157 hours last year. This also holds true for the financial and food inventory stability of our food bank. While a few donors may give a \$1,000 dollars or more, our strength again results from the many \$5 to \$100 donations. Donations come in all forms and no donation is too small. This broad base of support is vital to our success and speaks to the difference we can make together.

Our grocers are our largest food contributors donating over 1,086,221 pounds of food last year. Their commitment significantly reduces food waste while supplementing our clients' pantries. Grocers and the support of our community help make efforts like Can the Griz (which we won in 2016) an amazing success. We could not be more grateful for your involvement with our efforts to improve food security in Southwest Montana.

Next up, we look forward to the Letter Carriers' food drive in its' 25th year on May 13th. This is another simple way for everyone to contribute a little to make a huge difference. The 2015 census estimated 95,323 persons living in Gallatin County and we assist just over 10,000 individuals each year. If you subtract those needing assistance and the remaining 85,323 people gave one can of food to the postal drive it would be an amazing step to filling the food bank for the next 4 months. Please help us by reminding your friends and neighbors of this event.

Thank you for your ongoing support, together we will provide some security to those in need.



Jill Holder, Operations Manager  
Gallatin Valley Food Bank, HRDC

## Staff Profile:

### Mariah Smith & Rachel Schorr

Mariah joined the food bank team at the end of October and has been working with staff to stay on top of the food bank's data collection, entry, and reporting. Mariah graduated from the University of Montana in May 2016 (GO GRIZ!) with a degree in natural resource conservation. In the past she has worked as a community garden educator, rafting adventure consultant, and a soil-water physics researcher. Mariah brings with her a passion for helping people and is excited to be a part of such a dynamic team serving one of the greatest needs here in Gallatin County.



Rachel is the Gallatin Valley Food Bank's AmeriCorps PRC Vista who graduated in May with a degree in Public Health and Health Sciences from Carroll College. Her main focus will be starting up the Story Mill Teaching Garden that will allow access for at-risk youth to get their hands dirty gardening while becoming a part of the rich history of agriculture in Bozeman. She is very excited to get the program going and watch how those who participate grow and flourish. She hopes that it becomes successful within the community.

## Program Highlight:

### Mobile Belgrade Service

Last summer we moved our Saturday Belgrade Service from Living Waters Methodist Church in hopes of reaching more clients. We piloted a couple different outdoor sites over the summer, before cooler temperatures forced us back inside. Pre-packed emergency food boxes available as well as bread and produce. You can now find us Monday evenings (excluding holidays) at Peace Lutheran Church, 203 Jackrabbit Lane from 5-6pm. Stop by and say hi!

(406)586-7600  
602 Bond Street, Bozeman MT 59715

### Hunger's Hope Awards



Our team is excited to be honored by the Montana Food Bank Network, as one of the recipients of their 2017 Hunger's Hope Awards! Each year Montana Food Bank Network recognizes

individuals, organizations, and businesses that have done exemplary work to end hunger. This year we were recognized: "Gallatin Valley Food Bank is an ideal example of a next-generation food bank that understands the changing face of hunger in Montana. Their staff and volunteers foster an environment of community collaboration and partnership that stretches across four counties."

Thank you to MFBN for recognizing our efforts, and to our staff, and our volunteers who go above and beyond for our community.

### Food Rescue Fleet News

You may have seen our new Food Rescue van around town. Our vehicles are used for many important functions at the food bank, including food rescue from area businesses and food delivery to clients. Our old white van was showing its age at over 150,000 miles, and couldn't quite handle all of the demands we put on it. Last year, the Montana Food Bank Network applied for a grant from the Walmart Foundation through Feeding America, which included a request of \$25,000 to go towards a new vehicle purchase. The funds were granted, and with their significant contribution we were able to purchase a new 2017 Ram Promaster van and customize it to transport food safely. It is a big improvement over the old van with more storage space (and headroom), a strong cooler, and excellent insulation. While we will continue to use the old van for various pickups and deliveries, we are all very excited to welcome the Promaster to the fleet!



### Huffing For Stuffing

held its 10th annual run on this past Thanksgiving morning. A record 4,531 participants and their families came out to support our neighbors who rely on the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. This year's event raised over \$61,000 for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, raising our ten-year cumulative total to \$353,000! An event of this caliber is only possible with the support of our sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers, some of which have been a part of HFS since its inception in 2007. [huffingforstuffing.com](http://huffingforstuffing.com)

### Upcoming Events:

- April is National Volunteer Recognition Month!
- April 19th, **Wear Orange Wednesday!** Raise awareness for childhood hunger by wearing orange.
- May 13th, **Letter Carriers' Food Drive!** Set out your non-perishable food in or near your mailbox before your letter carrier's normal pick-up time, and they will collect it.

### Food Drive Updates:

Carve Out Hunger: 1,929lbs  
 Spring For Food: 15,229lbs  
 Trick Or Treat So Kids Can Eat: 4,237lbs  
 Cranksgiving: 406lbs  
 Can the Griz: 327,174lbs (234,486 lbs of food & \$92,688)

### Ways to Help:

#### Volunteer Your Time

Stop in and fill out our volunteer application or visit our website and complete it there! [gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org](http://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org)

#### Donate Funds and Food

Both food and funds matter. Cash donations keep our freezers running, lights on, and our vehicles on the road. They also support our innovative programs to address the root causes of hunger through advocacy and education. Food drives provide some of the healthiest and highest-quality food the Gallatin Valley Food Bank receives.



#### Grow a Row

Are your friends and family overloaded with vegetables from your garden? We will gladly take your extra produce off your hands! Drop off your produce at **602 Bond Street**. All you have to do is rinse your donation and we will ensure it helps a local family.

#### Stay Connected!

Find us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/gallatinvalleyfoodbank](https://facebook.com/gallatinvalleyfoodbank)  
 Follow us on Instagram:  
[@gallatin\\_valley\\_food\\_bank](https://instagram.com/gallatin_valley_food_bank)