IMPACT REPORT 2021

Loaves & fishes

OUR MISSION:

To provide healthy meals to Minnesotans in areas where the need is greatest.

OUR CORE VALUES:

Generosity. Optimism. Dignity. Community. Nourishment.

Our Team

Cathy Maes
Kiley Benson
Matt Anderson
Christian Bourdo
Melissa Cavanaugh
Lonny Evans
Carolyn Gross
Laura Ibsen
Emily Kelson
Hannah Litfin
Mel McCormick
Ryan Tibbitts
Carlos Ayala
Fernando Ayala
Aaron Haugabrook
Chris Haugabrook
Chris Pangle
Michael Shea
Chris Sholar
Debra Lieberman
Herbert Carruthers
John Farrell

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Scott Smith
Kurt Swiecichowski
Karthik Viswanathan

Another incredible year.

We went into 2021 prepared for the hunger needs in Minnesota to stay at an all-time high after serving 4.4 million meals in 2020. Our prediction was right as we went over 4.2 million meals again this year. This was made possible thanks to a dedicated staff and board, passionate volunteers, generous donors and partnerships that continued to lift us up.

We completed our strategic plan when we opened the commissary kitchen last year. With a check by that goal, I knew that we could open ourselves up to dream about the future. We embarked on a new 3-5 year plan and it was a fantastic journey with our board and staff. The "buckets" we will be focusing on are: Feeding the Need, Expanding Our Reach, Developing and Retaining the Best People, and Funding the Need. We have already started our team research and have some promising partners in St. Cloud. More to come!

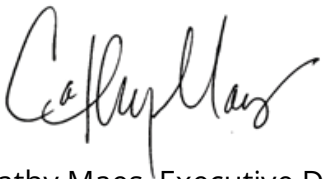
Our focus is always on the most important part of our mission: the people we serve. We learned a lot this year about what affects our guests the most, like Gilbert, who used to frequent Loaves & Fishes as a guest. He now gives his time back as a volunteer so he can show people the care he felt when he was going through a tough time.

"People having societal issues and going through rock bottom give up and think people don't care," said Gilbert. "Places like Loaves & Fishes give people a sense of, 'Ok, somebody cares.'" Stories like this remind us that our work is more than just a meal — it is seasoned with comfort and kindness.

We are acutely aware that the cost of food is rising at a rapid rate. This, coupled with inflation, means that our work is even more crucial and so is our need for donors like you to help keep our ship afloat.

Thank you for your care and generosity.

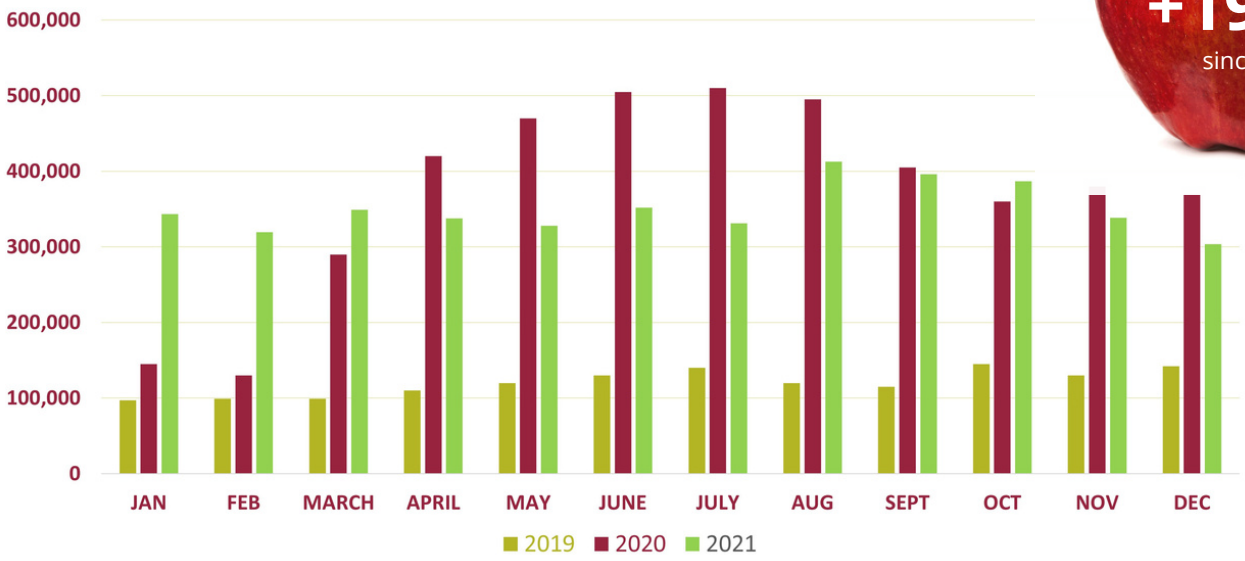
With gratitude,



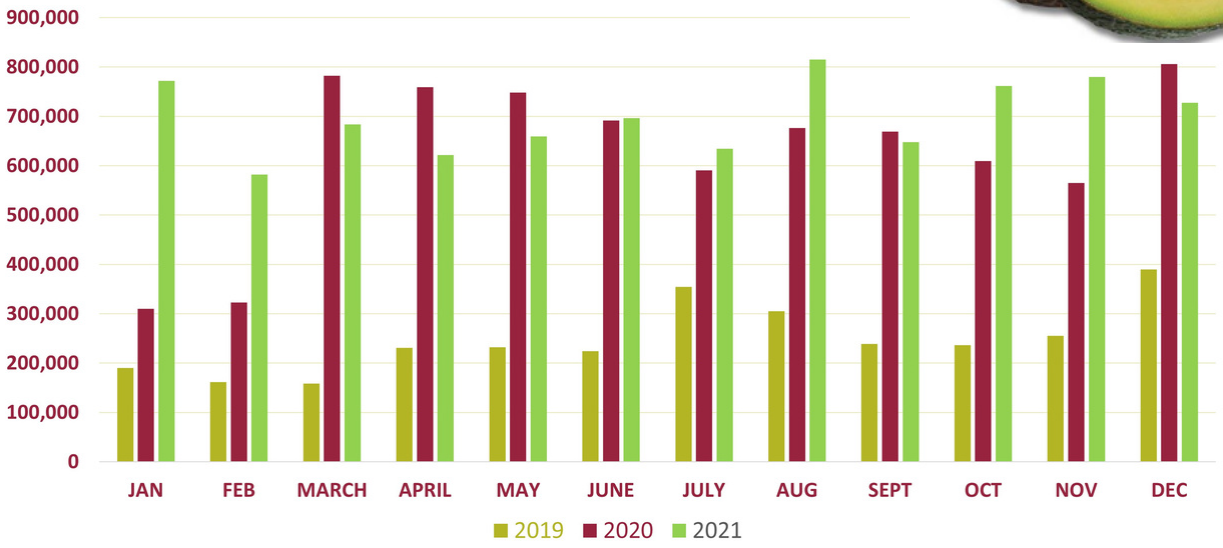
Cathy Maes, Executive Director

Our Growth

Meals Served



Food Rescued



Our Community & Reaching Goals

By the end of 2020, we had served 4,454,745 meals — a staggering 227% increase from 2019. The partnerships we gained throughout that year and the relentless support from every individual made that growth possible. We had no way of knowing what 2021 would bring and if we would be able to keep up with the demand. However, yet again, the community showed up. We are thrilled that we were able to serve over 4,000,000 meals again in 2021 which demonstrated the ongoing need for free, healthy meals in our community throughout the pandemic.

"I just started coming a few weeks ago. This helps make ends meet with being a single mom. It's just hard right now. This is very helpful."
— Kelly

Community Meal Sites

We maintained over 30 community meal sites throughout 2021. We have been able to reach more hungry Minnesotans and broaden access to healthy foods with our to-go model compared to our traditional in-person dining model. This system encourages people in need to seek assistance without fear of judgment. Based on the feedback we've received and the success we have seen throughout 2021 we plan to continue our to-go model for the foreseeable future.

Street Outreach

Since the launch of our street outreach program in 2015, we have been bringing mobile meals to urban residents who are experiencing homelessness, in recovery, or struggling with reliable transportation. We served 2,600,000 meals through the Street Outreach program through the end of 2021 which represents a 181% increase from our year-end predictions.

Food Rescue

We process millions of pounds of food annually at our central warehouse. We receive food from Second Harvest Heartland, MealConnect, Fresh Food Connect, and accept large and small donations from organizations, groups, and individuals. Leftover, wholesome food is captured throughout the week from partnering restaurants, grocery stores, cafeterias, and businesses including the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. We rescued 8,380,920 pounds of food through the end of 2021 — an 11% increase from 2020.

Advocacy

Our director of advocacy speaks with people outside at our community meal locations, listens compassionately to personal circumstances, offers local referrals relevant to individual needs, and answers the advocacy hotline and email seven days a week. All information is organized by county and compiled on our website for up-to-date, 24-hour public access.

"Blessings on the people volunteering and donating to this cause. We are very grateful."
— John

Commissary Kitchen

The Commissary Kitchen is a full commercial kitchen being used to cook large quantities of rescued food, which is distributed and reheated at our community meal locations. In 2021, approximately 130,000 meals were prepared at the Commissary Kitchen. We also hired a second chef which will ultimately allow us to serve more meals to people in need.

The HUB

Our HUB meal program enables partnering nonprofits and small community meal groups to source healthy food affordably by leveraging our infrastructure and food inventory at just 15 cents per pound. Some meals are served to the public while others are part of closed, in-house meal services at locations such as shelters and trauma centers.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2021, Loaves & Fishes staff and board came together to create a three-year strategic plan outlining how we will best serve our community and achieve our mission.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

We will identify mutually beneficial partnerships in order to feed more Minnesotans in the communities we already work within, as well as in currently underserved communities across the state.

FEEDING THE NEED

As we continue to take in feedback from those we serve, we will strive to provide a consistent, reliable, and high-quality meal experience that best serves the needs of our guests.

THE BEST PEOPLE

Our success is only possible because of our amazing staff and volunteers. We aim to prioritize recruiting, retaining, and recognizing the efforts of these dedicated individuals and their impact.

FUNDING THE NEED

We will increase our financial support from individuals, businesses, and foundations to ensure the organization remains sustainable throughout our growth.

TELLING THE LOAVES & FISHES STORY

We believe in promoting the values that guide our organization - Generosity, Optimism, Dignity, Community, and Nourishment. Sharing our stories, accomplishments, and plans for the future is how we amplify that message.

2022-2024

A Guest's Story

Richard and his brother Dennis have been counting on Loaves & Fishes community meals at River Heights Vineyard Church for a few years now. They take turns driving over and picking up dinner for the evening.

“We really appreciate this meal,” said Richard. **“We live fairly close so it works out great for us. It helps financially by saving us from having to cook a dinner every night."**

Thank You

We are supported very generously by individuals, foundations, corporations, community groups, and congregations.

FOUNDATIONS

American Endowment Foundation
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation Inc.
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Aon Foundation
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Wireless Zone Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

City of Richfield
Hennepin County
Hennepin South Services Collaborative
Minnesota Department of Education
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BUSINESS AND CORPORATIONS

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Valley Natural Foods
Vanguard Charitable
Vizient Company
Voya Financial
Wayzata High School ISD #284
Wells Fargo
Wildlife Management Services
Women of Song
Zero-Max

Thank you to the thousands of individual donors not listed who make our work possible!

2021 By the Numbers

8.4 Million
Pounds of Food Rescued

4.2 Million
Meals Served

100+
Outlets and Meal Partners

15
Minnesota Counties

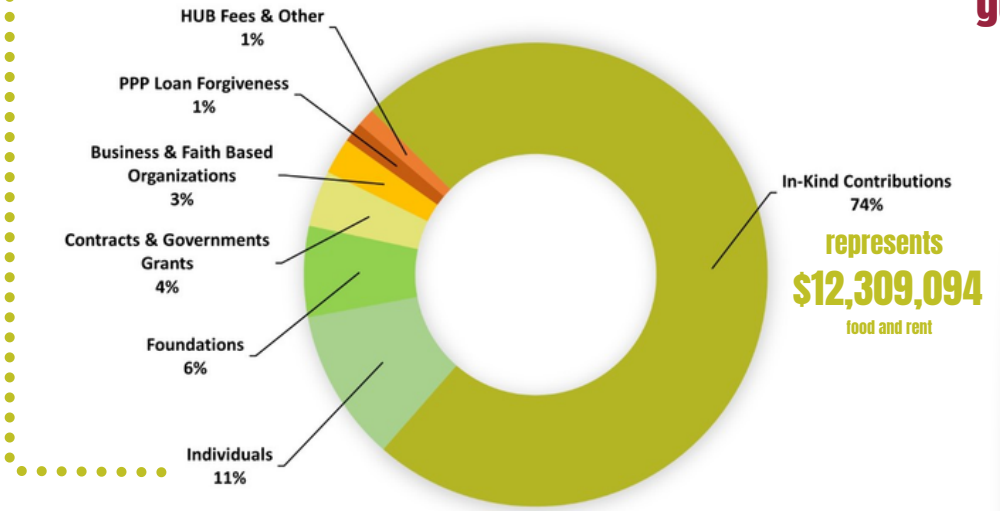
10,000+
Dedicated Volunteers

Financial Statement

Financials from
fiscal year 2021
(10/1/20 — 9/30/21)

Revenue

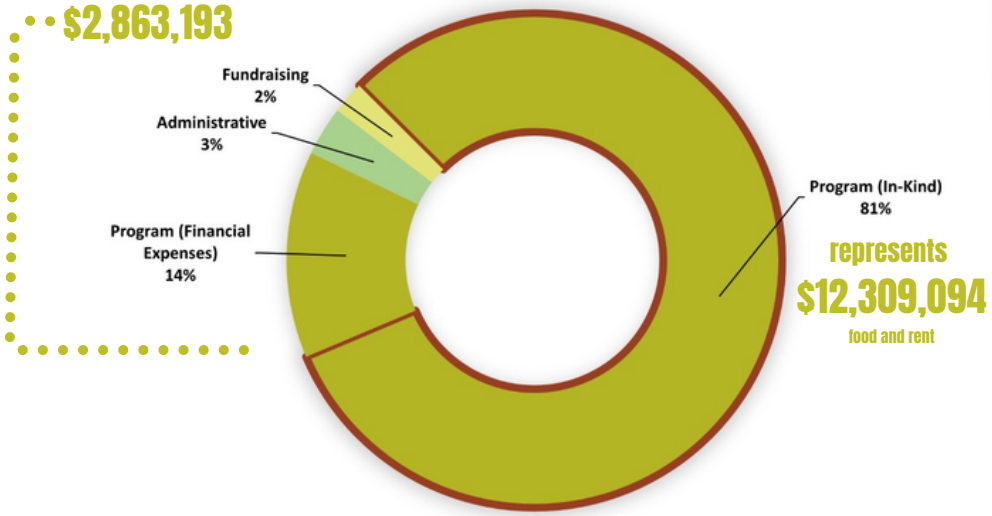
$4,150,987



represents
$12,309,094
food and rent

Expenses

$2,863,193



represents
$12,309,094
food and rent

$9.50 of every $10 we receive goes right to programming!

To view Loaves & Fishes' audited financials go to:
loavesandfishesmn.org/about/financials/

Donor Privacy Policy

Loaves & Fishes is committed to respecting the privacy of our donors.

How Information is Used
Loaves & Fishes uses your information to maintain records, complete a transaction, communicate back to you, and for internal marketing purposes. We normally add you to our mailing list unless requested otherwise.

No Sharing of Personal Information
Loaves & Fishes will not sell, rent, trade, or transfer your personal information to other organizations.
Use of donor information will be limited to internal purposes and only to further the mission of Loaves & Fishes.
We assure you that the identity of all our donors will be kept confidential.

THANK YOU

for making all of this possible.

Loaves & fishes

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