



40TH YEAR & 4.4 MILLION MEALS

MEALS. COMFORT. KINDNESS.

FALL 2022

The Season Of Transition

Thank you for 10 years of leadership

Thank you for an incredible 10 years! Together, we have accomplished amazing things over the years – from serving a few thousand meals a year to surpassing 4.4 million meals.

Many people have made this all happen including volunteers, donors, dedicated staff, and board members. We have always kept our eyes on the most crucial aspect of the mission: our guests. Our community-driven approach to addressing food insecurity has been the secret to our success.

When I announced my plans to retire, the board suggested a search. Although we had an internal candidate, we were able to put Kiley Benson through the first candidate wave, and he became the unanimous favorite. Mentoring has always been important to me; I have had great mentors and have enjoyed leading and teaching others. With Kiley at the helm, I am confident that there will be a smooth transition with a similar 'all hands-on deck attitude'.

I have been honored to serve, innovate, and find partners to meet the increased need. Loaves & Fishes has been the highlight of my career. I appreciate your confidence in the past, present, and future. There is more good work on the horizon!

With Gratitude,

Cathy Maes, Executive Director

Without skipping a beat

I am extremely grateful for the confidence instilled in me to become the next executive director of Loave & Fishes. Over the last two years in my role as associate executive director and four years prior to that as director of operations, we navigated the unforeseeable. Thanks to Cathy's mentorship, I am ready to lead Loaves & Fishes in this next exciting chapter as we continue to grow.

I plan to expand our programs into cities and counties where there is great need for free, nutritious meals. We will evolve our efficiencies which will allow Loaves & Fishes to better use the resources you have entrusted us with to feed people the high-quality meals they have come to expect.

There is much more to come as food insecurity continues to exist and we are committed to meeting the need. I look forward to working together in the years that come.

Kiley Benson, Associate Executive Director



Executive Director Cathy Maes, retiring on December 31st, 2022, and Associate Executive Director Kiley Benson, transitioning into the executive director role on January 1st, 2023.

40th Anniversary at Loaves & Fishes

35+ Community meal locations

45+ HUB partners

4.4 Million meals served

9 Million pounds of food rescued

10 Street outreach locations

\$9.50 out of every \$10 donated to Loaves & Fishes goes directly to our meals.



Join us for Minnesota's annual day of giving on Thursday, November 17th!

It's your chance to create change locally.

When you give to Loaves & Fishes, your gift will be **DOUBLED** thanks to matching funds from BI Worldwide, Link Logistics, Quality Bicycle Products, Dual Citizen Brewing Company, the Dourgarian family, the Loaves & Fishes board of directors, and other generous donors.

Early giving starts on Tuesday, November 1st. Make your donation here: www.givemn.org/loavesandfishesmn



\$40,000 for 40 Years!

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, we have accepted a challenge from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation to raise **\$40,000 between November 1st-December 31st of this year.**

Once we raise \$40,000, the foundation will donate another \$40,000!

Thank you to the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation for your continued support and confidence in our mission.



Come join us on Thanksgiving morning to walk with your family and friends. If that doesn't work for your schedule, there are ways to support every day in November.

Sign up and learn more at www.walktoendhunger.org

Every Guest Has A Unique Story



Young chefs from the youth programming at Neighborhood House learned how to prepare their own recipes through our Cooking for All curriculum.

Our vision guides us that all people deserve to meet their basic needs of food, dignity, and respect. While we actively work toward addressing food insecurity, our work is much more than providing a free meal; it's comfort, reliability, advocacy, and company throughout any season of an individual's life.

Together, we can alleviate food insecurity and hunger across Minnesota so that guests like Scott don't skip meals to pay bills. Amidst the rising costs of food, gas, and rent, we see new guests like Scott every day trying to make ends meet.

Many guests like George are experiencing homelessness. Our fresh and healthy food is a dependable source of nutrition to those who can't cook for themselves. George knows that we are a constant in his inconsistent world.

We are also a community. Throughout last three years loneliness has made its way to the front page of every newspaper, primarily with an aging population.

We offer various food access options to accommodate those who can benefit both from company and food like our guest Randall who lives alone after losing his wife in 2021.

Studies show that health and food insecurity intersect. Guests like Sandy who struggle from diabetes rely on our nutritious, fresh, and balanced meals. Sandy can count on ample portions of steamed vegetables, salads, and lean proteins.

Every guest has a different storyline, and yet they tell us time and time again that they are treated with kindness and respect when they come to Loaves & Fishes.



MN Adult and Teen Challenge volunteering at Peace House Community.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with Loaves & Fishes, we would be happy to answer any questions.

Please contact our Director of Volunteers and Outreach Latisha Moening at volunteer@loavesandfishesmn.org.

Consider becoming a monthly donor. It's the simplest, most effective way to make a continued impact.

Remembering Pat Johnson

At Loaves & Fishes, we not only care about each guest that arrives for a hot, healthy meal but for each donor that gives to ensure those meals get made. One of those donors was Pat. Along with his wife Katie, Pat has given financially to Loaves & Fishes since 2008. The amount of those donations increased over time as they became more knowledgeable about the real impact their donations were helping to make.

In 2019, Executive Director Cathy Maes sat down with Pat and Katie over pie and coffee. The conversation flowed, and Cathy got up the gumption to ask a question she always wanted to ask: What did they think of legacy giving, and how did they as donors feel about being asked? Pat set his coffee down and said, "You won't know until you ask or have that conversation." He said they would consider naming Loaves & Fishes in their will.

Pat unexpectedly passed away in July of 2022. When Cathy spoke to Katie over the phone, she said that Pat did want funds to go toward serving those in need within our communities.



She explained that "Pat lived life to the fullest."

Pat always ended each email with "Enjoy every precious moment." He will certainly be dearly missed not only by those that loved him, but by the millions in Minnesota he impacted through his generosity and love.

If you are interested in knowing more about legacy giving through Loaves & Fishes, we would be happy to sit down with you over a cup of coffee and a slice of pie.

Please contact our Director of Advancement Carolyn Gross at cgross@loavesandfishesmn.org.

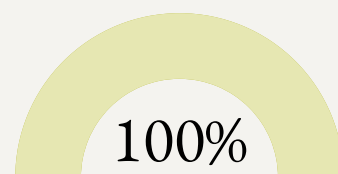
Piloting hybrid model

We are committed to returning to in-person community dining at some community meal sites. We aim to provide a safe space for guests to come together, socialize, and share a meal while still offering our to-go meals.

Meal service will look different at each location. Stay up to date by visiting our website at www.loavesandfishesmn.org.



52.9% OF OUR GUESTS HEAR ABOUT LOAVES & FISHES FROM OTHERS SHARING THE NEWS. CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT OUR FREE COMMUNITY MEALS MAY BE MORE VALUABLE THAN YOU KNOW.



IN OUR 2022 GUEST SURVEY:
100% OF RESPONDENTS STATED THAT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AT LOAVES & FISHES TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT

Methods to help us end hunger

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE!

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

DONATE BY MAIL

LEGACY GIVING

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Scan the QR code to learn more



Expanding To St. Cloud

Loaves & Fishes is on pace to have another record-breaking year of meals served across Minnesota. As we look towards surpassing 4.4 million meals in 2022, we also eagerly anticipate another new milestone that's right around the corner.

We are excited to announce a second commissary kitchen and warehouse in St. Cloud. This expansion will allow us to produce up to 700+ additional meals to combat hunger in Minnesota per day. As we navigate the world of licensing and final steps, we anticipate a January 2023 opening.

Supporters like you make this possible. Between becoming a donor or volunteering your time, our community-based approach to addressing the hunger crisis is hands-on and ever-growing. As we look to the future of expanding our reach, it's vital that we properly interpret our need for additional volunteers now and as we continue to grow across the state.

The last three years have tested non-profit organizations across the world. Yet, we have weathered the storm because of our community partners.

The increasing cost of essentials has intensified the need for our free community meals across Minnesota. At the same time, the impact of global health crises has negatively impacted the rhythm of our routine volunteer base.

With our community-centered approach, this expansion allows a 50+ volunteer footprint for ongoing operations.

A volunteer recently wrote, "I think when you are so removed from the situation, it is often assumed that preparing bulk meals like this would be mostly canned, rehydrated, preservative-packed, and bland. You are providing more than a meal, and dignity as well. When you are in a place where you need to ask for help to feed yourself and your family, having fresh, flavorful foods is soul-filling as well."

The emptiness of any new project gives space to envision a world where hunger isn't a limitation of the human experience. It's a thrilling time at Loaves & Fishes, and we are honored to have you with us.



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