

## Food 4 Kids Backpack Program Rooted in Commitment of Long Time Presenting Sponsor

Now in its 12th year, the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program began in early September. More than 2,200 students in 41 schools in five northern Indiana counties are participating during the 2018-2019 school year. This program serves students in grades K – 6. **More than 89,000 bags will be distributed throughout the school year.**



**The Jordan Automotive Group has served as the program's presenting sponsor for the past 10 years.** In 2009, Jordan Automotive Group was approached by a radio group in the community to conduct a summer promotion to raise money for the Backpack Program. What started as something that might be a one-time fundraiser, was embraced by the Jordan team to give back in their community. Bob Hayden, general manager, created a corporate culture within this company that all employees embrace the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. Hayden noted, **"Jordan Automotive employees are very proud to have teamed with the Food Bank and schools to tackle the problem of childhood hunger."** He added, **"For the past decade, we're addressing hunger insecurity – one child at a time. From financial contributions to employees who volunteer each week, it's part of the 'Jordan Way'."**

Each Thursday during the school year, Jordan employees pick up numerous boxes filled with bags of food, place it in our 'Food 4 Kids' vehicle and personally deliver it to selected schools. Jordan team members also volunteer and support Food Bank special events. Added Marijo Martinec, executive director, **"The longevity of the commitment of the Jordan Automotive Group team to our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is humbling. They are truly the definition of corporate social responsibility and the heart and soul of this program."**

Participating schools are identified as having a high rate of children eligible for free/reduced price meal programs. The Backpack Program is free for students and their families. Participating students are selected by school personnel.

Students typically receive their bags on Fridays and are discreetly distributed to help shield them from any stigma that is associated with being hungry or needing food assistance. Each bag contains two meal cups, two cereal bowls, two snacks, one milk and one juice. Items are nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable and ready-to-eat with little or no cooking.

The Backpack for Kids Program concept was developed at the Arkansas Rice Depot in Little Rock in 1994, after a school nurse noticed students coming to her with stomach aches and dizziness throughout the school day. These students were hungry. The local food bank began to provide the students with groceries in non-descript backpacks for them to carry home. In 1995, the Backpack Program was launched as a pilot program and by 2006, the National Council at Feeding America approved it as an official national program of the Feeding America Network in July 2006. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana began its Food 4 Kids Backpack Program in 2006.



**“Children have many challenges. Hunger should never be one of them. Many of the children in my building depend on the Food 4 Kids food bag to alleviate the feelings often associated with being hungry. Making sure that children are fed every day and nutritionally sound ensures that our futures are solid.**

-Mrs. Clark and a student at Emmons Elementary School

**The investment is \$140 per child for the school year. You can provide the tools to help a student succeed in school and life. For more information, please call (574) 232-9986 ext. 124 or visit [www.feedindiana.org](http://www.feedindiana.org).**

# IN MY VIEW

As we enter the holiday season, a favorite childhood memory of Thanksgiving is the chocolate candy turkey my paternal grandmother surprised my siblings and me with every Thanksgiving Day. One of my biggest regrets is never telling her how much that candy turkey meant to me and how special she made me feel. I forgot to say thank you.

**Thank you.** Two words that pack a punch and are often omitted.

**Thank you,** United Religious Community of St. Joseph County for recognizing the need more than 25 years ago to establish food banking in northern Indiana.

**Thank you,** community stakeholders, for helping us create healthier communities.

**Thank you,** board members, past and present, for your leadership.

**Thank you,** former Food Bank executive directors, for your vision.

**Thank you,** donors, for your generous financial investment.

**Thank you,** retail partners, for food donations.

**Thank you,** agency partners, who work tirelessly to feed the hungry.

**Thank you,** volunteers, who do the heavy lifting.

**Thank you** to those who question and challenge the work we do. You make us better.

Finally, **thank you,** to an incredible team who carries out our mission every day.

**Thank you.** We couldn't do it without each of you.

With gratitude,



Marijo Martinec  
Executive Director



# NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

The board of directors of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana announced that Marijo Martinec has been named executive director. She has served as the organization's associate director since 2013. Martinec began her tenure in this role on September 3, 2018. She replaced Milt Lee, who was named executive director of Downtown South Bend, Inc.

Martinec is a graduate of Indiana University – Bloomington and the University of Notre Dame. Since 2010, she has held various positions at the Food Bank including marketing, events, community engagement and development. Most recently, she served as associate director. Additionally, she has strong ties to the nonprofit community and held leadership positions at the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau and Studebaker National Museum.

Said Kurt Meyer, Food Bank of Northern Indiana Board Chairman, *"The Board is very grateful and proud of the work Milt has provided to the Food Bank over the past seven years and are excited that he will stay in the South Bend community and still serve our area."* He added, *"We are equally excited to have Marijo Martinec be our new executive director and she will do a great job for the Food Bank and follow the lead Milt has given us. We are blessed to have one of the best food banks in the nation right here in northern Indiana to help our citizens in need on a daily basis."*

 I welcome the opportunity to engage more individuals, businesses and organizations to join our fight to end hunger.

As executive director, Martinec will work with the board and staff to advance the mission of the Food Bank. *"While the statistics are sobering regarding hunger throughout northern Indiana, the Food Bank is buoyed by the support of stakeholders in the communities we serve."* She added, *"I welcome the opportunity to engage more individuals, businesses and organizations to join our fight to end hunger."*

# WELCOME NEW PARTNER AGENCIES

Welcome to our new partnering agencies: **Deacon's Pantry, Ivy Tech Elkhart, Living Waters Ministries,** and returning partner, **Corvilla.**

The **Deacons Pantry** started with the mission to serve kidney dialysis patients in St. Joseph County who require special nutritional support due to their dialysis regimen. Specifically, the need for high quality protein that is easily digested, which can be very expensive for a patient on a fixed income. As the Deacon's Pantry grew, they expanded their scope to include area families that were food insecure as well.

With the Mission to provide food assistance for those in need within the **Ivy Tech Elkhart** community and to refer them to community organizations for social services, the Ivy Tech Elkhart campus has started a food pantry for students and employees. Ivy Tech Elkhart felt inspired to start a food pantry in response to the success of other local colleges' success. Work began in the summer on obtaining support from the campus, finding a space and stocking the shelves.

The Food Pantry at **Living Waters Ministries** serves food insecure households in the Mishawaka area. The small congregation has worked tirelessly to address the problems of the working poor with job training, resume writing, and a Food Pantry with an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables donated through our national retail partners.

**Corvilla**, a local not-for-profit with a 60-year history of helping individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, has been partnering with the Food Bank for workplace training programs for clients who want to get back into the workforce. We are excited about the new partnership that will bring fresh, healthy food to Corvilla's four supported group homes to further enrich lives.

# PROGRAM UPDATES

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS  
Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124

## Senior Nutrition Program

**The Senior Nutrition Program has distributed 68,543 pounds of food through the end of September to more than 6,200 low-income seniors in six counties.**

*Each Senior Nutrition Program bag costs \$7.50 per month.*

Thank you to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for the donation of 3,000 cloth bags each quarter for this program.

“ I hear from residents often about how much the Senior Nutrition Program helps them supplement their meals throughout the month and how much they appreciate receiving them. Without the extra bags each month, many would suffer unnecessary hunger. Kudos to the donors and volunteers that make this happen every month!

~ Deb Drummond, Service Coordinator,  
Fairington Apartments of South Bend

## Healthy Choices Market

Educating low-income diabetic and high blood pressure patients to learn, choose and live a healthier lifestyle, the Healthy Choices Market is a kitchen, classroom and mini farmers market. Classes take place each month, instructed in English and Spanish, and include a cooking demonstration and conversation with nutrition tips. Participants take home ingredients, fresh produce, lean protein, and shelf-stable items to recreate dishes at home.

The instruction is provided by Chef Gwen Mottl, Chef Alan Seidler, Chef Carlos Casadio and Chef Brent Springer, along with members of the American Culinary Federation, and South Bend Chefs and Cooks Association.

**Through September 2018, the Healthy Choices Market has served 65 client households and 222 individuals, and has distributed 2,204 pounds of food.**

*An investment of \$100 provides one client an opportunity to learn, choose and live a healthier life each month.*

## FOOD FINDERS

To meet the demand for emergency food assistance, the Food Bank actively seeks manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and grocers to procure more protein, produce, dairy and shelf-stable items to distribute through our network of agency partners.

Through the generosity of Kerlikowski Farm, we distributed more than 100,000 pounds of watermelons during the month of September through our food bank partners including: the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin and Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. Additionally, we are working with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to procure full loads of Post breakfast cereal.

**Through September 30, 2018, the Food Bank distributed 5,250,580 pounds of product and receipted 5,768,889 pounds of product.**

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Each month, participants receive a box of nutritious shelf-stable items including canned fruits and vegetables, powdered milk, canned chicken and tuna, fruit and vegetable juices, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, and fresh cheese.

To qualify for this program, clients must be at least 60 years old, reside in one of the four counties where the program is offered and have an income that is 130 percent less of the federal poverty level. Special thanks to the USDA and the Indiana Department of Health for allowing us to participate in this valuable program for seniors.

Locations include: Faith Mission, Elkhart; The Window, Goshen; Pax Center, LaPorte; Salvation Army, Michigan City; Michigan City Housing Authority, Michigan City; Bread of Life, Plymouth; Grace Food Pantry, Bremen; Penelope 60 Apartments, Mishawaka; 100 Center High Rise, Mishawaka; Ahepa 100 Apartments, South Bend; Chicago Trail Village, New Carlisle; and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

**Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County  
13,638 households were served through September.  
58,674 individuals were served through September.**

We need volunteers in a variety of roles in the pantry including: stocking, cleaning, assisting clients with shopping, bagging clients' food, etc. Volunteers are needed anytime between the hours of 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday and Friday and from Noon – 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 138 to help.

## 2018 Mobile Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	1	8,807	37	140
Kosciusko	0	0	0	0
LaPorte	3	45,383	375	1,141
Marshall	1	13,031	200	800
St. Joseph	5	93,084	1,279	5,267
Starke	4	93,084	338	1,109
Total	14	200,086	2,229	8,457

*Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through Sept 30, 2018.*



## 2018 Board of Directors

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Heartland RV

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Marijo Martinec, Executive Director  
Food Bank of Northern Indiana

*The Food Bank of Northern Indiana works in partnership with the community to feed the hungry, increase awareness of the effects of hunger and lead programs designed to alleviate hunger. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana serves Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties and is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FiH) and United Way.*

*100% [\$125,640.00] (FY 2018) of total program costs for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are financed with federal funds. TEFAP is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

*100% [\$42,483.00] (FY 2018) of total program costs for The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) are financed with federal funds. CSFP is an equal opportunity provider.*

# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Through September 2018, nearly 24,000 volunteer hours and more than 7,700 volunteers have shared their time with us at the Food Bank.**

Volunteer opportunities are available Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and during special weekend events. Students looking to fulfill their community volunteer service hours are also welcome. Please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 138 for more information.



I'm so glad that I started volunteering at the Food Bank. I assist in the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County a couple of days a week. I'm not sure that most people in America are aware of the number of families that struggle to put food on the table. I've met so many people at the Food Bank that are giving back to our community in so many ways.

~Susan Knight

## THANK YOU

Wells Fargo Fields Memorial Trust	\$15,000.00
Red Nose Day	\$10,000.00
Glick Gives Fund	\$6,000.00
Darden Foundation	\$5,000.00
ArcelorMittal	\$2,500.00
Carris Reels Corporate Foundation, Inc.	\$1,500.00
Community Foundation of LaPorte County	\$1,000.00
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	\$1,000.00
William Hilkert Family Foundation	\$1,000.00



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## OUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED

On September 30, 2018, our email addresses changed to @feedindiana.org. Please update your records. Thanks!