THANKS TO YOU
SENIORS WON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE

INSIDE THIS EDITION
A Letter From Our President & CEO..........................................................page 2
Senior Programs Help Feed Our Most Vunerable Neighbors......page 3
Volunteer Appreciation Night.................................................................page 4
I have often shared that the burden of hunger falls disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our society – the old and the young. However, we find ourselves talking about the one in five children who do not have enough food far more often than seniors. And senior hunger is a very important issue.

Seniors are often living on fixed incomes. Most seniors who visit food pantries have had times when they had to choose between paying for food or medicine. They have also had to choose between paying for food or their utility bill. What an impossible choice – would you rather be sick, cold, or hungry?

This newsletter highlights the River Bend Foodbank programs that help hungry seniors. This being the Year of the Volunteer, we are also sharing how you can help, as well as a recap of our recent Volunteer Appreciation Night. We would like to introduce you to one of our newest staff members, and we would love for you to save the date for our upcoming Fill the Bowl event.

I am pleased to report the progress on our goal to triple the number of meals we distribute by 2025. We began in 2014 with 7.3 million meals distributed to our hungry neighbors. In the past 12 months, we provided 14.4 million meals – almost double, a year ahead of schedule, only because of your support. Thank you so very much. We now press on to grow by another seven million meals, because that is what it will take to end hunger in eastern Iowa and western Illinois.

Reflecting on senior hunger, I am reminded of a men’s quartet song from my college choir:

We must love them while we can
For time just seems to hurry by, and the days slip into years
And the moments that we have will disappear
So love them while we can

Together we can solve hunger. ™

Michael P. Miller
President & CEO

What an impossible choice – would you rather be sick, cold, or hungry?
SENIOR PROGRAMS HELP FEED OUR MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

Seniors are becoming a fast-growing population of chronically hungry people in our service area and are often reluctant to reach out for help. In the United States, 13.6% of seniors are marginally food insecure (8.6 million seniors). In Illinois, 13.1% of seniors are food insecure, while 10.2% of seniors in Iowa are food insecure.

River Bend Foodbanks Senior Pantries and Senior Hunger Initiative programs are designed specifically to help the senior population.

We currently have eight Senior Pantries located in low-income senior apartment complexes. By having the pantry located in the apartment complex, seniors do not have to coordinate travel to a pantry that could be blocks or miles away.

In the past year, these senior pantries, provided 253,924 meals. They are run by residents at the apartment complexes, but occasionally there is a need for a driver to deliver the food to the complex.

Carrie Kimple, RBFB volunteer, donates her time once a month to pick food for the Spruce Hills Village and Spencer Towers Senior Pantries from the River Bend Foodbank warehouse. “I’m excited to choose food for the Senior Pantries!” says Carrie. “When deciding on what food to give to the pantries, I always think about how it would be nice to receive the food.”

The Senior Hunger Initiative provides boxes of fresh produce, such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and watermelons, to seniors in low-income elderly housing.

In the past year, 19,119 pounds of produce was distributed to sixteen different senior housing complexes. Boxes of produce for the Senior Hunger Initiative are typically packaged by volunteers once a week in our warehouse.

These two programs could not operate without volunteer and financial support. If you would like to volunteer for either program, visit riverbendfoodbank.org/donate-time. If you are a corporate group interested in volunteering, please contact Belinda at 563-345-6490 x209.

The cost of sponsoring one Senior Pantry for a year is $3,500 while the Senior Hunger Initiative welcomes financial contributions in order to purchase fresh produce. If your corporate group would like to sponsor either of these programs, please contact Leslie at 563-345-6490 x206.

In Illinois, 13.1% of seniors are food insecure, while 10.2% of seniors in Iowa are food insecure.
You're Invited to Fill the Bowl!
Join us for soup, bread, and dessert. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!
Each family attending will receive a snow globe photo frame, a child's coloring book, and crayons. Every dollar raised will go directly to feeding hungry families this holiday season. Tour the Foodbank and learn how working together, we provide millions of meals a year for those who are struggling with hunger.

There will be children's activities, a volunteer opportunity, and raffle and silent auction items.

REGISTER NOW
Sunday, December 9, 2018, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
River Bend Foodbank
4010 Kimmel Drive, Davenport, IA
Cost is $25 for a family of 4 ($5 each additional person)
To purchase tickets, visit riverbendfoodbank.org/fill-the-bowl.

VOLUNTEER Appreciation NIGHT
River Bend Foodbank volunteers joined together for a night of fun at The Establishment Theatre in August.
They enjoyed a meal, a comedy performance by Guys in Ties, and learned all that was accomplished in the past year with their help. This event was the kick-off to our “Year of the Volunteer.” Without our incredible volunteers, our goal of closing the meal gap by 2025 would not be possible! Thank you volunteers, for you all you do! Together we can solve hunger.™
To learn how to get involved, visit riverbendfoodbank.org/donate-time.

MEET JENNY BRINKMEYER, MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER

Last June, Jenny joined the River Bend Foodbank team in the new position of Major Gifts Officer. Jenny’s main goal in this role is to get to know those who support the Foodbank through monetary gifts, learn what motivates them to give, and match funding opportunities based on their interest.

“Every financial gift we receive makes a huge impact on our goal of closing the meal gap by 2025,” said Jenny. “When I meet with our generous supporters, I want to make sure that they know how we are utilizing the dollars they’ve donated and the impact their gift has on their fellow community members.”

Jenny would love to meet with you to hear your stories, take you on a warehouse tour, and answer any questions you have about the Foodbank. Also, if you would like to make a charitable bequest to River Bend Foodbank, we would be honored to transform your gift into a lasting legacy to provide meals for hungry people forever.

Please contact Jenny at 563-345-6490 x216 or jbrinkmeyer@riverbendfoodbank.org.