

HUNGER ★ FREE
O K L A H O M A

2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

INVESTING IN A HUNGER FREE OKLAHOMA

Hunger Free Oklahoma, a fund of Tulsa Community Foundation, is grateful for the support of our funders. Thanks to their generosity, we are able to apply our innovative approach to work toward an Oklahoma where everyone has access to enough nutritious food every day. For a complete list of 2020 donors, please e-mail your request to info@hungerfreeok.org.

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The Anne & Henry Zarrow
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Allies, and Supporters,

It is impossible to reflect on the past year without thinking about the incredible hardship many of our neighbors faced due to COVID-19. A record number of Oklahomans faced unemployment while nearly 1 in 4 children experienced food insecurity. Fortunately, with a solid foundation and strong partnerships, Hunger Free Oklahoma adapted and continued our core work of transformative, systemic change to end hunger. By breaking down barriers, building capacity, and advocating at every level of government, we quickly identified gaps in services and implemented solutions in order to get resources to those in need.

As need continued to swell and gaps in services and programs were identified, support from our financial supporters and partner organizations allowed us to rise to the challenge, despite the seemingly endless crisis. In our fourth year of operation we once again utilized the power of collaboration and its ability to create sustainable solutions to end hunger in Oklahoma. It takes all of us, from national nonprofits to libraries and parks and from government agencies to Oklahoma's food banks, schools, and churches, working together to solve problems this large. And together, along with hundreds of individual Oklahomans who responded to a call to help their fellow citizens, we made a difference.

We are overwhelmingly appreciative of the thousands of organizations across the state, working together, to help our neighbors in-need get enough to eat. Together, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, we are building a hunger free Oklahoma. It was, and is, an honor to play a role in the awe-inspiring effort to meet the unprecedented need.

Sincerely,



Chris Bernard, Executive Director



STEERING COMMITTEE

Chris Bernard, Hunger Free Oklahoma, Ex Officio

Miki Farris, Infant Crisis Services, Inc

Courtney Knoblock, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation

Doug McDurham, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty

Bryan Riddle, Tenstreet

Brooke Townsend, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma

THE WORK



January 2020 - HFO team member, Emma, facilitated discussions with attendees at the Summer Meals Kickoff

In January 2020, the Summer Meals Kickoff convened **120 attendees from 38 different counties representing 75 different organizations.** Attendees learned from 22 speakers who shared solutions and strategies to expand Summer Meals to food insecure kids.

510 OKLAHOMA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

supported with education, outreach, and information sharing about COVID-19 child nutrition program flexibilities

116,607
PEOPLE CONNECTED
TO RESOURCES on the
Hunger Free Oklahoma website

In February 2020, HFO and the Oklahoma Food Banks co-hosted **Anti-Hunger Day at the Oklahoma Capitol** which resulted in increased attendance and engagement over previous years. Coordinating this event strengthened the partnership between the Oklahoma Food Banks and HFO, creating a strong foundation for future local, state, and federal advocacy work and the development of a statewide blueprint to end hunger.



February 2020 - Jessica Dietrich, HFO's Policy and Government Relations Manager, and Bailey Perkins, Policy Director of Oklahoma Food Banks, addressed anti-hunger advocates at the Oklahoma Capitol.



April 2020 - Child nutrition staff distributed no-cost school meals to Oklahoma families

Having Hunger Free Oklahoma to turn to was critical at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information HFO provided allowed me to guide my Clubs when they were needed to serve thousands of meals a day to children who could not get their regular meals at schools. This work made the difference between children eating or children going hungry because Clubs were able to start serving food as soon as possible. I am so grateful for HFO's knowledge and support of our feeding programs.

.....
Megan Ellis, Oklahoma Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

22.1M SUMMER MEALS AND CACFP
AFTERSCHOOL MEALS SERVED to children and teens
between August 2019 and August 2020 thanks in large part to
the school and nonprofit response to the COVID-19 pandemic

360,000
MEALS DISTRIBUTED
in 12 weeks through Tulsa
Kitchens Unite



April 2020 - Volunteers served free meals to Tulsa-area families through the Tulsa Kitchens Unite program

Tulsa Kitchens Unite - From April through June 2020 we partnered with locally owned restaurants, caterers, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, and **60 community partners to provide free meals to families.** The program worked toward keeping local kitchens open, keeping workers paid, and keeping local families fed.

In May 2020, HFO launched a **Statewide SNAP Application Hotline** to provide Oklahomans an avenue for SNAP application assistance by phone. The Hotline is now a public-private partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Human Services.

10,216
CALLS ANSWERED by
SNAP Hotline agents

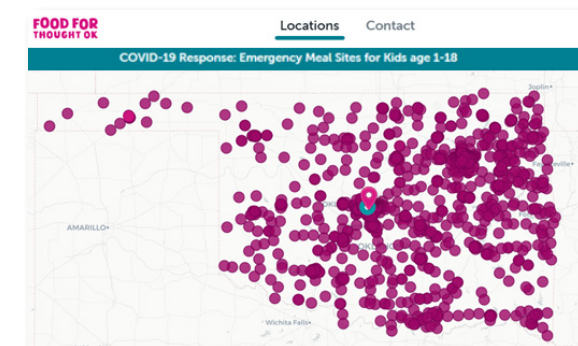
The Double Up Oklahoma (DUO) grocery store pilot in Okemah, Oklahoma is making an immediate and systemic impact. In November and December 2020, participants redeemed about \$3,000/week in DUO benefits – equal to over 3,000 lbs. of apples and



November 2020 - Poster advertised DUO at Okemah's Homeland grocery store

4,000 lbs. of oranges per week. The first test of the program is providing promising results for a statewide expansion that could increase fruit and vegetable consumption across rural Oklahoma and Oklahoma's most food insecure zip codes.

www.Meals4KidsOK.org



Spring-Fall 2020 - The online meal site map was visited over 45,000 times to locate meals for kids

I had no idea how to start this work and I am grateful that HFO has worked with us on this process. I was able to share what was happening in our community and the staff at HFO asked the questions to get the process started. They helped me bring people together and they facilitated the conversations. I was overwhelmed at the thought of coordinating the work around hunger in our community until we started working with HFO.

.....
Shea Boschee, Noble County YMCA

THE IMPACT



March 2020 - Crowder, Oklahoma kids enjoyed no-cost school meals during the COVID-19 Pandemic

\$304M

IN SNAP
EMERGENCY
ALLOTMENTS to
families

Emergency Allotments provide certain SNAP households with an emergency supplementary benefit up to the maximum amount.

\$108,600

IN FRESH PRODUCE
PURCHASED through
Double Up Oklahoma

\$111M

IN ADDITIONAL
BENEFITS to families to
purchase food through
P-EBT

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) replaced the monetary value of lost meals for families who had children receiving free or reduced-price school meals.

5,000+

SNAP APPLICATIONS
SUBMITTED via the
HFO SNAP Hotline

Bringing back over \$2.1M in benefits to Oklahoma for families in-need.



March 2020 - Kaiser Elementary's marquee advertising school meal pick ups for Oklahoma City-area families

Hunger Free Oklahoma works to bring a unified, statewide voice to the issues and solutions surrounding hunger, with a goal to ensure all Oklahomans have access to enough nutritious food. We are leveraging the power of collaboration to solve hunger in Oklahoma by improving systems, policies, and practices.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HUNGER FREE OKLAHOMA



FIND OUT MORE & TAKE ACTION AT

HungerFreeOK.org



@HungerFreeOK

