

TODAY

Ensuring a strong and comprehensive emergency food system for western Massachusetts to bring nutritious foods to people in need.

For 26 years, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been striving to prevent hunger in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties. Our organization was founded during a time when food banks were being launched around the country in response to increasing rates of hunger. Then and now, food banks help recapture perfectly good food discarded from the food industry and get it to people in need. From our first food distribution in 1982, The Food Bank has grown to include a Brown Bag: Food for Elders program, hundreds of local independent member agencies, and a Food Bank Farm that donates half of its harvest to the emergency food network. Over the years, we have added a nutrition program, a community organizing program called Target:Hunger, and a delivery program. Today, we provide nearly 7 million pounds of food each year to more than 100,000 people experiencing, or at risk of, hunger throughout western Massachusetts.



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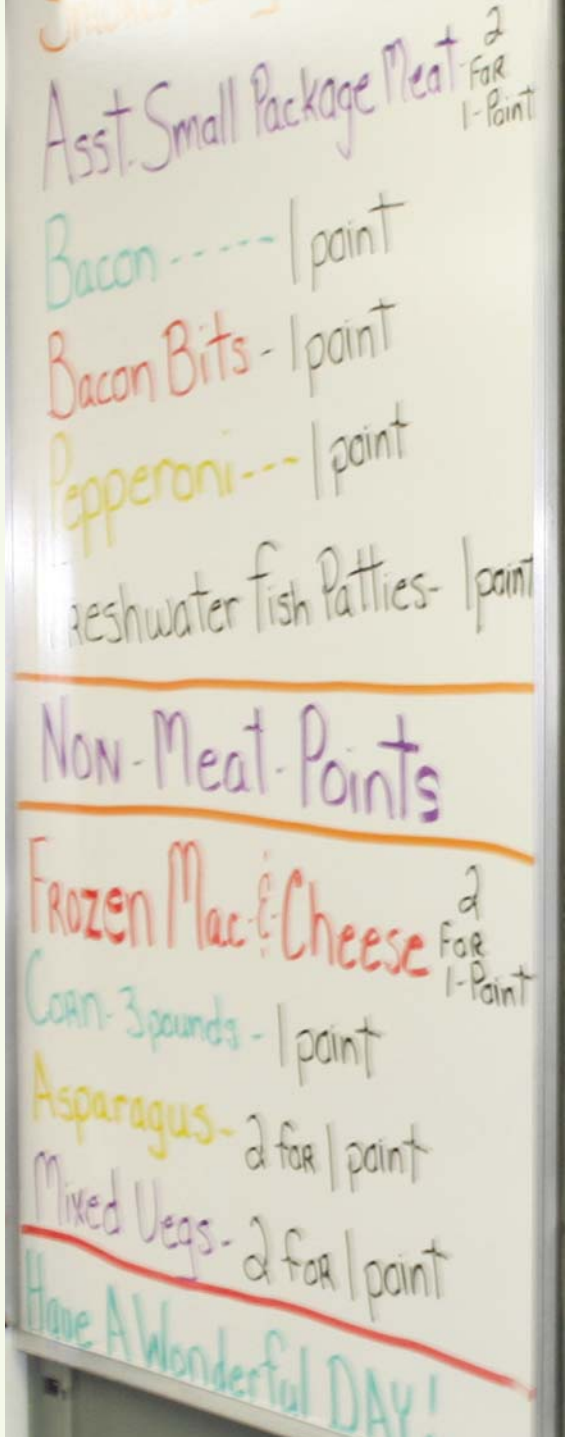
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The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc. ANNUAL REPORT 2008

TODAY | TOMORROW





With changing economic and social times, The Food Bank is adjusting our approach. While recognizing that immediate food assistance is still paramount to our work, we believe that preventing hunger in western Massachusetts will require more than a temporary solution in the form of emergency food. Taking a long-term view, our work also focuses on strengthening local food systems, engaging the public to become aware of and active in local, state, and federal food policy, building the emergency food network, and increasing access to food assistance resources such as Food Stamps/SNAP. We seek to make broader changes that address the underlying causes of hunger.

TOMORROW

Continuing to support the emergency food system while working with our community to raise awareness about the underlying causes of hunger and to assure access to nutritious and affordable food for all residents.



Board President, Susan Fentin with Executive Director Andrew Morehouse.

2008 will be remembered as the year that summertime spikes in oil and food prices were followed by the onset of a deep recession by October. These two events, back to back, were a double whammy for working families and individuals, not to mention those already unemployed, underemployed, or on fixed incomes. They also abruptly raised the stakes for action on the part of The Food Bank. By December, we had provided record levels of food for the second year in a row: 6.7 million pounds, the equivalent of 5.2 million meals, to approximately 102,000 individuals across western Massachusetts.

2008 also brought internal changes at The Food Bank. As you will see in this report, we changed our fiscal year, resulting in a short transitional year ending September 30th. Persi Sanclemente, our skilled board President for the past two years, ended her term, and the board elected Susan as the new President. Together, we launched a strategic planning process that took on special importance in the context of external economic and social circumstances.

The strategic planning process clarified that our goal must be not only to prevent hunger in western Massachusetts today, but also assure that all residents have access to nutritious and affordable food tomorrow.

Given the urgency of the moment, we're poised to exceed food distribution records again this year thanks to strong partnerships with private businesses and the state and federal governments, while improving food access and strengthening the local food system.

These challenging times call upon us all to harness our resources, especially our inner spirit, to be a part of important and profound changes that will yield healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. Thank you all for continued faith, participation, and investment in your food bank.

Sincerely,

Susan Fentin
President

Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc. 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Food	5,489,597
Individuals and corporate donations	597,189
Member Programs	567,599
Government Grants	341,927
Private Grants	235,428
Other	80,068
TOTAL	\$7,311,808

EXPENSES

Program	7,234,875
Administration	365,095
Development	249,384
TOTAL	\$7,849,354

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION*

Current Assets	1,360,407
Fixed Assets	3,924,090
Other Assets	82,529
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,367,026

Accounts Payable	124,162
Other Current Liabilities	91,998
Long Term Liabilities	175,292
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$391,452

Net Assets	\$4,975,574
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$5,367,026
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* As of 9/30/2008. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

** In 2008, The Food Bank changed its fiscal year from December to September. October through December which are not reflected in this report.

2008 FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Sources of Food Bank food	Pounds	%
MA Emergency Food Assistance Prog.	1,556,098	31%
National food producers, food recovery	948,679	19%
Salvage	710,415	14%
U.S. Department of Agriculture	649,097	13%
Food Producers	470,366	9%
Purchased food	307,886	6%
Donations	189,263	4%
Food Bank Farm	144,553	3%
Produce, local farms	109,889	2%
Special orders, other food banks	13,585	1%

Food Distribution by Agency Type	Pounds	%
Food pantries	3,098,720	66%
Brown Bag sites	584,288	12%
Meal sites	291,850	6%
Residential programs	231,421	5%
Shelters	162,702	3%
Internal pantry	95,495	2%
Camps & youth programs	72,901	2%
Childcare programs	60,859	1%
Drug rehab	59,187	1%
Adult day programs & elder services	36,191	1%

2008 SPECIAL EVENTS



Participants from all over Western Massachusetts helped raise more than \$135,000 through special events benefitting The Food Bank. Many events, such as the BNI Golf Tournament, Souper Bowl of Caring, and Western Area Massachusetts Dietetic Association 5K Walk/Run and Health Fair, are coordinated by volunteers.

These events joined other traditional events including 93.9 The River and WHAI/Bear Country annual Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope radio-thons and Check-Out Hunger. Topping the event list this year raising more than \$65,000 was The Food Bank Gala: Party for a Purpose. The 2008 gala, held at the Basketball Hall of Fame, showcased some of the area's top chefs and restaurants from all four counties including Blue Heron Restaurant, Canyon Ranch, The Federal, and Spoleto to name a few. To round out the event, live music and dancing followed the silent and live auction.

A special thank you to the 2008 gala chairs, Claudio and Maria Guerra, and Dan Yacuzzo, and all the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who helped make this event a huge success.

GOLD SPONSORS

Baystate Health & Health New England
The Dennis Group
Pioneer Cold

SILVER SPONSORS

C&S Wholesale Grocers

PATRON SPONSORS

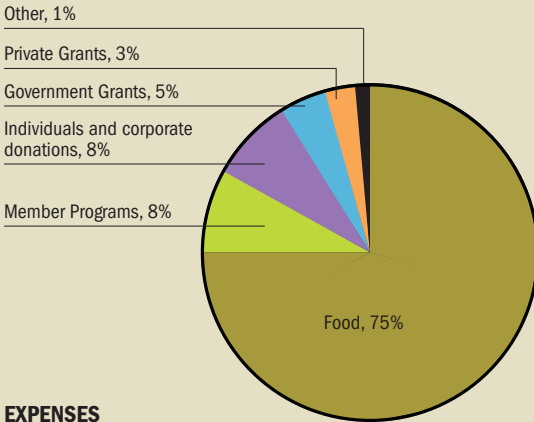
Elm Electric
Field Eddy Insurance
The Lisa Ekus Group
Mestek, Inc.
Package Machinery Company, Inc.
Webster Bank

IN-KIND SPONSORS

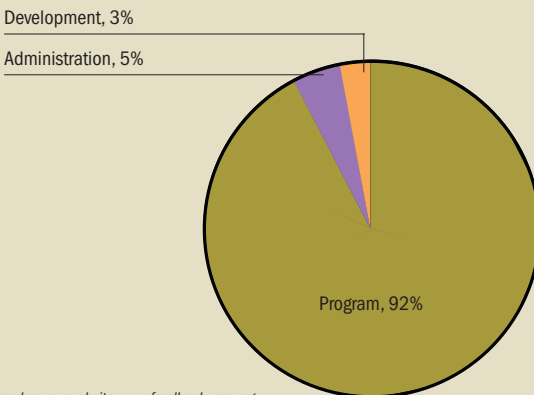
Andrea Burns Photography
Andrew Associates
Basketball Hall of Fame
C&S Wholesale Grocers
Florence Village Flower & Gift
Tiger Press

9 months, January – September**

INCOME

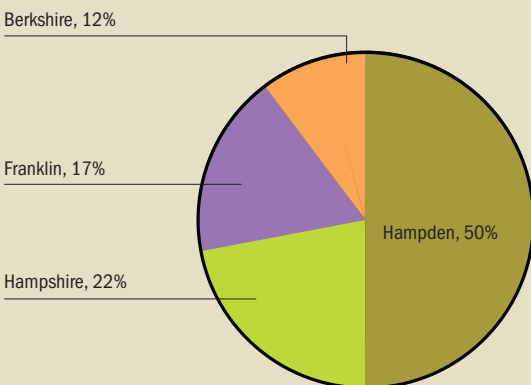


EXPENSES



*quest and on our website, www.foodbankwma.org.
We receive a significant amount of contributions*

FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY



The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts supports and partners with local food pantries, meal sites, shelters, residential programs, and youth and elder care centers to bring food to people who are experiencing hunger in dozens of diverse urban and rural communities in western Massachusetts. In 2008, we provided 6.7 million pounds of food to Food Bank member agencies and Brown Bag: Food for Elders sites.



The Dennis Group builds facilities for the food industry, and helps build food security for our community.

We were fascinated by food even before we became engineers

Local Business Invests in Our Community

Tom Dennis and his company, The Dennis Group, have been long-time supporters of The Food Bank. As a construction and design firm that specializes in building manufacturing plants for the food and beverage industries, they provided professional and project advisory services during the expansion and renovation of The Food Bank’s facility and warehouse in Hatfield. More recently, during

the 2008 Gala, The Dennis Group participated as a Gold level sponsor, contributing \$5,000 towards the event’s ultimate success in raising \$65,000 for The Food Bank. The company also gives regular donations to The Food Bank to support ongoing operations.

Why has The Dennis Group chosen to be a part of The Food Bank’s work? Tom Dennis’ company is committed to the Pioneer Valley and agencies that have a direct impact on our community. “I feel that the security of food for individuals and families is a fundamental value for a society,” says Tom. “The Food Bank is the ultimate noble ombudsman – an intermediary between the food supply system and where food is most needed.”

Thanks to The Dennis Group and other local businesses like them, The Food Bank is able to meet its mission to reduce hunger and increase food security in western Massachusetts.

Did You Know

1 in 8 children in Massachusetts lives at risk of hunger. In some areas of western Massachusetts, that number rises to as many as 1 in 3 children.

Greenfield 7th Grade Class Learns About Hunger

The seventh grade teachers at Four Rivers Charter Public School in Greenfield devised a challenging cross-curriculum community service project to give their students hands on experience with math, nutrition, history, and writing. The result is a unique, kid-created cookbook they are producing, marketing and then selling to support The Food Bank. Their teacher Amanda Locke jokes, “Seventh graders are extremely interested in food and they are always hungry! But real hunger is a problem they can understand, think about on a global scale, and then act on locally.” Each student brought in a favorite family recipe, wrote an essay about it, and researched one of its ingredients throughout history. Then they went to the supermarket to analyze the recipe’s nutritional content and the cost to make it. They toured The Food Bank to find out how many people struggle with hunger in western Massachusetts and across the U.S., and then figured out how much of each ingredient they would need to make a recipe that could feed *everyone* in need of food assistance – and how much it would cost.



Asher, a student in the class, said, “When we went to the Food Bank I was surprised by how much food they had [in the warehouse] and how many people need it. I hope that our cookbook helps spread the word about how many people are hungry, even right here in our community.”

Volunteers Give Back

Joan Levy started volunteering at The Food Bank in 2007 after retiring from a career as an elementary school teacher. As an educator, she had witnessed the negative impact hunger has on a child’s ability to learn. She explains why she felt compelled to get involved, “I am fortunate: I was able to retire early and I don’t have to worry about my next meal. Volunteering at The Food Bank gives me an incredible opportunity to work at something that interests me while helping others with a basic need we all share.”

Joan put her extensive teaching experience to work helping The Food Bank update and expand a school curriculum designed to teach children about where food comes from and how poverty and social injustice affect community food security. She has also conducted follow-up surveys with families who participated in The Food Bank’s Intergenerational

Meals program, a workshop series that helps low-income families learn about nutrition and develop budgeting and cooking skills. She recalls the good feeling she got interviewing a mother who told her how much she and her child had learned in the program and how much fun they had together.

As a regular member of our Thursday morning salvage sorting team, Joan derives satisfaction from inspecting and packaging nutritious food knowing it’s destined for someone who needs it. She also values the opportunity volunteering has given her to develop relationships with a diverse group of wonderful people that she says feels like family.

Joan Levy sorts food in The Food Bank’s salvage room.



Did You Know

for every \$100 donated to The Food Bank, we are able to provide 470 meals to people in our region who need food assistance.

Food Drives Fight Hunger

The Food Bank is grateful to the many individuals, schools, businesses, and civic clubs who organize food drives on our behalf throughout the year. This past year we received a total of 245,473 pounds of food, the equivalent of 191,775 meals, from a wide variety of donors. Here are the top ten grossing food drives of the year and the number of pounds of food they collected for The Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Top Grossing Food Drives	Pounds of Food
WWLP-TV	4,630
St. James/St Stans Catholic Church	3,298
Yankee Candle, Co.	2,393
UMASS Capture The Flag	2,097
Big Y – South Hadley, Southampton, Springfield, Westfield	1,886
C & S Wholesale Grocers	1,494
Bement School	1,266
Lightlife Foods, Inc.	1,058
Federal Street School	826
Mass Mutual	787

