



word of **mouth**

Spring 2019



**403,792 meals
provided by local farms**

(See more FY18 numbers inside)

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- 2019 BusinessWest
Difference Maker Award

THANK YOU

The following businesses, organizations and foundations made a gift of \$1,000 or more between October 1 and December 31, 2018

Aldi's Hadley	Feeding America	People's United Community Foundation
Artic Refrigeration Company, LLC	First Church of Christ Congregational	PeoplesBank
Avangrid Foundation	Freedom Credit Union	Performance Testing and Balancing, LLC
Berkshire Brewing Company Inc	Gage-Wiley & Co., Inc.	Perry And Madeline Garver Family Foundation, Inc.
Beveridge Family Foundation, Inc.	Gould Family Foundation	Pioneer Registration Services
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Greenfield Co-Operative Bank	Prentice Foundation, Inc
Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Inc.	Greenfield Savings Bank	River Valley Market LLC
Boston Foundation	Greylock Federal Credit Union	Sodexo Foundation
Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co	Holyoke Community College	Springfield School Volunteers
Bridgeside Grille	HUB International Limited	Szawlowski Potato Farms
Bueno y Sano	JK Group	TD Charitable Foundation
CoBank	Joy In Childhood Foundation, Inc.	The Iqbal and Shelby Mamdani Foundation
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage	Linde Family Foundation	Thornes Marketplace
Country Bank for Savings	Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Foundation Inc.	Trinity Health
Delta Sand and Gravel, Inc	Merriam-Webster, Inc.	UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc.
Easthampton Savings Bank	Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.	United Personnel Services
Edwards Church of Northampton	Montague B.P.O. Elks #2521	VFW Post 10338 Emergency Food Pantry
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Mutton & Mead Renaissance Faire	Vivian and Paul Olum Charitable Foundation
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation	Northampton Brewery	Wakefern Food Corporation
Ernst Financial Services	Northeast Solar	Webber & Grinnell Insurance
Excel Dryer Corporation	Northfield Mount Hermon School	Xeric Foundation
Fair Share Foundation	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.	
Fallon Community Health Plan	Packaging Corporation of America	
Farm Credit East	Partners HealthCare	

The top food donors between October 1 and December 31, 2018

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Big Y* | 4. Ocean State Job Lot | 7. Coca-Cola Co. | 10. Szawlowski Potato Farms |
| 2. C & S Wholesale Grocers | 5. Stop & Shop* | 8. Mountain View Farm | |
| 3. BJ's Wholesale Club | 6. WalMart* | 9. Cumberland Farms | |
- *multiple chains combined



For regular updates on Food Bank activities, sign up for our newsletter at foodbankwma.org



MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

The Food Bank is dedicated to creating a western Massachusetts where no one goes hungry and everyone has access to nutritious food.

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The Food Bank is committed to promoting cultural diversity through its board, staff, volunteers and member agencies. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Your name is safe. We have never rented, sold, or loaned our donor list, and we never will. Without our donors, our work would not be possible. We value your support & privacy.



From the Executive Director

Providing food assistance during the Government shutdown

Dear Friends,

The federal government shutdown dramatized how much the national economy relies on federal spending to function. At stake was not only the livelihood of 800,000 federal workers, but also that of millions of Americans who rely on some form of government assistance to make ends meet as they struggle to achieve financial stability. In western Massachusetts alone, 152,000 individuals — mainly children, elders, people with disabilities and working

“I never thought I’d be on this end of the spectrum, receiving food. It’s wonderful to know that there are so many people that want to help us everywhere.”

—Cathy, TSA officer

adults — receive monthly federal SNAP benefits to put food on their table. The total economic impact of these benefits on our regional economy is an enormous \$614 million annually.

No SNAP benefits were eliminated during the shutdown. The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, which administers the SNAP program in the Commonwealth, worked extremely hard to distribute benefits early, while federal funds were still available. This disruption caused numerous

households to become confused and alarmed; many ran out of money to buy food in February. We are receiving reports from local feeding programs that witnessed an uptick in people seeking food assistance during the shutdown.

The House of Refuge’s Project Hope Pantry in Chicopee opened extra hours in late January for furloughed federal workers. Cathy, a TSA officer at Bradley Airport in Connecticut, was furloughed for five weeks during the shutdown. She relied on this pantry to help with groceries. It was her first trip ever to a food pantry. “I never thought I’d be on this end of the spectrum, receiving food. It’s wonderful to know that there are so many people that want to help us everywhere.”

This situation should serve as a reminder that so many of our neighbors are living without any financial cushion whatsoever. Forbes and CNBC reported in early January that nearly 80 percent of American workers report they are living paycheck to paycheck, according to a 2017 report by employment website *CareerBuilder.com*.

We are grateful that you invest in our mission so that, together, we can be there for them. ♦

Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director



Making a difference in the lives of a community in need

For many residents in our region, the words “western Massachusetts” elicit mental images of scenic mountains, sprawling farms, and wildlife. For attorneys Ryan Alekman and Robert DiTusa, they also consider this area to be a region with a great sense of community and a wonderful place to raise a family.

However, for the more than 225,000 people that rely on our emergency food network, it’s a home filled with uncertainty and anxiety.

“The Food Bank works hard to make the community aware of the issue of food insecurity, which people may not see otherwise in their daily lives,” explains Ryan Alekman.

That is why, for more than eight years, Alekman DiTusa, LLC, Attorneys at Law, have supported our mission. In 2011, their participation in Legal Food Frenzy (a competition within the legal community) raised the most food and funds per capita in western Massachusetts. They have sponsored all our galas and spring events for the past five years, and every major fundraising event The Food Bank held in 2018. In addition

to sponsoring and riding in our annual Will Bike 4 Food, they have donated major billboard space to us for the past two years to promote the charity ride. For the past two Monte’s March events, the pair have generously sponsored a matching gift hour, doubling callers’ contributions. Over the years, their support has provided the equivalent of 65,385 meals to food-insecure individuals.

This winter, the law team partnered with the Springfield Thunderbirds for a special ‘Goals for Groceries’ campaign. During the Thunderbirds’ 2018–19 season, Alekman DiTusa is generously donating 100 meals to The Food Bank for every Thunderbirds’ goal. Through the first five months of the season, the campaign provided 8,900 meals (with three months remaining).

“There is a great sense of community here in western Massachusetts,” explains Ryan. “We’ve been supporting The Food Bank for years because it is important to us to make a difference in the lives of those in our community.” ♦



Read the full story at:
[foodbankwma.org/news](https://www.foodbankwma.org/news)



FARM *to* COCKTAIL

Back by popular demand

Our Farm to Cocktail competition is returning on Wednesday, May 8 at Valley View Farm in Haydenville. Join us for this straight up bartending competition to benefit The Food Bank. Some of the area's most creative bartenders will compete as they shake, stir and dash creative cocktails using locally-sourced ingredients. You'll have the chance to sample all their concoctions and vote for your favorite.

Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by Wheelhouse, and live music from local acoustic singer/songwriter, Grayson Ty. There will also be exciting silent auction items, oversized lawn games, fire pits, goodie bags, a full cash bar, and much more. We're excited to have Berkshire Mountain Distillers as our official alcohol sponsor.

General admission tickets are \$50 each and available online beginning March 7 at farmtococktail.org. VIP (\$60) and designated driver (\$40) tickets are also available. This is a 21+ only event and valid ID will be required at the door.

Space for this event is limited.

WHEN:

Wednesday, May 8, 2019
5:00 p.m. VIP
5:30 p.m. General Admission
Event ends at 9:30pm

WHERE:

Valley View Farm
16 Walpole Road, Haydenville, MA

COST:

\$60 VIP
\$50 General Admission
\$40 Designated Drivers

PURCHASE TICKETS:

www.farmtococktail.org
21+ ONLY with Valid ID

Tickets sold out quickly in 2017, and we're expecting the same this year. Don't miss out on this fun evening to benefit The Food Bank. ♦

If your business would like to be a sponsor for this special event, call (413) 247-9738, or email heatherc@foodbankwma.org.



More info: farmtococktail.org

The Food Bank named '2019 Difference Maker'

The Food Bank is honored to have been named one of Business West's 2019 Difference Makers. Since its inception ten years ago, this recognition program has stood as a symbol of excellence and dedication to improving the quality of life in this region, and clearly demonstrates there are many ways to make a difference.

Although we served more than 225,000 food-insecure people in our last fiscal year, The Food Bank's work does not end with merely feeding people. We are committed to raising awareness of hunger in our region. For many people, hunger is invisible and isn't easily comprehended.

"Most people are not going to wear a sign around their neck saying, 'I'm hungry,'" explains Andrew Morehouse, in a recent interview with Business West. "There is a lot of stigma and

shame attached to not being able to meet your basic needs, especially food. There's a real challenge there in terms of public education."

The Food Bank would like to thank all our member agencies, community partners, donors and supporters

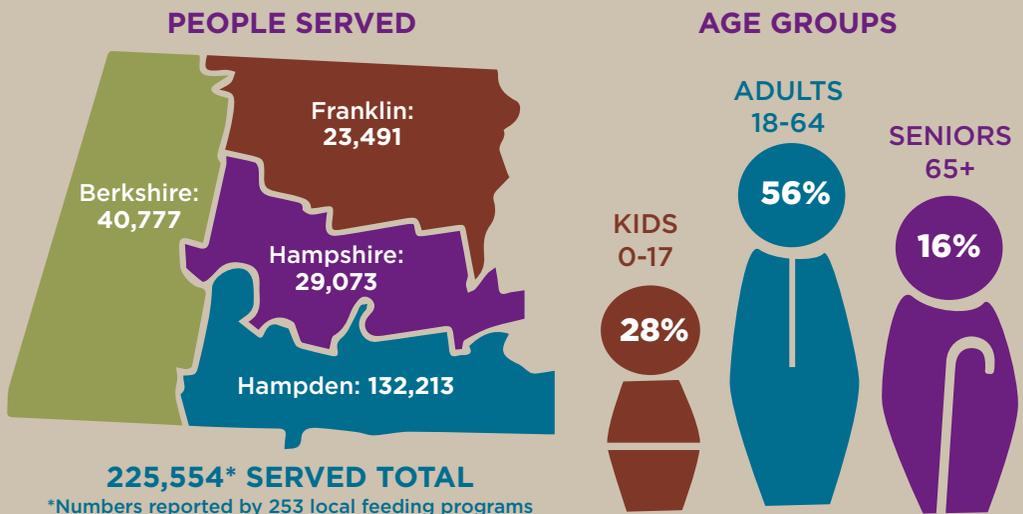
"Most people are not going to wear a sign around their neck saying, 'I'm hungry.'"

for their contributions to feed our neighbors in need. We share this honor with them as we continue to ensure everyone has access to healthy food, regardless of their circumstances. ♦

 Read more: foodbankwma.org/news

Working together to create a hunger-free community

Throughout the year, The Food Bank relies on donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, civic organizations, faith-based groups, schools and government to fulfill our mission. Thanks to your support, we provided





Thank you for raising \$294,720 for Monte's March IX

Neither snow nor rain nor sleet nor gloom of night prevented Monte's marchers from completing their goal. The rain and cold during every step of the 43-mile march didn't slow down WRSI – 93.9 The River's Monte Belmonte or the dozens of community supporters, political representatives, and business leaders that accompanied him on this year's Monte's March to prevent hunger. On November 19 & 20, Monte once again pushed a shopping cart from Springfield to Greenfield to raise vital

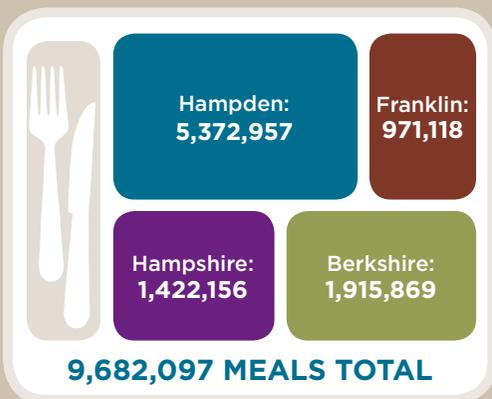
funds for The Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's event. With your help, Monte's March raised \$294,720 to support our mission, providing the equivalent of 884,160 meals. Since 2010, the annual event has raised a total of \$1,177,720 for The Food Bank, making it one of the most successful fundraising events in western Massachusetts. ♦

 Learn more at MontesMarch.com

the equivalent of 9.6 million meals in our previous fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2018) – the most ever in our history. We are grateful to count you as partners as we work together to create a hunger-free western Massachusetts.

MEALS PROVIDED

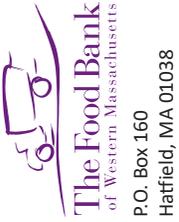


FOOD DONATED FROM LOCAL FARMS



To learn more about the role The Food Bank plays in addressing hunger, visit foodbankwma.org/learn.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit Number 786
Springfield, MA 01152



FOOD BANK UPCOMING EVENTS



April 25

Food Bank After Hours
The Food Bank
Hatfield, MA



June 15

Brews & Brunch
Westfield River Brewing Co.
Southwick, MA



August 4

Cider Pairing Dinner
Apex Orchards
Shelburne, MA



For more information, visit [foodbankwma.org/events](https://www.foodbankwma.org/events)