

Dear Friends,

You might think it's pollyannaish for us to aspire to end hunger. Before you do, consider what we accomplished **together** last year. We...

- Provided the equivalent of 800,000 healthy meals to an average of 93,000 individuals **every month** through 250 partner and Food Bank sites across all four counties of western Massachusetts
- Assisted 1,031 households to receive monthly SNAP benefits to purchase the equivalent of another 910,000 meals at local stores and farms, leveraging \$2.1 million in economic activity
- Assisted nearly 700 patients, who screened positive for food insecurity at area hospitals and community health centers by providing:
 - Food vouchers to purchase food at supermarkets
 - Deliveries of almost 18,000 medically tailored meals prepared by our three elder services organization partners
 - Cooking supplies and nutrition workshops to prepare their own healthy meals
 - Referrals to other social service organizations to receive wrap-around services (i.e. childcare, transportation, housing)

We must act immediately to prevent hunger and food insecurity when households are confronted with this reality on any day, week, or month. People need to eat **today** as we forge system-wide policy



solutions for **tomorrow**. On the solutions front, last year in partnership with many allies, we succeeded in getting our state and federal governments to approve important policy changes and investments in food security, including:

- Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) that incentivizes SNAP recipients to purchase fresh vegetables from local farmers
- Massachusetts extension of free school meals for every child at public schools
- State pilot program to assist households to achieve economic stability rather than stripping them abruptly of public benefits (the "cliff effect") as their income slowly increases
- Sustained funding of the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Increased funding of the federal emergency food assistance program for food banks across the country
- Permanent federally funded summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program to give income-eligible families \$40 per child per month over the summer to purchase food

Last year, our very own Congressman Jim McGovern championed the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health for the first time in more than 50 years. We are working with our advocacy partners across the state to advance proposed policies and innovations that resulted from this historic conference. You can learn more about our advocacy and get involved by visiting foodbankwma.org/get-involved/advocate/.

In this annual report, you will read more about how we are deepening our impact and preparing for the future. We are so very grateful to you for your continued commitment to our cause. In short... **together, we end hunger.**

In partnership,




Will Dávila
President




Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director