

FEBRUARY 2022

Hastings Family Service

Providing HELP and HOPE since 1970



Driving Out Hunger




Farewell Mary!
 Mary Kocak is
 Retiring March 31st.
 See page 6.

New Beginnings | MN FoodShare | Hastings Tastings | Program Highlights

2022 Board of Directors

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Swanson, President | Katy Lindberg, Vice President | Pam Oeffler, Secretary |
| David Fransen, Chair of Finance | Melissa Freiermuth | Peggy Horsch |
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| | Dr. Nick VenOsdel | Dave Wilske |

New Beginnings



Amy Sutton
Executive Director

It was an odd feeling to have a “first day” at an organization that I’ve been with for over 12 years, but I am so excited for this next chapter! I look forward to continuing the work I’ve been a part of for so long.

I knew soon after joining the team in 2009 that Hastings Family Service was the perfect match for my skills and my heart. It’s been a privilege working with Chris and Mary Kocak and many staff members and volunteers during years of significant growth, and more recently, significant change and challenge.

This will continue to be a busy time of transition and transformation for HFS as we welcome new staff members, transition current staff into new roles, and say goodbye to some long-time leaders. On March 1st, we are welcoming Deana Dunning as our Director of Programs & Operations to help lead the agency. Amy Schaffer will also be joining the staff as a member of our Programs team on March 1st, and Mary Kells has transitioned from our Rivertown Treasures store manager to a position within our Programs team. She brings great experience in the Market food shelf having worked in that area full-time for 17 months while the store was closed during the pandemic.

I’m grateful for our amazing staff and volunteers who are carrying the load through so many changes, and we’ve adjusted our hours to help with staff shortages during the transitions (see below).

This is also a time of great opportunity and transformation for HFS! The renovations of the adjacent building are underway and we have finally taken possession of our new refrigerated vehicle and have begun increased food rescue efforts. We look forward to adding mobile food programming once we have staff in place and trained, and the renovation of the adjacent building is completed to provide additional space. How we provide programs and services went through creative transformations throughout the pandemic, and we look forward to evaluating what is working well that we will continue to do and what we may need to tweak or eliminate. There is much to do and so much good ahead!

Hastings Family Service has been blessed with great leadership and exceptional community support. Chris Koop, our executive director for 17 years, and Mary Kocak, our Food Shelf Director for 27 years, will be greatly missed and we wish them the best in their retirements. Our HFS team is committed to continuing the legacy of compassion and care for our neighbors and community that has been built on the shoulders of all those who have come before us.

Straight ahead!

HFS Operating Hours

Programs available by calling 651-437-7134
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rivertown Treasures & HFS Donation Center
Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Saturdays

Find HFS online:

www.hastingsfamilyservice.org



Hastings Family Service

HELP AND HOPE SINCE 1970



Amy Sutton

Executive Director

Deana Dunning

Programs and Operations Director

Joannie Becker

Meals on Wheels

Jessica Bierbrauer

Office Manager

Kelly Carter

Development & Community Relations

Sue Hill

Meals on Wheels

Mary Kells

Programs

Mary Kocak

Market Programs

Lori Mikel

Meals on Wheels

Desirée Olson

Programs

Heather Rose

Rivertown Treasures

Amy Schaffer

Programs

Maria Slavik

Volunteers & Communications

Congratulations Katy!



HFS Board Vice President,
Katy Lindberg,
 has been named the Hastings Area
 Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau's
2021 Volunteer of the Year!

Thank You

Mike Woog & Caleb Wyre
 for their years of dedicated service
 on the HFS Board of Directors

Welcome

New Board Members
Marta Tierney & Kelli Reitzel

Ways to Make a Difference:

IRA Contributions:

If you need to take a required minimum distribution from an IRA, consider sending it directly to HFS as a Charitable gift. With a direct transfer to a qualified nonprofit like HFS, it counts toward your required minimum distribution and reduces your taxable income. Keeping your taxable income lower can reduce the impact to your Social Security and Medicare. Contact your financial advisor to determine if this is good option for you!



Thank you Gobble Gait!

Gobble Gait returned this year as strong as ever! Thanks to the generous support of Gobble Gait participants and sponsors, Gobble Gait organizers Mary Fasbender, Jay Kochendorfer and Brian Radke presented HFS with \$120,000 from Gobble Gait 2021!



Join *The Family Table* monthly giving program!

Choose one of these easy options:

1. Direct payment from a checking account. Fill out the authorization on the enclosed envelope and send it in with your voided check. There are no fees with this option.
2. Go to hastingsfamilyservice.org and click on *The Family Table* page. Follow the instructions to set up your monthly recurring donation online.
3. You may set up a recurring monthly donation using an electronic funds transfer through your bank account's Bill Pay service. Please notify Kelly at HFS if you choose this method.

Electronic Receipts Available

Go green with Hastings Family Service and sign up to receive your donation receipts by email. This will not only benefit the environment but will cut down on the cost of paper and postage. If you are interested in going paperless, contact Kelly kellcarter@hastingsfamilyservice.org or 651-437-7134.





Driving Out Hunger

MN FOODSHARE

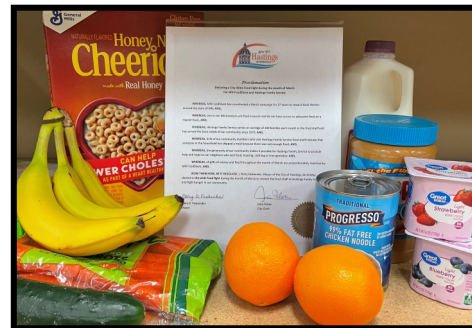
February 28– April 10, every dollar and every pound of food will be proportionately **MATCHED** by MN FoodShare

There are a variety of ways you can participate in MN FoodShare as an individual, family, group, business, or church:

- Attend Hastings Tastings: Your \$25 ticket feeds a family of 3-4 for an entire week!
- Host a food or fund drive at your church or business. HFS provides a kit to help organize your drive at www.hastingsfamilyservice.org.
- Clip the most needed items list on this page and add a few items to your grocery list each week. Food items can be dropped off at the HFS Donation Center during business hours.
- Purchase a prepacked grocery bag at Cub. HFS's most needed items are already prepacked and located near the registers for a quick purchase. There is a bin located near the west exit to place the bag inside on your way out the door.
- Watch for opportunities to round up your purchase and coin boxes at local businesses!
- Shop and drop off food and personal care items in one stop using the collection bin located at the Walmart pharmacy entrance.
- Watch for the HFS Market on the Move around town collecting food!
- Add the HFS Driving Out Hunger frame to your Facebook profile picture and help spread the word! Go to the HFS Facebook page for instructions!
- Follow Hastings Family Service on social media. We'll share more events and opportunities to drive out hunger throughout the MN FoodShare campaign!

Hastings is Driving Out Hunger

Mayor Mary Fasbender proclaims that together the Hastings community will Drive Out Hunger during MN FoodShare!



Most Needed Items:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macaroni and Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jelly or Jam | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pancake Mix & Syrup | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saltine Crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuna/Canned Meat | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soup: Chicken, Vegetable, Tomato | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chili, Stew, Beef Ravioli, or Chow Mein | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Side Dishes: Rice, Potatoes, and Pasta | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta Noodles and Spaghetti Sauce | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruit and Vegetables | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayo or Miracle Whip | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar, Flour | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100% Fruit Juice | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine Hygiene Products | |





How Your Gift of Food or Funds Makes a Difference



During MN FoodShare, every dollar and every pound of food is proportionally **MATCHED** by MN FoodShare.

Gifts of both food and funds support the HFS Market Food Shelf.

During MN FoodShare, every dollar and every pound of food is proportionately **MATCHED** by MN FoodShare, increasing the impact of your gift no matter how you choose to give!

Upcoming Events during MN FoodShare:



25th Annual Hastings Tastings
Monday, March 28
4 p.m.—7 p.m.

Sample happy hour appetizers and drinks from local restaurants and participate in the silent auction and beer, wine, and restaurant raffles.

See the back of this newsletter for more information!



Funds help HFS purchase dairy, eggs, produce, and meat locally and through Second Harvest, as well as some dry goods and personal care items.



Donated food and personal care items are sorted and stocked in the Market Food Shelf.



Market Food Shelf volunteers pack food orders for neighbors. Each food order contains a variety of nutritious foods that are sourced through both donations and purchases as well as food rescue efforts. Pictured here is a typical food order for a family of four.



Taproom Takeover
Thursday, March 10, 4-7 p.m.
Spiral Brewery

A portion of all beer sales will benefit Hastings Family Service

Thank You Mary

Mary Kocak will be retiring March 31st, having served as the Food Shelf Director at Hastings Family Service for 27 years.

Mary arrived at Hastings Family Service in August of 1995 and has been instrumental in creating a culture of help and hope for the neighbors we serve. She lives and leads the values of the organization, always seeing the person before the situation, and letting her heart and kind spirit guide her work. Mary has led with a generous spirit and upholds a standard of quality that will be her legacy. The care and compassion that she shows for others including volunteers, staff, neighbors and friends is an inspiration to others.

Mary is proud that HFS has always been a friendly, welcoming place where people can come in and have a conversation; a place built on dignity, respect and kindness in a supportive community with a culture of service and caring for one another. She has great stories like how HFS was one of the earliest food shelves to offer choice for neighbors. It came about when she was doing a presentation at a school and a third grader asked her "Do people get to choose or do you just put food in the bag?" Mary immediately went to work creating choice checklists, and championed the establishment of the Market, our grocery-style choice-model food shelf, when HFS moved into our current location.

It's impossible to convey the difference Mary has made in the lives of the people we serve, and the impact she has had on the HFS programs, culture and values over the years. If you would like to hear more of her stories, what she found most challenging and what she is most proud of, go to our website at hastingsfamilyservice.org and watch the video program created for our HFS 50th Anniversary. You will see her heart and vision that helped to build HFS into the organization it is today. We will work hard to uphold the HFS values and quality of service with the same heart, kindness and dedication.

Thank you Mary!

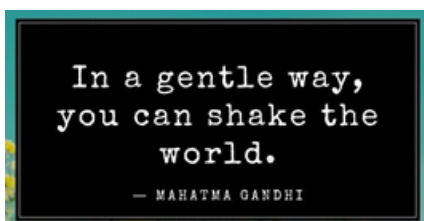


This MN Foodshare month is dedicated to Mary and all she has done to provide access to quality food for every neighbor in Hastings.

Thank you for considering a monetary gift or a gift of food in her honor in March to help us make this the best MN Foodshare ever!



Mary Kocak passing the torch to Mary Kells! Mary Kells was hired as the Rivertown Treasures store manager in Feb 2020 but shifted to work in the food shelf for 17 months during the pandemic while the store was closed. She has now moved into a permanent position working with the food shelf!



Snapshots of a Week at Hastings Family Service

Here's a quick look at the impact Hastings Family Service makes in the Hastings area community in one week, taken during a week in January 2022.



2,277 meals were provided through the Market Food Shelf



264 meals were provided through Market Express



1,734 servings of fresh produce were delivered to seniors through Market Cart



Meals on Wheels delivered 287 hot and 20 frozen meals



104 volunteers worked 406 hours to make it all possible



Market on the Move Van Update

The Market on the Move van has arrived at Hastings Family Service! After a long process of having the van built and outfitted with refrigeration and a lift, the van arrived on site earlier this month.

HFS volunteers are already using the van to pick up additional food rescue from Coborn's and we'll be expanding our food rescue efforts in the coming months. Mobile food shelf programming will begin later this year!



Hastings Family Service is
Driving Out Hunger!
All monetary gifts
and pounds of food are
proportionately MATCHED
by MN FOODSHARE!



See page 4 for details.



Hastings Family Service

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Upcoming Events



Monday, March 28

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church Social Hall

4:00—7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the 25th Annual Hastings Tastings with a sampling of happy hour appetizers and drinks! 12 local establishments are confirmed.

Special 25th anniversary ticket price: \$25
Tickets are available at HFS, Hastings Cub, the Hastings Area Y, and online at www.hastingsfamilyservice.org
Tickets limited to 250.



Drive Out Hunger

GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING
HASTINGS FAMILY SERVICE

SAVE THE DATE:

MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022
HASTINGS GOLF CLUB

Registration available in March

For sponsorship information,
please contact Kelly Carter at
651-437-7134

Tournament Sponsors:

