

Hope *in action*

55 YEARS
1970-2025
Hastings Family Service
CELEBRATING HELP AND HOPE

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign March 1-April 6



2024 HUNGER FACTS

Minnesotans made **9 million visits** to food shelves in 2024.

Source: <https://gmcc.org/hunger-facts>

2,658 families received a 7- to 10-day supply of food from the HFS in-person Market or drive thru.

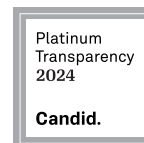
Bridging the Need

Neighbors are experiencing a record-breaking need for food assistance across Minnesota and Hastings Family Service is seeing this same need in our community. To increase access, HFS is hitting the streets with the Market on the Move van to reach more people in more places. *See Page 3*



**PROPORTIONATE
MATCHING FUNDS
available**

See Pages 4 & 5



MARCH 2025

301 2ND ST E • HASTINGS • MN • 55033 • 651-437-7134



55 Years of Help and Hope

Hello Friends,

Hastings Family Service will celebrate 55 years of service to the community in April of this year, and we are looking forward to sharing some anniversary fun with all of you. Who remembers Hands Across Hastings in

1997 and 1998? We are hoping to re-create the event, imagining the kids who participated back then probably have kids in elementary school who could participate this year! Watch for more information on an entire day of community celebration on May 16th! Mark your calendars!

Thank you so much for continuing to partner with and support HFS. Check out page 3 to learn more about the growth in food services over the past year. There were over 9 million visits to food shelves in MN last year, and that is up by 4 million over the past two years. There are about 9,000 visits every day across the state, and we are striving to find innovative ways to continue to increase our capacity at HFS and expand access for our neighbors. Our vision is a caring and connected community where all neighbors can thrive, and working together, we can make that happen!

These unprecedented times have amplified how important it is for us to work together as a community to take care of each other. The need never goes away, so please consider joining me as a member of our Family Table monthly giving program . . . it is an easy way to share help and hope with families all year long!

As we celebrate 55 years, I can hear one of our founders, Lew Linde, saying, "Straight Ahead!"



Amy Sutton
Executive Director

Amy Tix
Programs Director

Joannie Becker
Meals on Wheels

Rob Berg
Market Warehouse

Jessica Bierbrauer
Office Administration

Kyle Bultinck
Market Food Programs

Sharon Deziel
Marketing & Communications

Michelle Franzmeier
Programs/Administration

Mary Kells
Rivertown Treasures

Stevi Ritt
Community Resources

Tammy Rud
Meals on Wheels

Maria Slavik
Volunteers

Victoria Wellman
Philanthropy

Joining HFS in April:
DawnMarie Vihrachoff
Director of Philanthropy

HASTINGSFAMILYSERVICE.ORG | 651-437-7134 MEALS ON WHEELS | 651-404-1548

Service Hours

By phone Mon-Fri | 9am-4pm
In person Tues-Fri | 9am-4pm

Rivertown Treasures

Tues-Fri | 9am-4pm
Sat | 10am-3pm

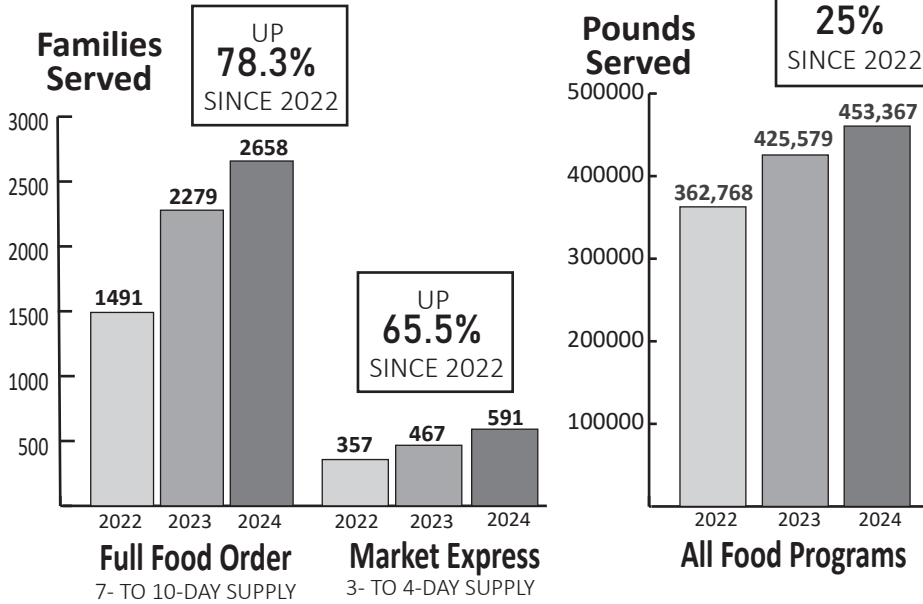
Donation Center

Tues-Fri | 9am-4pm
Sat | 10am-3pm

Food Programs Growth



Market Food Programs



Expanding Food Access

HFS is working hard to increase access to nutritious foods in our community:

► More In-Person Shopping Appointments

The addition of 24 appointments per week has decreased wait times significantly while expanding neighbor-preferred choice-model shopping.

► Increased Community Outreach

Higher-need areas in the community are being served through mobile distribution events helping to remove transportation barriers:

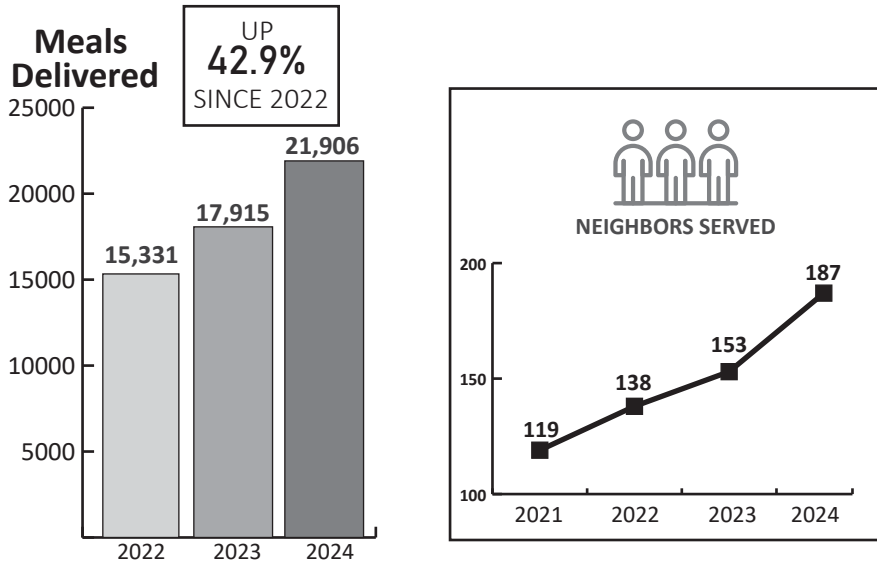
Market Cart Distributions:

- Oak Ridge Assisted Living
- The Quill 55+ Apartments
- Rivertown Court Senior Housing
- Mississippi Terrace Senior Housing
- Meals on Wheels Neighbors

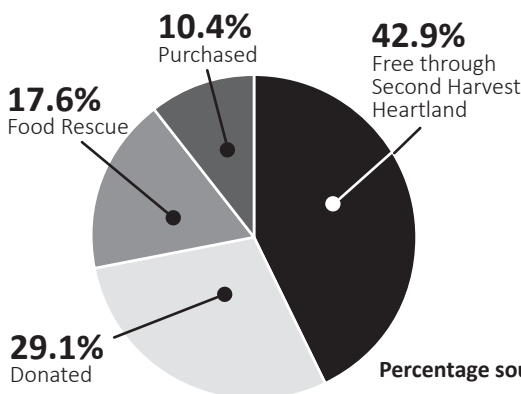
Expanded - Tilden Community Center

New - Three Rivers Community

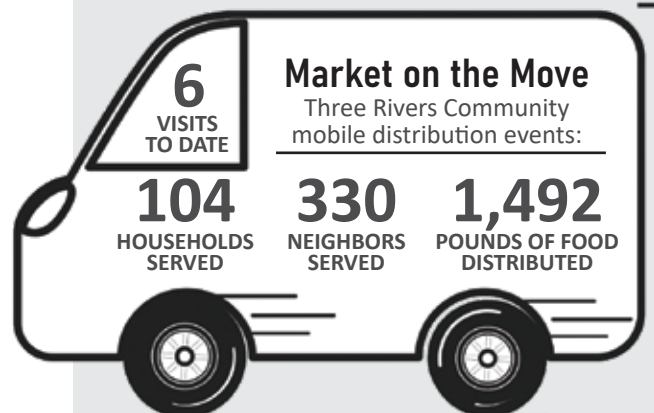
Meals on Wheels



Food/Care Items Sourcing



Community donations accounted for the second highest source of food and care items serving neighbors in 2024. Thank you for sharing help and hope!



How to Help

Donate Food & Care Items

Every pound of food or care items received through April 6 counts towards the proportionate match.

MOST NEEDED

- Flour
- Sugar
- Condiments
- Pasta Sides
- Rice Sides
- Potato Sides
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Ramen
- Canned Meats
- Chunky Soups
- Canned Vegetables
- Cereal
- Diapers Sizes 1-5
- Pull-Ups
- Feminine Products
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Razors
- Paper Grocery Bags

DID YOU KNOW?

Donating most-needed items helps HFS fill gaps in sourcing food and care items.



Offer Hope

Gifts of Food & Funds Proportionate

March 1

NHS Food Collection Sunday, March 9

Hastings High School's National Honor Society will be distributing empty paper grocery bags to area households. Simply fill the bag with nonperishable food and personal/household care items, and leave it out on **Sunday, March 9**, to be picked up from 4 to 6pm.

Register Round Up



Shop at Spiral Food Co-op during March and round up your purchase at the register to benefit the Market food shelf!

Culver's Night Monday, March 31 | 5-7PM



Treat the family to a delicious dinner and 10% of all dine-in and drive-thru sales benefit HFS.

Host a Food Drive

Get information, register your drive, and access promotional materials at hastingsfamilyservice.org.

Collection Sites

- **Cub Foods Hastings:** Purchase a prepacked grocery bag of most-needed items located near the registers, and drop it off in the west exit's collection bin.
- **Walmart Hastings:** Shop and drop off food and care items in one stop using the collection bin at the pharmacy entrance.

ately MATCHED by MN FoodShare

-April 6



Enjoy sips and tastings from these local establishments and vote for your favorites!



**MARCH
24**



HASTINGS TASTINGS

A FEAST FOR MN FOODSHARE

4:30–7:30pm

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Enjoy delicious cuisine from a variety of local restaurants while participating in a silent auction and raffles. Proceeds from this event are proportionately MATCHED by Minnesota FoodShare to support the HFS Market food shelf.



**Tickets
\$55**

This event sells out quickly—order your tickets today!

Sponsored By



Join the Family Table in March

and your first gift will be proportionately MATCHED by MN FoodShare. Provide neighbors with a stable source of help and hope all year long through this monthly giving program. Click the donate button to join online, use the enclosed envelope, or contact HFS to set up an ACH that incurs no fees!



Scan to Join

Volunteers Make it Happen



Meals on Wheels volunteers getting food to neighbors on a snowy day.



Food Rescue sorting in action.



Helping with year-end inventory in the Market warehouse.

2024 Volunteer Snapshot

Join the HFS Volunteer Family

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS BY AGE



489

54% 65+

24% 51-65

22% 50 & under

OVER 900 VOLUNTEER SHIFTS PER MONTH

On site at HFS

560

Shifts for Meals on Wheels

240

Rides for Just Friends Transportation

139

VALUE OF HFS VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

26,695 = 12.8

Volunteer Hours

Full-time employees

\$969,303 Service value donated

Thank you volunteers!

Some of our most-needed shifts are as follows:

- **MARKET FOOD SHELF**
Wednesday mornings and substitutes
- **FOOD RESCUE SORTING**
Thursdays, Fridays, and substitutes (shorter shifts)
- **JUST FRIENDS DRIVERS**
Flexible schedule
- **RIVERTOWN TREASURES**
Saturdays and substitutes (shorter shifts)



Learn more and apply

“The meatloaf is very good! I want to express my appreciation to the volunteers that came during the snowstorm . . . they should have a pat on the back!”

— A Meals on Wheels Neighbor

“My food day is very important to me and I am so thankful for all of your assistance!”

— A Market Shopper

“Thank you for the lettuce and delicious greens, veggies, and food!”

— A Market Shopper

Making a Difference Together



Members of the Rivertown Walking Group held a wrapping party for their adopted families.

2024 PROJECT SHARE

HOLIDAY GIFTS

214 FAMILIES ADOPTED INCLUDING
840 FAMILY MEMBERS

HOLIDAY MEALS

188 FAMILIES INCLUDING
683 FAMILY MEMBERS

Thank you to all who shared holiday hope and joy with ISD 200 families! From meeting with neighbors to adopting families to meal packing and gift coordination, HFS is grateful — Project Share couldn't happen without you!



Pictured (L-R): Amy Sutton, Brian Radke, Jay Kochendorfer, Mayor Mary Fasbender, Victoria Wellman.

Gobble Gait organizers presented a record-breaking donation of \$131,000 to HFS celebrating over \$2 million raised since the race began in 1998. Thank you to all sponsors, as well as the over 3,000 registrants, volunteers and spectators who continue to make Gobble Gait your Thanksgiving Day tradition!



HFS Helping Hearts

Thank you to all the youth, families, and groups who crafted over 380 valentines to share with neighbors! Together, we brightened the day for many community members.



HFS Welcomes New Board Members



Kris Morken



Bryan Schowalter

Joining the board is Deputy Chief Bryan Schowalter of Hastings Police Department, and Kris Morken of Wells Fargo Bank. HFS is grateful to have their experience and expertise!

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kelli Reitzel, *President*
- Tony Jurgens, *Vice President*
- Kari Gorr, *Secretary*
- Debbie Grimm, *Finance Chair*
- Kristy Barse
- Brittney Hirschauer
- Peggy Horsch
- Kris Morken
- Brandi Poellinger
- Rev. Joel Rova-Hegener
- Josh Schoaf
- Bryan Schowalter
- Marta Tierney
- Amy Sutton, HFS Executive Director

Thank you to Katy Lindberg and Dave Wilske for your dedicated service on the HFS Board of Directors!

Stay Connected

Stay up to date—follow us on social media.



Sign Up for The Dish

Receive monthly updates delivered to your email inbox.





Your Gift is Proportionately Matched in March

During the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, all monetary gifts and pounds of food donated are proportionately matched! Please consider a gift using the enclosed envelope or donate online today.



Scan to Give

55 YEARS 1970-2025
Hastings Family Service
CELEBRATING HELP AND HOPE
301 Second Street East
Hastings, MN 55033

Learn more on pages 4 & 5.

HASTINGS TASTINGS

A FEAST FOR MN FOODSHARE

Monday, March 24
4:30-7:30pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Ticket Price: \$55

- Tickets available at:
- HFS Donation Center
 - Hastings Cub Foods
 - Hastings YMCA
 - Online



*This event sells out quickly.
Order your tickets today!*

Sponsored By



Drive Out Hunger Golf Tournament

Save the Date! **Monday, June 16**
Hastings Golf Club

Gather your team for a fun four-person scramble to benefit HFS. Watch for registration to open in April. Sponsorship opportunities available!



Learn More

Tournament Sponsors



FARMERS
INSURANCE

James Allen Agency



www.hastingsautos.com