



GREAT FALLS COMMUNITY
**FOOD
BANK**

"Gathering together to nourish our community."

Food for Thought

A REWARDING JOB

Harold Spilde has been feeding the hungry in Great Falls for 30 years with no signs of slowing down.



When Harold Spilde retired after 25 years with the Montana Highway Department in 1995, his wife Judy informed him she wasn't interested in watching him "sitting, looking at the TV all day." So he began to volunteer to feed the hungry. Thirty years later, Harold is still feeding the hungry at FISH, a major Food Bank partner agency and local food pantry located inside our own building at 1620 12th Ave. N.



As FISH's volunteer director, Harold tracks and handles inventory; organizes his fellow volunteers; fundraises; and advocates for the organization. It's a pretty ambitious gig for someone who just "wanted something to do" after retirement.

In some cases, he puts in up to 30 hours a week, but Spilde says he still enjoys it.

"It's a good feeling knowing you fed someone who needs a little help" Spilde said. "The look of gratitude on their faces makes it worth it for me."

Spilde has twice been honored by the governor for his charity work, including a 2017 ServeMontana award.

Harold said FISH would not be able to meet its mission without the Food Bank. "I don't know what I would do without it," Spilde said. "I get all the staples there — Peanut Butter, bread, canned goods. I couldn't afford to buy all that at the grocery stores. I wouldn't be able to feed people. And it's convenient, they let me use a lot of their space for things when I run out of room."

Feeding the hungry doesn't take up all of the 82-year old charity veteran's post-retirement life. Harold and Judy



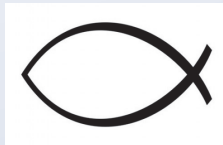
have enjoyed some pretty amazing vacations over the decades, including trips to Italy, Greece, Alaska, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Hawaii. "We love to see other countries and see the different parts of the world," says Spilde. "It's just fun to see how the rest of the world lives."

The Spildes are already eyeing their next post COVID-19 trip to Russia. For now though, it's feeding the hungry in Cascade County Monday through Friday, but for how much longer? "I suppose I can go at least another year," says Spilde. For those who work in the Great Falls charity sector, we hope it's another 20.

ABOUT FISH:

FISH is a 501©3 non-profit organization governed by a 14-member board comprised of 13 different churches of different denominations. It is one of nearly 70 partner agencies of the Great Falls Community Food Bank. The letters of the word FISH in the Greek language mean "Jesus Christ, son of God, Savior."

FISH's symbol, known as the ichthys or ichthus comes from the symbol consisting of two intersecting arcs, the ends of the right side extending beyond the meeting point so as to resemble the profile of a fish. The symbol



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Board President's Message



Lael Humble, seen here with her husband Todd and their two children, is the Vice President of Training, Montana Credit Union.

In January, I was entrusted with the role of Board President of the Great Falls Community Food Bank. It truly is a privilege to lead this 12-member community board and dedicated staff. Our board is made up of community leaders (business and medical professionals) who have a passion for helping others and making Great Falls the best it can be. Having served on the board now for nearly two years, I have seen first-hand the tremendous efforts of the staff and board as well the importance of feeding our most vulnerable neighbors.

I was recently reminded of the crucial role the Food Bank plays in our community by my fellow board member, Corri Smith, principal of Whittier Elementary school. Corri told in loving detail how members of her staff worked so hard to distribute the food they received from the Food Bank to students during the COVID-19 shutdown. Hearing Corri speak to the gratitude and relief her young students expressed was a stark reminder that for many in our community, food isn't always available. Hunger is real; and the Food Bank is essential.

With that in mind, I would like to thank all of you who have helped us feed the hungry. I have had the pleasure of serving on several charity boards over the years and have always been astonished at how generous the community of Great Falls is. As board president of the Food Bank, I want to assure you that your donations—whether they be food or money—are being used wisely. From our annual audit to stringent financial procedures, we are insistent that your donations are used exactly as intended.

COVID-19 has meant that we are more reliant on cash donations as our ability to hold food drives has diminished, but as our executive director mentions in his message, the Great Falls public has made that possible. The Food Bank received a record amount of financial donations in April 2020. But our fight continues. With the increase in demand due to layoffs, we are also distributing a record amount of food. So please, Great Falls, keep up the good work. Together we can continue to offer a hand up to our fellow residents. Thank you for your support, past and present. 🍎

Executive Director's Message



Shaun M. Tatarka, Executive Director

As I begin my fifth year serving as the executive director of the Great Falls Community Food Bank, I continue to be amazed by the generosity of the residents of Great Falls and Cascade County. Even in these extremely uncertain times, we have seen amazing kindness from so many. As a result, we have been able to continue to meet our mission in an extremely difficult time in world history.

As a result of COVID-19, we distributed twice our normal amount of food in April and May. It was a challenging time as we had to cancel our annual CANtastic fundraiser as well as two major food drives, the Letter Carriers Food Drive and the Boy Scouts of America food drive. We were extremely blessed however, as you, our generous and kind donors stepped up and made it possible for the Food Bank to purchase the amount of food we lost due to cancelled events.

A large chunk of our increased output was thanks to diligent, caring workers at our Great Falls Public Schools who stepped up to feed the hungry during the school shutdown. Dozens of teachers, administrators and volunteers set up makeshift food pantries at their schools to feed children who were accustomed to being fed

breakfast and lunch during school hours. Our traditional packs of food normally used to administer our Backpacks4Kids program on weekends and holidays were also being distributed at these and other pantries. We have been offering these to any child in need during the COVID-19 crises. So, thank you to all who have contributed to this program.

As we move forward, I would like donors to know they have put their local food bank in a sound financial position. Though we don't know exactly how long the COVID-19 crisis will last, I am confident we are poised to face the next several months with the means to feed the hungry amongst us.

In addition to our gratitude to our generous donors, I would like to add a big thank you to all those who feed the hungry in our community. In the war on hunger, we supply the weapons, and together, even in difficult and uncertain times, we can continue to meet our shared mission of offering a hand up to our most vulnerable neighbors. We are honored to serve our fellow citizens and will nourish our community. 🍎

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was adopted by early Christians as a secret symbol. It is now known colloquially as the "sign of the fish" or the "Jesus fish". You can donate to FISH by sending a check to FISH, P.O. Box 662, Great Falls, MT 59403. 🍎

Employee Spotlight



We are pleased to introduce Roxanne Herron as our new Administrative Assistant. Roxanne just joined us in the middle of May and has already made a big difference with her friendly personality and meticulous work ethic.

Mrs. Herron comes to us from South Carolina, and is a veteran having served more than 10 years in the Air Force. She was a U.S. military child who grew up in Netherlands, speaking Dutch, German and English. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Psychology and is a currently working on her master's degree in Business Administration.

"I enjoy being a part of something bigger than myself. Helping to feed the Cascade County community and helping stop hunger is a rewarding job. I'm so thankful I'm involved."

Roxanne and her husband Travis, who currently serves at Malmstrom Air Force Base, have a 9-year old son, Liam. In her spare time, Roxanne enjoys the great outdoors with her family including hiking, kayaking and mountain biking. She also enjoys reading, classic rock and horror movies. 🍎

Feed the Hungry; Save on Taxes

Did you know there is a way to take advantage of a fantastic endowment tax credit our state offers while supporting the Food Bank FOREVER?

Great Falls Community Food Bank has established an endowment fund at Montana Community Foundation (MCF) for the permanent benefit of our organization's vital work to feed the hungry. Even better, qualified contributions to this endowment will enable donors to take advantage of the Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC) – a direct credit toward your Montana state tax liability. Individuals can claim up to \$10,000 in METC annually or \$20,000 for couples filing jointly, and business donors are eligible for up to \$10,000 as well.

If you make a gift of \$2,500 or more to help ensure a strong and vibrant future for the Food Bank and could benefit from receiving a direct credit on your Montana taxes, this is an excellent opportunity to consider. Here is how it works:

The state of Montana considers certain types of “planned gifts” from individuals such as charitable gift annuities, deferred charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and gifts of paid-up life insurance to be donations that qualify for the METC. Your contribution is made directly to the Montana Community Foundation and set up as a planned gift that will provide future benefit to the Great Falls Community Food Bank Endowment.

Charitable Gift Annuity - Donors receive lifetime income payments in exchange for their contribution. Doing a charitable gift annuity (CGA) can be a simple and effective option to meet both your charitable and financial needs.

- Receive tax benefits in the year of the donation, including the METC, to apply to your state taxes and an itemizable deduction on your federal taxes.
- You will immediately begin receiving a fixed amount of annual income in the form of an annuity payment. The income payments will continue for the remainder of your life and/or a joint annuitant's life (such as a spouse).
- After the final annuitant dies, the balance remaining in the CGA will be transferred to the Food Bank Endowment and provide a lasting impact for our organization, forever.
- Contributions of \$10,000 or more can be used to fund a CGA.



Deferred Gift Annuity - If receiving annual income in exchange for the gift is not important or necessary, then a deferred charitable gift annuity (DGA) contribution is an excellent and highly popular option to qualify for the METC.

- The start date of the annuity income payments is deferred out years into the future, typically to a date just prior to the donor's life expectancy, which is the maximum deferral period allowed by the state of Montana.
- In doing so, this provides you with the greatest tax benefit for your gift by yielding the most METC and largest itemizable deduction.
- The DGA is held intact in your name for 5 years, a waiting period required by the state, during which time it is invested with the intention that the balance will grow beyond the original gift amount.
- Once the waiting period is over the DGA can then be closed out and the balance transferred to the Great Falls Community Food Bank Endowment for our organization's benefit.
- Contributions of as little as \$2,500 can be used to set up a DGA.

Both planned gift vehicles are easy to set up and offer tax-efficient and impactful strategies for donors to help meet their financial and charitable goals. Plus, they provide enduring support for the important work the Great Falls Community Food Bank does to keep vulnerable members of our community fed.



To learn more about how you can support the Great Falls Community Food Bank through our endowment fund at the Montana Community Foundation and take advantage of the tax credit and other benefits, please contact Shaun at the Food Bank who will put you in touch with the experts at MCF. 🍌



Employee Spotlight

Our new warehouseman/driver Kris Harding joined us in August of 2019, bringing an enthusiastic spirit to the Food Bank. His signature phrase “every day's a good day” and loud singing in the warehouse is (usually) appreciated by all.

“I like giving back to the community when I come to work,” Kris said. “It's a great feeling to be able to help feed others. This is the best job I've ever had.”

Though born in Butte, Kris considers himself a Great Falls native, having moved here as a small child. He has worked as a welder, construction worker and cook. An avid outdoorsman, Kris enjoys movies, kayaking and motorcycle riding. But his biggest passion is fishing with his girlfriend Kim. “It gets me away from the stress of life, and I enjoy the scenery. It's my therapy.” 🍌

Great Falls Community Food Bank
1620 12th Ave. N.
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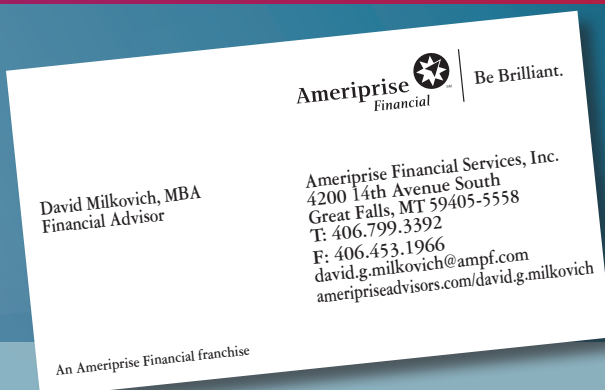


“Gathering together to nourish our community.”



gffoodbank

To donate online, visit: greatfallsfoodbank.org



This newsletter
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What is the Insert?

Included in this newsletter is a pre-printed insert for the 26th annual Montana Shares raffle. This is your chance to support the Food Bank and become eligible for great prizes. Montana Shares is a partnership of non-profit organizations working to build better communities across Montana. Contributions to member groups are made through Montana Shares each year during statewide workplace giving campaigns. All donations to the raffle support Montana Shares in its efforts to help the Food Bank and other nonprofits diversify fundraising and raise public awareness.

We urge you to make your donation today and help support this great organization. Through Montana Shares, the Food Bank is able to raise additional funds through workplace giving.

If you would like to donate to Montana Shares, please be sure to fill out the form(s) and send to Montana Shares. Please make your check out to Montana Shares.