

# Food for Thought

The Newsletter of The Food Bank of Siouxland, Inc.

Summer 2020



## FOOD BANK



## OF SIOUXLAND INC.

*Leading Siouxland in the fight against hunger.*

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## Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind of change we're experiencing! The COVID-19 pandemic has completely altered our world in every way, including life at the Food Bank of Siouxland. As essential workers, we've remained open and worked every day to continue to ensure that our community members have enough to eat. The numbers are incredibly shocking — in March, we distributed over 40% more food than any other month in our history. And those big numbers are continuing, with March, April, May, and June coming in as the biggest four months (in terms of pounds distributed) in our entire history. We had a hunger problem before the health crisis began, and we have a much bigger hunger problem today. Sadly, this isn't going to ease quickly. The virus is not gone, the crisis is not over, and the outlook is very uncertain. Coupled with the pandemic, of course, has been the unrest our society is experiencing. Devastation, destruction, and death seem to be the headlines on a daily basis.

Yet, we continue to experience the incredible good news of support, compassion, and kindness every day as well. The generosity of Siouxlanders supporting our work is astounding. While we are purchasing far more food than we have ever needed to buy before, we have the resources to do that thanks to gifts

and grants that allow us to do so. When some volunteers could no longer safely come in to help us, others have stepped up and been here to make a difference in the lives of those in need every day. We are so grateful for the spirit and dedication of our amazing community! Thank you for stepping up to help us as we work to feed all those in need.

I also want to take just a moment to express my deep appreciation to each of you as my career here draws to a close. I will be retiring at the end of August, but I know the work will go on seamlessly thanks to you and to the great team here at the Food Bank of Siouxland. My successor has been with the organization seven years this summer, the last few as the Assistant Executive Director. Jake Wanderscheid has the knowledge, the skills, and the passion for this work and so I am excited to turn the page to my next chapter, and his. I'm even turning the rest of this column over to him! Once again, thank you, Siouxland. You are making a difference, and you prove every day that **TOGETHER, WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER.**

Gratefully,

*Linda Scheid*

Linda Scheid, Executive Director  
*Leading Siouxland in the fight against hunger.*

*To pick up where Linda left off, my name is Jacob (Jake) Wanderscheid. I am the newly introduced Executive Director of the Food Bank of Siouxland. I started working at the Food Bank in August of 2013, as a member organization representative. In this role, I worked with expanding the network of agencies (pantries and meal feeding sites) to increase food distribution. In my last role as the Assistant Executive Director, I worked closely with Linda on the day-to-day operations of the Food Bank, focusing particularly on coordinating the schedules for the transportation team (agency deliveries and donation pick ups). I look forward*

*to increasing the produce and frozen product distributed through the warehouse. These two items are the most sought items by agency clients. So far in Fiscal Year 2020, the Food Bank distributed over 280,000 pounds of produce. In the same period, over 570,000 pounds of meat/fish/poultry were distributed. The Food Bank staff and I are dedicated in leading Siouxland in the fight against hunger. We could not do this work without dedicated partners like you!*

*Jacob Wanderscheid*

Jake Wanderscheid  
Executive Director

## Inside

PAGE 2  
Covid Update

PAGE 3  
Will Golf for Food  
Intern Insight

PAGE 4  
About Me  
Board Member Spotlight  
Partner Spotlight

# COVID-19 Update

As we continue to see cases of COVID-19 spike across the nation, the Food Bank of Siouxland has had to adjust to a new way of life. We continue to navigate uncharted territory just like the rest of the world and as new challenges arise, we continue to modify our procedures to fit the obstacles we are facing. We have seen a significant rise in the number of those in need and at the same time we have seen the Siouxland community come together in ways we could have never imagined. The need is absolutely heartbreaking and the desire of this community to help has been nothing short of heartwarming. The juxtaposition of the two emotions has been difficult to navigate and hard to accept, but here we are. Our mission is to "Lead Siouxland in the fight against hunger," and come what may, we will fulfill that mission. We are here for you, Siouxland.

**The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were not directly seen by the Food Bank of Siouxland until March, during which there was a 43% increase in the pounds of food distributed from our facility. In March, 382,549 pounds of food were distributed. This exceeds our previous record of pounds distributed in one month by over 107,000 pounds. March, April, May, and June, respectively, have been the largest months in terms of pounds distributed in the history of this organization.**

Due to the increased demand for food and the need for social distancing, distributions have changed dramatically and drive-through style distribution has become the new normal for our agency partners. Those in need are no longer allowed to enter facilities and shop the shelves like they used to. At the office, the phones have been ringing off the hook with those in need of our services, with many calls coming from those learning how to obtain food needed to feed themselves and their families. The staff in our warehouse and our truck drivers are constantly on the move, making sure that agency orders are fulfilled and deliveries are made accurately and on time. We are grateful for the Board of Directors and staff for continuing to show up, even as times have been hard and the work has continued to grow.

**Although the challenges have been plentiful, the offerings have been as well. We received full trailers of product from Tyson Fresh Meats and Daybreak Foods. Our friends at the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA stepped in to manage the distribution of both so that our staff could tend to regular operations. KTIV ran a successful campaign that raised over \$20,000 to go toward the purchase of food. The Kind World Foundation challenged the community to match a donation of \$30,000, which was met in less than a week.**

We've been invited to apply for a number of grants and have received funding from the Siouxland Recovery Fund through the United Way of Siouxland, Inspire Brands, Tyson Foods, and Barnhart Crane. Kids have come to the rescue! Multiple Girl Scout troops and Boy Scout Packs have brought in food and raised funds. When we were nominated for a Blue Bunny Helmet of Hope grant which requires voting by community members, Siouxland showed up! We were inundated with interviews, phone calls and emails from supporters urging others to vote or asking how they could help. The number of shares, likes, and comments on our posts was absolutely astounding. After bouncing in and out of the top five for a week, the Food Bank was named a recipient of the grant after finishing in fourth place and receiving over 25,000 votes!

When all is said and done, we have been shown the heart of this community and it is incredible! In the same vein, we would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude to our agency partners and volunteers. These organizations and individuals have given countless hours and put their own health at risk to ensure that our community is given the care and support that they so greatly need.

We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during this trying time. Whether you feel inclined to help or find yourself in need of help, we hope you will reach out. Situations such as our current one are the reason this organization exists.

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## Will Golf for Food

If there is one thing that's for certain, it's change. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to make many changes in how we operate at the Food Bank of Siouxland. One of the biggest changes we've had to make is how to continue raising funds through events. Our Will Golf for Food golf tournament is no exception. For the safety of all involved, we have decided to change the format of our 17th Annual Will Golf for Food event for 2020.



The Food Bank of Siouxland's Board of Directors and staff have decided that it is in the best interest of all involved to raise funds on behalf of Will Golf for Food 2020 instead of holding the actual physical tournament this year. Golfers are still encouraged to go out and golf at Whispering Creek Golf Course the week of August 3, if they feel safe. Those who donate on behalf of the tournament will receive a discounted round! We ask those who go out to take photos of their outing to share with us. We will post on social media and share at Empty Bowls and next year's tournament, scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2021.

If you would like to learn more about sponsorships or donating on behalf of our 17th Annual Will Golf for Food golf tournament, please contact Valerie Petersen, Development Director at [valerie@siouxlandfoodbank.org](mailto:valerie@siouxlandfoodbank.org) or (712)255-9741.

## We are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors!

*As of July 21, this year's sponsors include:*

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## Intern Insight

**Intern Abby here!** I have made it past the halfway point interning for the Food Bank of Siouxland and it has been one of the most amazing experiences I have had. Before starting my internship, I was extremely nervous about what I was getting in to. At that time, I had never been deep within a nonprofit organization and did not know much about what happens behind the scenes. My first day was being greeted with open arms (from a safe social distance of course) and support of ideas that I had for the Food Bank of Siouxland. From the first day, I instantly noted the genuine care the staff had for me and for the community.

I quickly realized that this is a characteristic of what makes the Food Bank of Siouxland so special. Everyone not only puts all of their energy to ensure the community is being fed, but they also put all of their heart in what they do. Those who work for the Food Bank of Siouxland create connections and have an extreme care for those they work alongside, the volunteers that walk through the doors or work the Mobile Pantries, and the donors who help fulfill the mission statement.

I know that seeing the compassion and care that the Food Bank of Siouxland has for the people in the community has inspired me so much. It is these emotions that help drive the Food Bank of Siouxland during times that test the human spirit. Caring and loving the community genuinely is what I believe anyone can take away from any experience with the Food Bank of Siouxland.

I have learned a lot from interning with the Food Bank of Siouxland but learning how to genuinely care and love for a community is a big lesson I will take away from my internship.

**Abby Koch will be a senior at Morningside College majoring in Graphic Design and Mass Communications. Abby came to the Food Bank of Siouxland through the 2020 Tyson Foods Summer Community Internship Program. She was born and raised in Sioux City and is a graduate of East High School.**

## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Campbell, *President*  
Tyler Hayden, *Vice President*  
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Matt Raveling  
Diane Schoenrock  
Mandi Sievers  
Allison Skouge  
Jason Sweitzer  
Dale Tigges  
Dave Washburn

## 2020 FOOD BANK STAFF

Jacob Wanderscheid  
*Executive Director*  
Linda Scheid  
*Executive Director, Retired August 2020*  
Andrea Purdy  
*Associate Executive Director*  
Valerie Petersen  
*Development Director*  
Jennie Allen  
*Operations Director*  
Tiffany Kissinger  
*Program and Administrative Coordinator*  
Rico Linares  
*Senior Truck Driver / Warehouse Assistant*  
Nick Todd  
*Driver / Warehouse Assistant*  
Avery Blackhawk  
*Warehouse Lead*  
Tom Kuchera  
*Part-time Warehouse Assistant*  
Sonia Djaroun  
*Part-time Warehouse Assistant*



## Board Member Spotlight: *Matt Raveling*

Matt was born in Northwest Iowa and moved to the Siouxland area about 25 years ago, living in Homer, Nebraska. He attended Iowa State and is a huge Cyclone fan! Matt has been involved in food production for over 30 years. He has worked for Tyson Foods for 22 years and is currently the Operations Manager at the Dakota City facility. **"I am happy to work at Tyson where they take a very active role in helping those in need of food."**

Matt has served on our board since 2015 and provided support in many ways during a time of great growth at the Food Bank of Siouxland. Matt played an integral role in the work done during the recent renovation of the walk-in cooler and freezers, helping

to plan for the relocation of perishable product while our units were not available, and coordinating the process of securing those foods. Our thanks for your service, Matt!



Matt's wife and two sons work at Tyson with him. His daughter is a Respiratory Therapist at St. Luke's. He enjoys outdoor activities including hunting and camping. One of his favorite things to do is ride his Ranger or Slingshot, especially in the Black Hills. **"I enjoy being a board member at the Food Bank. It gives me great personal satisfaction knowing we are helping people in need."**

## About Me: *Andrea Purdy*

**My name is Andrea Purdy, and I'm thrilled to begin working as Associate Executive Director of The Food Bank of Siouxland.** Although born and raised in Nebraska, I am passionate about serving my community no matter where I'm living. As a new resident of Sioux City, I'm eager to begin meeting fellow members of the community and developing strong relationships with those around me.

I obtained both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Sociology, with a focus on social inequality, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Prior to joining The Food Bank, I worked for the nonprofit Omaha Performing Arts for 11.5 years, holding three positions during that time. Most recently, I was the Special Projects Manager tasked with leading our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, spearheading environmentally-sustainable practices, supervising our front-of-house 500+ volunteer corps, and assisting the President in various projects.

In my spare time, I enjoy performing in my Omaha-based band Field Club, spending time with my dog Henry, traveling, biking, concert-going, and anything related to home improvement and design.

## Partner Spotlight

The Food Bank of Siouxland would not be here without the power of community. Over the past few months, the support that we have received is astounding! We are so fortunate to have an army of volunteers, donors, and those who cheer us on and spread the word. We are humbled by the gifts we have received and the time and talent donated by the generous members of the Siouxland community. Here are some highlights:

- The community was challenged by **The Kind World Foundation** to meet a goal of \$60,000, with a dollar to dollar matching grant up to \$30,000. The goal was met within a week!
- **Tyson Fresh Meats** and **Daybreak Foods** delivered full truckloads of chicken and eggs, respectively, to be distributed

to the Siouxland Community. The staff from the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA stepped in and ran the distributions ensuring that the Food Bank staff was able to continue with daily operations.

- Due to COVID-19, we understandably had a number of groups that were unable to volunteer. Groups from **North High School in Sioux City, Morningside Assembly of God** and many others, stepped in to fill the volunteer spots that opened up during this time.
- Our friends at **KTIV** launched a campaign to raise funds during this time of extraordinary need. Over \$20,000 were raised through TV spots and Facebook Live events over the course of a few weeks.