

FARE FOR ALL – GETTING HELP WHILE HELPING OTHERS

We all like to make a difference in our community. For many of us, this includes making monetary gifts to our favorite charity and taking the time to volunteer and help them meet their mission. In return, little is expected except for an understanding that our time and money is well-spent and makes our community stronger.

However, there are programs that help build our community where all participants also benefit. Fare for All program is one of those programs.

Fare for All is our low-cost grocery sales program that operates in 38 locations throughout the Twin Cities metro area & beyond. The program offers everyone a place to shop with dignity for low-cost quality frozen meats and fresh produce. **Everyone is welcome.** There are no qualifying income criteria that must be met. In fact, the more people who participate, the more it helps us keep the prices low for those who need it most.



We know that food insecurity can strike anyone. Job layoffs. Unexpected medical bills. Home or auto repairs.

“That’s one thing I love about Fare for All”, states Courtney, a long-time customer. “No questions are asked. You feel welcomed and can purchase good food at great discounts. My husband and I first came here because of an unexpected auto repair. We just didn’t have enough in savings to pay the bill. We had a credit card debt, yet we also needed to find nutritious food that was affordable. We were extremely grateful that Fare for All was there to help. And the really neat thing is – while we’re being helped, we know we’re also helping keep the prices low for others who face hunger every day.”

“It’s true”, states Scott Weatherhead, Fare for All program manager. “We know there are many customers who are fighting hunger and need access to affordable, nutritious food today. We also know there are others who save money for those unexpected life events that can lead to food insecurity. But all of our **customers enjoy getting the help they need, while knowing they’re also helping others.**”

If you’re interested in learning more about Fare for All or want to find a location near you, check out our website: www.fareforall.org.

Last year, Fare For All served the equivalent of 79,512 households in MN



As with everything we do, our focus with Fare for All is helping all of our communities have access to the nutritious food they deserve.



Hunger Bash

presented by **Luther** 

The Food Group's sixth annual Hunger Bash fundraising gala took place on September 8 at McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis. Together with over 350 attendees from the community, we raised more than \$170,000. The event continues to grow in support making this our most successful event yet.

The night featured live auction, silent auction, games, great food, live music & a program featuring Rena Sarigianopoulos as emcee, a moving personal hunger story from a Fare For All customer, and a heartfelt song performance by Tony Lehr from Youth Frontiers.

We continue to be grateful and humbled by the generous outpouring of support from sponsors, donors & guests at Hunger Bash. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the awe-inspiring success of this event.



Emcee, Rena Sarigianopoulos



Tony Lehr from Youth Frontiers



Luther Automotive & The Food Group Staff. Pictured L-R: Kari & Matt Oquist, Lori Kratchmer, Barb Hilbert, Emily Eddy White & Colby White.

Visit our Facebook page (@thefoodgroupmn) to view more photos from the evening.

Hunger Bash Committee: Courtney Barrette, Alanna Barry, Barb Claridge, Emily Eddy White, Andrea Hills, Amber Mayer, Ashley Mayer, Lisa Muellerleile, Karen Palmer, Kristin Smith, and Marissa Stark.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS HUNGER BASH SPONSORS:



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Lori Kratchmer

"Equality is like giving everyone a pair of shoes, but Equity is giving everyone a pair of shoes that fit."

This remark was made by a speaker at a conference I attended. It stuck with me. There's no question that Equity is a more complex and challenging concept than Equality. Instead of treating everyone the same, with Equity we must be willing to intentionally listen, research, and understand the needs of people, and then design programs and services to better meet those needs.

When it comes to hunger relief, we know one program does not "fit" all. We cannot treat everyone threatened by hunger the same way. Our community is diverse. It is a rich tapestry of ethnicities, ages, and incomes that each has unique tastes and needs.

We remain committed to applying Equity in all that we do – especially as it relates to improving food access. It is at the core of what we do. Our community is diverse, but having access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods is a common thread we all share.

We firmly believe that where a person lives, how much money they make, or the color of their skin should never influence their ability to access the nutritious food they deserve. **We envision a time when there is a more equitable and just food system for everyone in our community.**

Stay with us. **Help make this vision a reality.** In doing so, we will go a long way in fighting hunger and nourishing our community.

PRESERVING FRESH PRODUCE

Taher, Inc. chef & volunteer preparing vegetables to be preserved.



Every growing season provides an overabundance of fresh vegetables. We continue to rescue and re-distribute locally grown fresh produce each summer and fall, so individuals and families fighting hunger have access to the nutritious food many of us enjoy.

However, we know fresh produce is perishable. It will spoil. And with winter approaching, we also know individuals and families will continue to seek produce, even when local farm fields are tilled and bare.

This summer, Taher, Inc. partnered with the The Food Group to rescue and preserve fresh produce for the coming months. With a generous grant from Hennepin County, Chef Chris Loew of Taher, Inc. joined hands with staff and volunteers to rescue, prepare, and freeze vegetables for distribution this winter.

Excess produce was selected and rescued from the Minneapolis Farmers Market on four separate Sundays this summer and then transported to Taher, Inc. for processing. There, the group washed, cut, packaged, and froze fresh produce to be distributed once the snow begins to fly.

This first-time venture resulted in more than one ton of fresh, frozen vegetables. Fresh produce that will help meet the needs of many of our neighbors this winter season.



Rescued & preserved produce.

BUILDING CAPACITY TO MEET THE NEED: A FREEZER/COOLER UPDATE

2016 marked the sixth consecutive year with over three million visits to food shelves in Minnesota. That's more than six people visiting a food shelf every minute. In our state, hunger continues to be a pressing issue.

Over the past year, we've been assessing how our mission can continue to meet the growing demand for access to healthy food and hunger relief services. This included analyzing our current warehouse space and projecting program growth. As a result of our work, we've identified the need for a second commercial 4,000 sq. ft. freezer/cooler. This additional unit eliminates our capacity concerns through at least 2022.

Bids were received from local companies and project cost, including installation, is estimated at \$500,000. Earlier this year, a capital campaign was launched to raise the funds needed. To date, we've raised approximately \$160,000. Included in this amount was a generous challenge grant of \$50,000 from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, visit our website at: www.thefoodgroupmn.org/freezer.

Please consider a gift to help us build capacity, so we can continue to fight hunger and nourish our community.



Our current freezer/cooler near capacity.





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New Hope, MN 55428
763.450.3860

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Network News FALL 2017

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Sophia's PIGGY BANK CHALLENGE

Sophia generously donated the contents of her piggy bank to help fight childhood hunger in our community at a local food drive. We hope you will consider joining Sophia in the fight against hunger.

Read more about Sophia's story and meet the challenge: www.thefoodgroupmn.org/sophia

STAY CONNECTED & HELP US FIGHT HUNGER

Volunteer:

Join us for upcoming individual volunteer opportunities:

- Tuesday, October 10, 9 to 11 am
- Wednesday, October 11, 5 to 7 pm
- Tuesday, November 14, 9 to 11 am

To sign up contact Dan Johnson: 763-450-3889 or djohnson@thefoodgroupmn.org

Take a Tour

Come check out our warehouse and operations. Get an up-close glimpse into our work in action

Upcoming tour dates: October 17 at 5 pm
November 9 at 5 pm

RSVP to Emily Eddy White: 763-450-3868 or eeddy@thefoodgroupmn.org

Support The Food Group on GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Help us provide good foods in the good fight against hunger on November 16, 2017. Donate to our page or start your own fundraising page on our behalf.

Get started today by visiting givemn.org, keyword "The Food Group" or contact Kristin at 763-450-4210 or ksmith@thefoodgroupmn.org.



NOV. 16, 2017

Join Our Team. Walk to End Hunger.

WHEN: Thanksgiving Morning, November 23, 7:30-10 am (before the Macy's Parade and turkey-time!)

WHERE: Mall of America

WHY: Show your support for local hunger relief along with over 3,000 others, raise funds to help feed hungry families and feel good (in two ways)!

REGISTER: walktoendhunger.org

Don't forget to choose & designate The Food Group Team on your registration form!

