A message from Lori

As I write to you today I’m filled with a sense of urgency. We have serious concerns about funding cuts and policy recommendations to federal nutrition programs that provide critical support to the families and individuals we serve.

Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the fiscal year 2019 budget proposal would be devastating to the families we serve. As a letter from members of Congress stated “The impacts of these cuts will be felt far beyond the kitchen table. The cuts we make to the programs that feed hungry Americans today will put greater strain on health, education, and other federal expenditures in the future.” SNAP provides 476,000 Minnesotans with help to put food on their tables and maintain well-balanced diets. For every 1 meal provided by the emergency food system, SNAP provides 12 meals. If the 30% cut to SNAP happens, the emergency food system would have to quadruple the money needed to be raised to make up the difference. And the emergency food system is already operating at capacity.

I’m writing to ask for your help. Our collective voice is powerful. Please consider writing your legislative leaders to let them know how you feel about SNAP cuts— it truly makes a difference.

Policy is a critical part of the solution to fighting hunger. And so is the safety net you provide that lifts families and individuals up when they have nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for your partnership in fighting local hunger and nourishing our community. Your incredible support inspires me and gives hope where it is needed most.

Lori Kratchmer
Executive Director
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: FINNEGANS OPENS NEW TAPROOM & BREWERY

In March, FINNEGANS opened FINNEGANS House, their own brewery and taproom in East Town Minneapolis. FINNEGANS House is an inspiring and warm space to enjoy FINNEGANS expanding portfolio of charitably delicious beers.

FINNEGANS turns beer into food. Through generous support from FINNEGANS Community Fund, The Food Group purchases locally grown, mostly organic fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers and provides them to community members in need. When you drink FINNEGANS, you help fight local hunger in Minnesota and support local farms.

Visit www.finnegans.org to learn more about FINNEGANS House.
We are excited to share we have reached over 40% in funds raised to install a new 3200 square foot commercial freezer in our warehouse. This spring we are starting a phased approach to construction of the freezer while we continue to raise funds to complete the project.

We are so grateful to our corporate, foundation, and individual donors that have generously supported this project and look forward to expanding Fare For All and our food shelf partnerships so we can better serve our community. The new space will allow us to expand programming to reach more rural areas of the state and focus on gap areas in the 9 county metro area; serving more individuals and distributing more food so more Minnesotans experiencing hunger can access the healthy foods they need to thrive.

Thank you to Allina, Hugh J. Andersen, Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, and Otto Bremer Trust for supporting this project.

The Food Group relies heavily on volunteers to accomplish our mission. This past year, our volunteers dedicated 31,746 hours to fighting hunger and nourishing our community. That’s the equivalent of 15 full-time employees! Thank you to each and every volunteer for the donation of your time. You are an essential piece of our organization and critical to the work that we do. Our community is stronger because of the generous support of our volunteers.

Join us for an individual volunteer shift in our warehouse:

**Tuesdays 9 to 11 am throughout May**

**Select Wednesdays 5 to 7 pm**

May 9 & June 13

Contact Dan Johnson to sign up:
djohnson@thefoodgroupmn.org | 763-450-3889
or visit thefoodgroupmn.volunteerhub.com

Thank you to these generous organizations for supporting our work to fight hunger and nourish our community:

Ameriprise Financial

General Mills

Horton

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

Sit Investment Associates

Supervalu
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In this issue...

• SNAP Cuts
• SuperShelf Update
• Capital Project
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Join us Saturday, July 14 for Big River Farm’s open house!

Our newest program area, Big River Farm’s open house takes place July 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Bring your friends and family out to the farm for wagon rides, fresh veggies, kid’s activities, and a chance to mingle with other organic farm fans.

Big River Farms is located at 14220-B Ostlund Trail N
Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

Join us Friday, September 14 at 6 pm for Hunger Bash

The 7th annual Hunger Bash gala benefiting The Food Group takes place at McNamara Alumni Center on September 14. The event includes live & silent auctions, games, great food & drink, live music, & a brief program.

Tickets & more information available online at: www.thefoodgroupmn.org