A large, light-colored puzzle is shown on a solid blue background. The puzzle pieces are interlocking, and one piece is missing from the center-right area, revealing the blue background. The puzzle has a decorative blue border with a cloud-like pattern. The text is overlaid on the left side of the puzzle.

**Hunger in Wyoming  
is a problem that  
can be solved.  
Together.**



2023 IMPACT REPORT



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*Wyoming Hunger Initiative is the official initiative of First Lady Jennie Gordon and is governed by the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Governor's Residence Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.*

## Letter from First Lady Jennie



In 2023, we celebrated Wyoming Hunger Initiative's fourth anniversary while honoring the initial tenants that the initiative was based on: one, to never reinvent the wheel and two, to be in all twenty-three counties. Wyoming Hunger Initiative prides itself on being uniquely positioned to provide the framework and foundation for successful collaboration and solutions to hunger statewide.

Through the relationships that have been developed across the state specific to food insecurity, Wyoming Hunger Initiative has identified partners in every community. We were able to host our first Regional Summit in Natrona County earlier this year with a secondary event hosted in the northeastern region this fall, to bring folks together who are working in this space. The result? A whole lot of networking, sharing of resources, and collaborations that will lead these regions forward, together, while also producing realistic action items that are already underway.

*Beef for Backpacks* was launched as a pilot program in 2023 to utilize Wyoming resources to support the work of programs that make a real impact for children. 18,700 beef sticks were distributed during the pilot period in Laramie County. Wyoming Hunger Initiative's partnership with 307 Meat Company, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and Wyoming Beef Council to provide high-quality, locally raised protein in a portable form is a Wyoming solution to hunger. Thanks to the success of the pilot program, Beef for Backpacks officially launched statewide for the 2023-2024 school year.

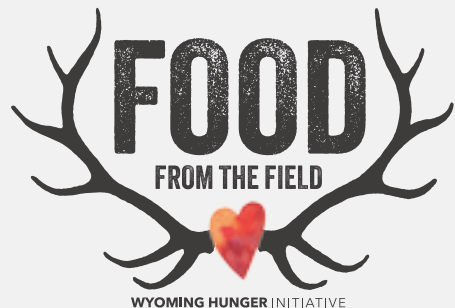
Approximately 86,000 Wyoming residents struggle with food insecurity. Nearly 28,000 of those are children. Wyoming Hunger Initiative stands ready to support the grassroots efforts of every Wyoming county. Together, we can do so much more. Take a look for yourself.

Thank you for joining the fight.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jennie Gordon". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennie" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Gordon".







Since *Food from the Field* was launched in 2020, **627 animals** have been donated for processing.

This translates to **34,393 lbs** of meat, and that has provided **140,000 meals**.

## FOOD FROM THE FIELD

Hunt, Donate, Nourish.

Let's share the bounty of Wyoming with those who need it most.

Hunting is more than a tradition in Wyoming. It's a sustainable solution.

*Food from the Field* brings hunters and participating partners together to safely and efficiently streamline donations of game—specifically deer, elk, antelope, and moose—to distribute to local families in need throughout Wyoming.

Thanks to three Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioners, the program is able to support the eleven participating processors with their vital role in game donation to anti-hunger organizations statewide.





## FOOD FROM THE FARM + RANCH

Quality product. Local solutions. That's the Wyoming way.

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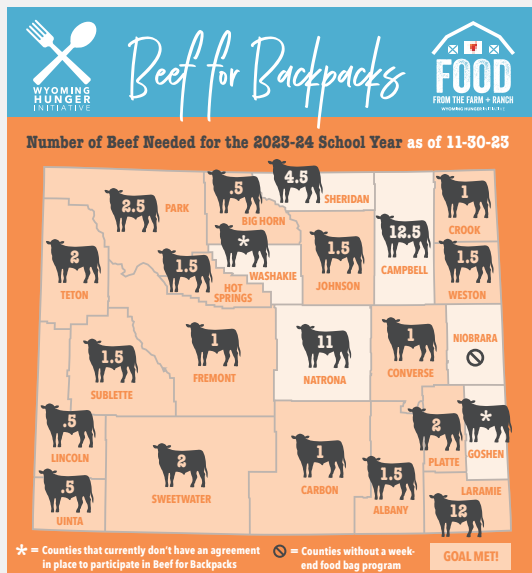
*Food from the Farm + Ranch* was created to solve a Wyoming challenge with a Wyoming solution; using Wyoming agricultural products to combat food insecurity. Fresh food and sources of high-quality protein are notoriously expensive and difficult to procure for the food bank system.

Whether it is local ranchers donating to the cause, or animals being purchased through livestock sales at local county fairs, everyone is stepping up to fight food insecurity in Wyoming.

Since *Food from the Farm + Ranch* was launched in 2020, **230+ animals** have been **donated**.

This translates to **100,000+ lbs** of fresh and local protein being distributed to anti-hunger organizations statewide.





## FOOD FROM THE FARM + RANCH: BEEF FOR BACKPACKS

Growing kids need healthy protein.

This program utilizes Wyoming resources to support the work of weekend food programs, making a real impact for children.

After a successful pilot in Laramie County, *Beef for Backpacks* was expanded statewide to meet the needs of programs in almost every Wyoming county.



**1 beef** yields **2,880** beef sticks.

**65 beef** are needed to serve the **5,485 kids** in the weekend food bag programs around the state.





# FOOD FROM THE FARM + RANCH: FAIR TO FORK

Sources of high-quality protein are notoriously expensive and difficult to procure for local food pantries.

In partnership with University of Wyoming Extension 4-H, FFA, and the Hughes Charitable Foundation, *Fair to Fork* worked to purchase secondary hogs through a lottery selection, from almost every county in Wyoming. Wyoming Hunger Initiative will purchase the pig, ensure the meat is processed by a USDA or state-inspected participating facility, and then coordinate with the 4-H or FFA member to donate it to a local anti-hunger organization in the county of origin.



2023 *Fair to Fork* participants donated **22 hogs** to 23 anti-hunger organizations.







### **2023 Fair to Fork Participants**

Sienna Roaque, Albany County  
Adelle Torbert, Albany County  
Colton Bitton, Big Horn County  
Haylee Nichols, Campbell County  
Zachary McMillin, Campbell County  
Austin Vayden, Converse County  
Izzi Cruickshank, Fremont County  
Daniel Bennett, Goshen County  
Avery Tighe, Goshen County  
Justin Sullivan, Johnson County  
Paige Matthews, Laramie County  
Adam Poelma, Laramie County  
Chase Brewer, Natrona County  
Colt Peterson, Niobrara County  
Mason Green, Park County  
Levi Fox, Platte County  
Cope Thomas, Sweetwater County  
Cora & Noah Robertson, Teton County  
Cheznee Mackey, Uinta County  
Owen Lungren, Washakie County  
Burgess Hamilton, Washakie County  
Serenity Kline, Weston County

# FOOD FROM THE FARM AND RANCH: GROW A LITTLE EXTRA

Not all superheroes wear capes. Some carry gardening tools.

You don't need special training in fighting food insecurity to make a difference. You only need to identify a need and figure out how best to help fill it. Food insecurity isn't always readily apparent, but every single Wyoming county has an army of anti-hunger heroes who are always ready to welcome new warriors to the fight.

Increased access to fresh produce in Wyoming is a critical tool in the fight against food insecurity. *Grow A Little Extra* is helping to remove existing barriers one vegetable at a time.

This partnership between University of Wyoming Extension, Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, and the Master Gardeners program was made possible this year in large part due to the generosity of Wyoming Downs.



Extension



**27,320 lbs** of produce  
was donated in 2023.

**29 grants** were distributed  
in 2023, totaling **\$27,060.**





Thanks to a partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, Wyoming Hunger Initiative was able to bring the *Grow A Little Extra* and Wyoming Honor Farm story to life this year in a video that showcases the impact of fresh produce on local anti-hunger organizations in Wyoming.



Scan code with your phone camera to watch the video.



Look for our new program logo in 2024!



## INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Solving community problems requires all hands on deck—and funding.

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Wyoming Hunger Initiative grants are intended to support infrastructure and longevity of anti-hunger organizations as well as long-term, sustainable solutions to food insecurity across the state.

For the third year, Wyoming Hunger Initiative sold “Hearts for Hunger” during the month of February for \$5 each, proving that no matter the size of the donation, every dollar makes a difference. All funds raised were put towards infrastructure grants

Grant funding also comes from the Wyoming Hunger Initiative *Hunger Champions Circle*, which is a team of dedicated ambassadors who serve as catalysts in the ongoing mission to end food insecurity in Wyoming.

Because of the generosity of the Hughes Charitable Foundation through a match, all applications that fit the grant criteria were funded this year.



## \$193,812 was distributed to 54 participants in FY2023

**Albany:** Feeding Laramie Valley; Laramie Connections; Laramie Soup Kitchen

**Big Horn:** North Big Horn Senior Center

**Campbell:** Boys & Girls Club of Campbell County; Council of Community Services; Edible Prairie Project; Gillette Salvation Army

**Carbon:** Carbon County Senior Services, Inc.; Goshen Help DBA WyoHelp; Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Valley Village Childcare

**Crook:** Hulett Area Senior Citizens, Inc.; Moorcroft Interfaith Community

**Fremont:** Foundations for Nations; Good Portions Mobile Soup Kitchen; Good Samaritan Community Meal; Pushroot Community Garden; Shoshoni Senior Center; The Soldier's House

**Johnson:** Bread of Life Food Pantry; Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends

**Laramie:** Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne; COMEA, Inc.; Community Action of Laramie County; Element Church Food Pantry; Friday Food Bag Foundation; Needs, Inc.; St. Joseph's Food Pantry; Veterans' Rock; Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless

**Lincoln:** Afton Food Pantry; University of Wyoming; Lincoln County 4-H

**Natrona:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming; City Park Church; Helping Hands Community Services; Seton Housing, Inc.; Wyoming Rescue Mission

**Niobrara:** Niobrara County Senior Center

**Park:** Backpack Blessings of Powell; Cody Cupboard; Mannahouse Food Pantry

**Platte:** Guernsey Community Food Pantry

**Sheridan:** Rooted in Wyoming; Sheridan Salvation Army; The Food Group, Inc.

**Sublette:** Pinedale Community Food Basket

**Sweetwater:** Boys & Girls Club of Sweetwater County

**Teton:** Hole Food Rescue; One22 Resource Center

**Uinta:** Bridger Valley Interdenominational Food Pantry

**Washakie:** Washakie County 4-H; Washakie County Senior Center

**Wind River Reservation:** Eastern Shoshone Tribe





## HUNGER CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

One heart, one mission, one goal.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative's *Hunger Champions* are a team of dedicated ambassadors who serve as catalysts in our ongoing mission to end food insecurity in Wyoming. The financial commitment required to join the *Hunger Champions Circle* provides ongoing support for our mission by funding infrastructure grants. Wyoming Hunger Initiative has been able to exponentially grow our mission and reach through donations large and small—this is a powerful testament to the good that can be done when we come together to tackle challenges.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative hosted the annual *Hunger Champions Circle* appreciation event on Labor Day weekend with dinner on Friday night at the Governor's Residence and a Cowboy football game on Saturday.

Nick and Whitney Agopian  
Bruce and Diane Asay  
Erin Asay and  
Austin Johnson  
Paul and Carla Banks  
Dave Berry and Anne  
Hanson  
Chuck and Katie Brown  
John Brown and  
Nancy Bomberger  
Jay and Linda Butler  
Becky Costantino  
Tom and Kathy Creager

Brad and Jan Cundy  
Jonathan Downing  
Scott and Megan Fox  
Lynette Friess  
Kiel and Kristin Harding  
Cody Harvey  
Rob and Leslie Hendry  
Paul and Beth Howard  
Wayne and Molly Hughes  
Dan and Lynn Kirkbride  
Chris and Stacie McDonald  
Mike and Emily McGrady

John and Kathleen McKinley  
Travis and Danielle McNiven  
Dr. Larry Meuli  
Robert and Emily Miller  
Karmin Pace  
Anne Pendergast  
Dr. Barbara Rasco and  
Dr. Glyn Bledsoe  
Scott and Nancy Scheffey  
Ryta Sondergard

Dan and Cynthia Starks  
Thiru Thangaranthnam  
Fred and Susie von Ahrens  
Mike and Melissa Williams



*Hunger Champions Circle*  
WYOMING HUNGER INITIATIVE

## PARTNERSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS!

Shining a light on the all-too-often invisible problem of hunger.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to providing ways for everyone in Wyoming to join the fight against food insecurity. Without partnerships, innovative approaches and successful campaigns would simply not be possible.



**2 events** were hosted bringing people together to share a meal and info about resources available in Albany County for **veterans and families.**



**2,338 hearts** sold during **#heartsforhunger** in 2023 thanks to matching donations from BCBSWY and others.



More than **\$40,000** was distributed to **Shop with a Cop** programs across the state to provide a meal basket component.



More than **\$60,000** in resources was allocated to organizations providing **Thanksgiving meals** this year.



**School meal debt** in Wyoming continues to grow, but if we all come together, we can make a difference.



**\$10,000** was donated through **Fun Bizz Concessions** as a result of corn dogs sold on Wyoming Hunger Initiative Day at Cheyenne Frontier Days.





alexis drake

**300 scarves** (Alexis Drake) were sold with a portion of proceeds benefiting Wyoming Hunger Initiative.



More than **21,500 lbs of food** was donated for the annual food drive through **BCBSWY Member Centers** and **Ridley's Family Markets**.

**\$42,500** was distributed in the form of food cards in partnership with the **Wyoming Veterans Commission** to provide access to food to veterans and their families.

**\$85,000** distributed in the form of pantry replenishment thanks to the **John P. Ellbogen Foundation**. Pantries are experiencing higher numbers of visits than normal and are struggling to keep fresh items available for distribution.



More than **\$60,000** was allocated to organizations providing **Christmas meals** this year.



**\$63,907** was raised in the 24-hour period of fundraising on **WyoGives Day** in July from 93 individual donors.



The Lingle-Ft. Laramie Student Council raised more than **\$11,000** for **"Dogger Dollars"** to include a **\$5,000** match from Wyoming Hunger Initiative to pay off school lunch debt.

## DONORS

Every dollar makes a difference in the fight against food insecurity in Wyoming.

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Our ability to make an impact is directly linked to the generosity of our partners. Wyoming Hunger Initiative understands the importance of stewarding funds donated for community-based anti-hunger efforts; these funds allow local organizations to strengthen their community's safety net in the present and create stronger communities in the future.

We are committed to working with our partners to ensure their donations achieve the largest possible impact while cultivating sustainable solutions.

Thanks for joining the fight!

Hughes  
Charitable  
Foundation



**WYOMING**

Camerahead Media  
Cigna  
Enbridge  
Jonah Bank of  
Wyoming  
Farm Credit Services  
of America  
MST Solutions

Northrop Grumman  
Nourishing Neighbors  
Pace Family  
Foundation  
The Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Cheyenne  
The Salary of Governor  
Mark Gordon  
Security State Bank



Dan & Cynthia Starks  
– National Museum  
of Military Vehicles  
Trona Valley Federal  
Credit Union  
Wyoming Downs  
The Wyoming  
Inauguration  
Committee



## SETTING GOALS FOR 2024 AND BEYOND

If we've learned anything in the last four years, it's that there's a real need for the work Wyoming Hunger Initiative is doing.

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What's more—we know Wyoming Hunger Initiative needs to continue to exist. Take a look at our driving strategy and 2024 goals:

1. Partner with local efforts to analyze and utilize the statewide “needs assessment” to identify gaps in services and opportunities for Wyoming Hunger Initiative to develop Wyoming solutions to Wyoming challenges;
2. Execute the remaining four regional summits across the state to network, share resources, and collaborate in a way that will lead the state forward while also producing realistic action items;
3. Identify and adopt strategies to ensure the long-term health and structure of Wyoming Hunger Initiative as a sustainable organization to include the development of an endowment, while building on current programs and constantly building new strategies.

## Regional Directors

Debbie Kelly

Sierra Mitchell

Tim Sheppard

Greta Spencer

Deanna Trumble

Breean Waller



*Regional Directors gathered in Gillette for the second Regional Summit and annual Regional Directors Retreat: Debbie Kelly, Tim Sheppard, Deanna Trumble, and Sierra Mitchell. Not pictured: Greta Spencer and Breean Waller.*

# WYOMING HUNGER INITIATIVE REGIONAL DIRECTORS

## Boots on the Ground

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Six regional directors were identified to build networks and create a platform for communication for individuals and organizations that are united in the goal of solving food insecurity in Wyoming. Regional directors live and work in the regions they serve, but also travel to represent Wyoming Hunger Initiative throughout their regions and state wide.

In 2023, Lori Dickinson, Ashley Bright, and Caitlin Youngquist hung up their Wyoming Hunger Initiative hats and have moved on to the next chapter in their lives. We will forever be thankful for their contributions to the fight against food insecurity in Wyoming. Debbie Kelly, Greta Spencer, and Breean Waller joined the team in 2023. In addition to their regional duties, they traveled to two regional summits as available, the Regional Directors Retreat, and to other relevant events, all while continuing to network, compile resources, and establish communication across the regions.

## Regional Summits

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Through the relationships developed across the state specific to food insecurity, Wyoming Hunger Initiative has identified partners in every community. Thanks to a grant from the Hughes Charitable Foundation, Wyoming Hunger Initiative was able to host its first Regional Summit in Natrona County earlier this year and the second in the northeast corner of the state this fall, to bring folks together who are working in this space.

It's safe to say these groups are "all in" when it comes to fighting food insecurity in Wyoming.





## Board of Directors

Jennie Gordon

FIRST LADY OF WYOMING

Annemarie McCracken Picard

BOARD CHAIR

Laurie Box

TREASURER

Kathryn Boswell

SECRETARY

Diane Asay

Katie Brown

Paty Gierau

Alfrieda Gonzales

Lynn Kirkbride

Ashlee Lundvall

Danielle McNiven

Susan Samuelson

JoAnn Skeim-True

Susie von Ahrens

Deb Wendtland

# WYOMING GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors have been hard at work to ensure the success of Wyoming Hunger Initiative for years to come.

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Some of their 2023 accomplishments include:

- Added three new board members to the team to ensure geographic representation across the state. These additions include Katie Brown of Wheatland, Danielle McNiven of Pavillion, and Susie von Ahrens of Rock Springs.
- Launched **Beef for Backpacks**, a statewide snack stick distribution program for weekend food bag programs to ensure a high-quality, local protein for children.
- Carefully evaluated **infrastructure grant** applications, selected recipients, and distributed grant funds.
- Monitored the current strategic plan closely to ensure that milestones were met and that the scope of work continued to fight food insecurity in Wyoming.
- Worked with the **Grow A Little Extra** partners to recognize that the program was ready to have its own legs and thus it was rebranded to have its own logo outside of **Food from the Farm + Ranch**.
- Planned and executed two regional summits in Casper and Gillette to bring folks together who are working in this space.



**Wyoming is an *all-hands-on-deck*  
kind of place.**





