

# 2021 SPONSORSHIP KIT



WYOMING GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE  
**FOUNDATION**



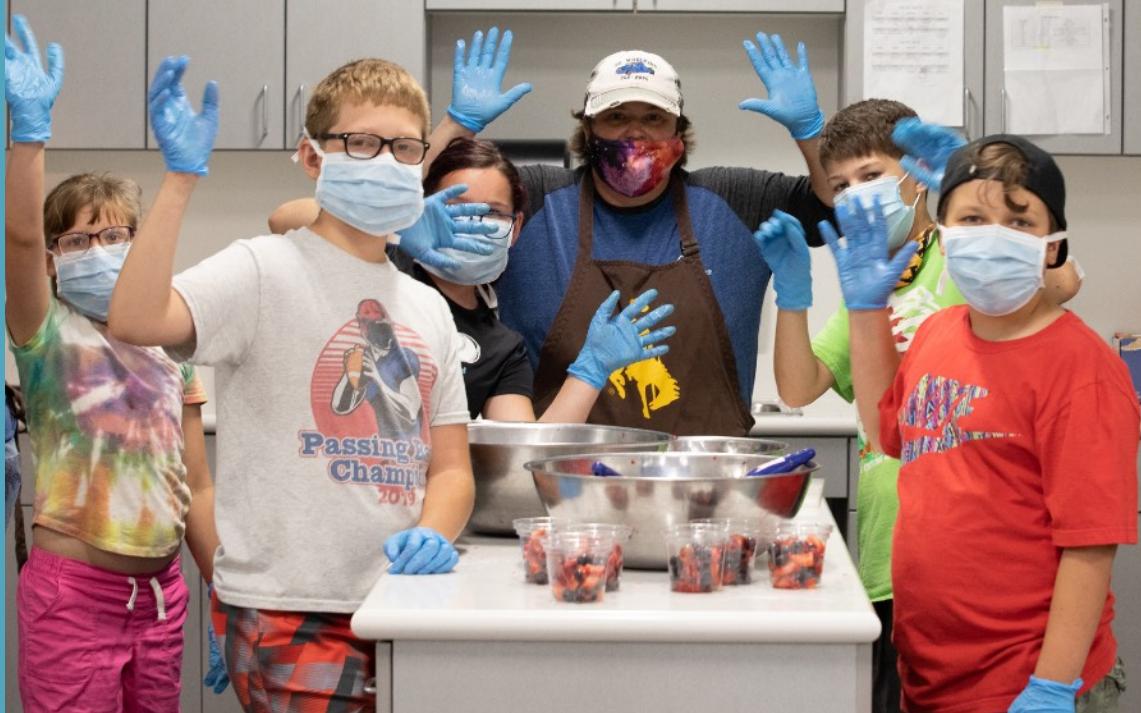
WYOMING  
HUNGER  
INITIATIVE



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# Wyoming Hunger Initiative has a simple mission: to end hunger in Wyoming.

We believe hunger in Wyoming is a problem that can be solved. We work to prevent food insecurity by increasing awareness and support for the work of local anti-hunger organizations statewide and by advocating for a future where no family faces the day—or a pandemic—on an empty stomach. We know hunger cannot ultimately be solved by quick fixes; addressing emergency need is only one part of the equation. We strive to identify long-term, sustainable solutions that will permanently reduce hunger in our state.

Nourished kids, healthy families, and thriving communities: that's the goal of Wyoming Hunger Initiative.



*Wyoming Hunger Initiative is the official initiative of Wyoming's 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.*



## A LETTER FROM FIRST LADY OF WYOMING, JENNIE GORDON

Long before I became the First Lady, I learned from a friend about children in Sheridan County who struggled with food insecurity. I've never forgotten about those children, and have made it a priority to work toward a future where hunger no longer exists in our state.

My first year of serving as First Lady was a learning year: I traveled throughout the state to learn more about the programs and organizations already in place to reduce food insecurity in Wyoming. I learned about the challenges these programs face in their tireless work and how I might be of service without reinventing the wheel. Shining a light on their work to raise awareness, funding, and support would be the work of my initiative; Wyoming Hunger Initiative launched officially in October 2019.

2020 has been a learning year as well, though one of an entirely different kind; the challenge of food insecurity takes on a whole new meaning during a pandemic. It feels like we're building a car as we drive down the road, but there's no place I'd rather be attempting this feat than in Wyoming. The generosity, innovation, and partnerships created during this difficult time have been humbling and inspiring.

To this end, I'm proud to report we've launched four new programs under the Wyoming Hunger Initiative banner in the past year: *Food from the Field*, *Food from the Farm + Ranch*, *Wyoming Angel Accounts*, and *Wyoming Hunger Initiative Grants*. These programs have already had a significant impact: hunters now have a formal structure to donate game meat to local food pantries, over 6,500 lbs of Wyoming-raised beef and pork has been donated by Wyoming ranchers, processing challenges have been and will continue to be addressed, the problem of school lunch debt will be met with dignity and long-term sustainability, and our nonprofit "hunger heroes" have proven that grants to meet their unique needs work. We've also allocated emergency pandemic-relief funds from generous corporate donors to every single county in the state, totaling nearly \$300,000 thus far. Finally, we launched the Hunger Champions Circle, which allows individuals to make larger contributions to Wyoming Hunger Initiative. This source of funding will continue to further support existing anti-hunger organizations in Wyoming.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative has no intention of slowing down in 2021.

I invite you to review the ways you can be involved with Wyoming Hunger Initiative. The problem of hunger in Wyoming can be solved, together. I'm in it to solve it, and I know the partnerships we create are an investment that will impact future generations in ways we can't yet imagine. We are able to move the needle because of you.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support,

Jennie Gordon  
First Lady of Wyoming



A photograph of two women standing in a large greenhouse. They are both wearing light-colored t-shirts with a graphic of a prairie landscape and a bison. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is smiling. The woman on the right has blonde hair pulled back and is also smiling. They are standing in a dirt bed with several small green plants growing in it. In the background, there are wooden structures and equipment typical of a greenhouse.

# Nearly 24,000 children in Wyoming struggle with food insecurity.

**That's not OK with us.**

Research has shown that children who suffer from food insecurity—even once in their lifetime—demonstrate poorer overall health 10-15 years later. In addition to health outcomes, food insecurity has an impact on academic achievement, graduation rates, and economic well-being. Wyoming Hunger Initiative knows that childhood hunger is a problem that can be solved, but it must first be understood.

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*Edible Prairie Project Co-Founders Erin Galloway and Megan Taylor McManamen are committed to finding local solutions to food insecurity by creating a fair, resilient, and sustainable community food system and a thriving local food economy. Edible Prairie Project was awarded a 2020 Wyoming Hunger Initiative grant, which provided funds to purchase equipment for the summer meals program they help run through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Campbell County.*

**YES, EVEN IN WYOMING**

# Wyoming Hunger Facts

Hunger is often an invisible problem, and most people are surprised to learn the extent to which it affects Wyoming children and families.



1 in 6 kids struggles with hunger; no county in the state is immune. Albany County has the highest rate of food insecure residents per capita in the state.



Summer meal sites serve only 18% of the meals kids need when school is out for the summer. Wyoming nonprofits are recognizing this significant gap and mobilizing to fix it.



Food insecurity disproportionately affects low income residents; 13.6% of all Wyoming children under the age of 18 fell below the poverty line in Wyoming in 2018. Additionally, 24.8% of Native American children and 20.2% of Latino children live in poverty.



Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to increasing the amount of Wyoming-produced meat in the food pantry system. Since May 2020, 5,052 lbs of beef and 1,807 lbs of pork have been donated to Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies through our *Food from the Farm + Ranch* program.



Americans waste approximately 67 million tons of food per year, at a retail value of \$160 billion. Only one Wyoming county has an active food rescue program, which has rescued over one million pounds of food since opening its doors in 2013. Rescuing salvageable food and diverting it to those in need has proven to have a significant impact on food insecurity.



Demand on Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies food pantries increased dramatically immediately after the COVID-19 outbreak began, highlighting the lack of margin many Wyoming households face. Over 6 million lbs of food has been distributed throughout Wyoming between April-August 2020 in response to the pandemic.



**Allowing Wyoming kids to go hungry is simply not who we are, and we won't rest until food insecurity is solved.**

Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies  
 Feeding Laramie Valley  
 Interfaith Good Samaritan  
 Laramie Soup Kitchen  
 UW Student Food Pantry  
 Lovell Community Food Pantry  
 Salvation Army  
 Cent\$ible Nutrition  
 Blessings in a Backpack  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Council of Community Services  
 Feed the Flock Pantry  
 Wright Community Assistance  
 Edible Prairie Project  
 Platte Valley Good Pantry  
 Sinclair Baptist Youth Mission  
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
 Glenrock Area Food Pantry  
 The King's Portion  
 Moorcroft Interfaith Community  
 Crook County Council Food Pantry  
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
 Lander Care & Share Food Bank  
 Lander United Methodist Church  
 Caring and Sharing Pantry  
 LaGrange Bible Missionary Church  
 Eastern Wyoming College Gear Up  
 Goshen HELP  
 Land of Goshen Ministries  
 Community Federated Church  
 Help Center  
 Messiah's Mall at Risen Son Baptist Church  
 People for People Food Program  
 River of Life Fellowship  
 Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends  
 Bread of Life Food Pantry  
 Friday Food Bag Foundation  
 Ambitious Diversities Purple Pantry  
 Beacon Hill Baptist Church  
 Element Church  
 Fellowship Baptist Church  
 Highlands Church  
 Cheyenne Little Free Pantry  
 Meadowbrooke Church  
 Needs, Inc.  
 COMEA Shelter  
 True Vine Community Church  
 St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
 Cathedral Home for Children  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Encampment Community Food Pantry  
 Foundation for Nations Food Bank  
 First Stop Help Center  
 LaGrange Bible Missionary Church  
 Senior Friendship Center  
 St. Joseph's Children's Home  
 St Christopher's Episcopal Church God's Cupboard  
 Meals on Wheels of Cheyenne  
 Pine Bluffs Food Pantry  
 Boys & Girls Clubs, Wyoming  
 LaBarge Senior Citizens  
 Thayne Senior Center  
 Lincoln Self Reliance, Inc.  
 Calvary Baptist Church  
 Casper Community Church  
 Casper Family YMCA  
 Casper Housing Authority  
 Southwest Sublette County Pioneers

First Baptist Church Casper  
 First United Methodist Church Casper  
 Grace Bible Baptist Church  
 Harvest Fields Ministry  
 Holy Cross Center, Inc.  
 Gods Resources  
 Joshua's Storehouse  
 Mountain View Baptist Church  
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
 Poverty Resistance Food Pantry + Soup Kitchen  
 Restoration Fellowship  
 Strong Tower Family Church  
 Wyoming Rescue Mission  
 New Life in Christ Baptist Church  
 Manna House  
 Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes  
 Cody Cupboard  
 Guernsey Community Food Bank  
 Platte County Commodities  
 Wheatland United Church of Christ Food Pantry  
 Ranchester Community Cupboard  
 The Food Group  
 Story Community Church  
 The Food Closet, Inc.  
 Pinedale Community Food Basket  
 Community Bak-Pak Program  
 Food Bank Sweetwater County  
 Loaves and Fishes Community Soup Kitchen  
 Teton Valley Food Pantry  
 Good Samaritan Mission  
 Hole Food Rescue  
 Jackson Cupboard  
 Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole  
 Bridger Interdenominational Food Pantry  
 From the Heart Ministries  
 The Lord's Storehouse  
 Upton Community Food Bank  
 Wyoming Food for Thought Project  
 Alcova Baptist Church Food Bank  
 Boyd Avenue Baptist Church  
 Casper Community Church  
 College Heights Community Center  
 Faith Assembly of God  
 St. Christopher's Episcopal  
 Northern Arapahoe Tribe  
 Native American Heritage Association  
 Eastern Shoshone Indian Tribe  
 Lander United Methodist Church  
 Fremont County Samaritan Center  
 Riverton Community Food Bank  
 Set Free Ministry  
 Volunteers of America Northern Rockies  
 Peak Wellness Center  
 Safehouse Sexual Assault Services  
 Afton Food Pantry  
 Lincoln Self Reliance, Inc  
 South Lincoln Human Resources Federation  
 Thayne Community Food Bank  
 Star Valley Senior Citizens Center  
 True Vine Community Church  
 Natrona County Meals on Wheels  
 Salvation Army Casper Corps  
 The Arc of Natrona County  
 Casper Youth for Christ  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Central Wyoming Counseling Center  
 Wheatland Food Bank  
 Guernsey Totes of Hope



## MANY HANDS, ONE GOAL

The list of grassroots efforts in every single Wyoming county dedicated to reducing hunger and combating food insecurity is inspiring. Wyoming Hunger Initiative works to support and bring awareness to the tireless work of these organizations. From food pantries to food rescues, weekend "backpack" programs to local soup kitchens, nonprofits are making a difference in the lives of our Wyoming neighbors every single day. We strive to provide much-needed financial contributions from individuals, corporate sponsors, and community-wide fundraising.

What can you do? Join your Wyoming neighbors and get involved. Volunteer. Spread the word. Give generously.

**When we all work together,  
we create Wyoming solutions.**

*"If you want to  
eliminate hunger,  
everyone has  
to be involved."*

BONO

**"The blessings  
come back  
around–our  
community is a  
gracious one."**

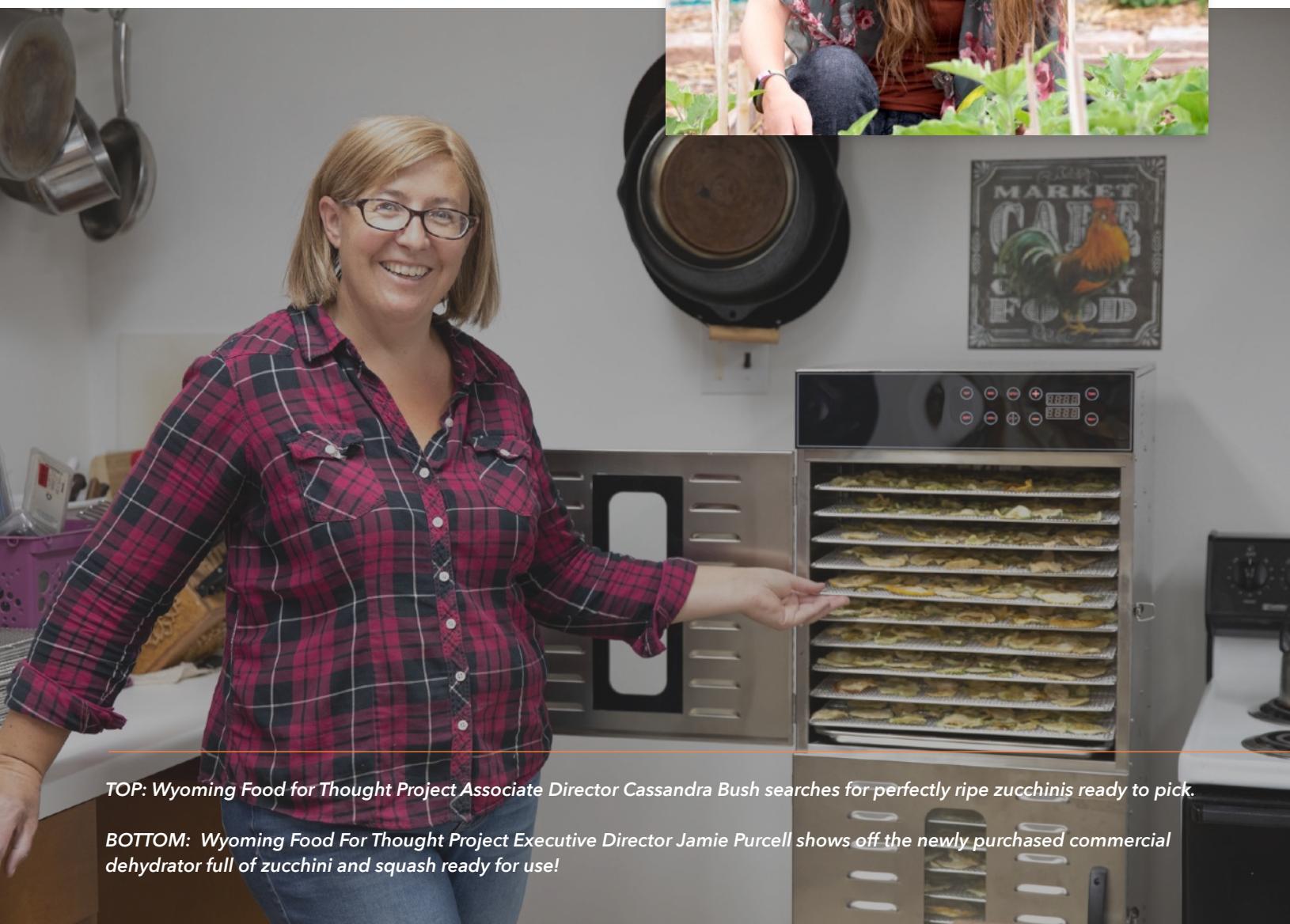
SIERRA MITCHELL,  
AFTON FOOD PANTRY



**GRANTS CHANGE LIVES**

# Wyoming Hunger Initiative supports the innovative thinkers who understand the power of community.

Wyoming is full of innovative thinkers. When you give to Wyoming Hunger Initiative, you enable Wyoming solutions to Wyoming challenges. Grants allow organizations to implement new ideas, partnerships, and programs that make a real impact on local communities. We know that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution to childhood hunger, and Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to supporting the inspiring anti-hunger warriors who fight every day to find the best answer for their community and for generations to come.



*TOP: Wyoming Food for Thought Project Associate Director Cassandra Bush searches for perfectly ripe zucchinis ready to pick.*

*BOTTOM: Wyoming Food For Thought Project Executive Director Jamie Purcell shows off the newly purchased commercial dehydrator full of zucchini and squash ready for use!*

## OUR COMMITMENT

# Wyoming Hunger Initiative grants are an investment in positive change, a call to action, and a powerful tool for advocacy.

Grant money awarded by Wyoming Hunger Initiative can be used for:

- equipment to expand capability (refrigerators, tables, storage cases, etc.)
- long-term projects that promote self-sufficiency and increase food security
- solutions that encourage systematic change with regard to local food access
- educational programs
- nonprofit startups (excluding salaries)
- crisis response funding

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to awarding grants in every Wyoming county, because we know hunger does not discriminate.



**A little funding  
and a lot of  
creativity goes  
a long way.**



Wyoming Food For Thought Project in Casper exists to create sustainable solutions to hunger. It oversees a variety of programs, including free community gardens, a weekend food bag program, a Kids Summer Feeding Program, a seed library, Summer and Winter Markets, and more. Always brainstorming ways to extend their reach through all seasons, Executive Director Jamie Purcell applied for a Wyoming Hunger Initiative grant to purchase a commercial food dehydrator. The idea was simple: to stretch the benefits of local gardening by providing a way to preserve fresh ingredients for use in Wyoming's long winters. Dehydrated produce will now find its way into soup kits, casseroles, sauces, and more. It's just another way creative thinking and local solutions continue to make a difference in the fight against food insecurity.



## ESSENTIAL CORPORATE GIVING

Wyoming Hunger Initiative depends upon corporate giving to fund innovative partnerships, develop long-term solutions, and ensure operational success. Grants are funded through corporate giving; our ability to make an impact is directly linked to the generosity of our partners in business and industry. 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 times of crisis, this safety net needs even more support. For example, increased demand on resources created by the COVID-19 crisis requires a nimble response; corporate donations enable allocation of emergency funds that make an immediate impact on Wyoming families. We are committed to distributing COVID-19 relief funds as quickly as possible, and have an equal commitment to making grants available to organizations on a frequent basis.



## UTILIZING WYOMING'S RESOURCES

Stemming from the First Lady's love of hunting and helping those in need, the Wyoming Hunger Initiative has teamed up with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies, and processors from around the state to eliminate barriers currently in place to prevent game meat from being donated to food pantries. *Food From the Field* enables hunters to donate their meat to local processors who in turn will prepare it for local organizations, where it may then be distributed to people in need. Funds raised to support this program will be utilized for processing fees not covered by the hunter, as well as infrastructure to support this program. The generous response from hunters wishing to participate in the first season of the program has been overwhelming, and a clear indicator that the program will continue to grow in future years.



**We welcome individuals to join the Wyoming Hunger Champions Circle.**  
Learn more about individual contributions by visiting [nohungerwyo.org/circle](http://nohungerwyo.org/circle)

## PARTNERSHIPS START WITH HEART

*Food from the Farm + Ranch* was created to utilize Wyoming agricultural products to combat food insecurity. Fresh food and sources of high-quality protein are notoriously expensive and difficult to procure for the American food bank system; Wyoming Hunger Initiative envisions a day when families and food pantries alike can purchase more meat and fresh produce from local producers instead of seeking out-of-state suppliers. The program meets two challenges: how to provide eager farmers and ranchers with a way to help their neighbors in need, and how to cover the difference between what the food bank system can afford for external sources of protein and the cost of processing in-state for high-quality local protein. Fair compensation is a cornerstone of the program, as is supporting the local economy. Wyoming is a state of plenty, and agricultural solutions are a key element to reducing and eliminating hunger.



## ELIMINATING DEBT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

75% of school districts in Wyoming have reported school lunch debt and 40% say their debt is growing. Until recently, there was no ongoing work related to solving the school lunch debt crisis in the state. Corporate investments in *Wyoming Angel Accounts* will be returned to the local county of choice with a tax deductible donation. Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to working with school districts to determine the amount a family can pay in the form of a payment plan prior to receiving matching funds. Wyoming Hunger Initiative will continue to evaluate, analyze, and brainstorm long-term solutions to the challenge of lunch debt. When dignity replaces shame in the conversation, the outcome changes.



**Become a Wyoming Hunger Initiative partner!**

Visit [nohungerwyo.org/partners](http://nohungerwyo.org/partners) and call (307) 777-7398 to discuss your contribution today!





Food is national security.  
Food is economy.  
It is employment, energy, history.  
Food is everything.

CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS



## WYOMING HUNGER INITIATIVE

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