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WYOMING GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
FOUNDATION



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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 child, family, senior, or veteran faces the day 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. Our impact has been significant, but there's still so much work to do. **We invite you to join the fight.**

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

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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

If the last few years have taught me anything, it's that flexibility is just as important as planning and preparation. This strategy informs everything Wyoming Hunger Initiative achieves and I'm so proud of what this organization has accomplished.

A great example of this happened as we prepared to launch *Grow a Little Extra* under the *Food from the Farm + Ranch* banner. Together with the University of Wyoming Extension, the Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, and the Master Gardener program, we decided to distribute seeds to gardeners interested in participating; we did our research and selected varieties that would successfully stand up to Wyoming weather, altitude, and abbreviated growing season.

What we didn't track was what would be involved in filling seed envelopes with a bulk order of 238,000 seeds! We quickly invited FFA students to help; using the dining room table at the Governor's Residence, we filled those packets with focus and laughter (and only a little bit of extra vacuum cleaning afterward). Those 238,000 seeds transformed into 10,202 lbs of fresh produce grown by big-hearted gardeners in every corner of our great state. We've since honed our seed packet filling skills, and Wyoming gardeners continue to grow more than a little extra for local food pantries.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative will continue to work toward sustainable solutions to hunger in Wyoming in years to come. We know planning, preparation, and flexibility are the keys to success—along with your continued generous support.

I invite you to review the many ways Wyoming Hunger Initiative is tackling food insecurity. In addition to *Grow a Little Extra*, we're committed to sustainable solutions that include game meat donation, livestock donation, infrastructure grants, emergency relief funds, grocery replenishment funds, holiday meal support campaigns, and school meal debt elimination. Our solutions are designed to meet both immediate needs and build systems that require patience, commitment, and vision to achieve success.

No matter the solution, we know 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

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

BONO





Nearly **86,000** Wyoming residents struggle with food insecurity.

That's not OK with us.

Research has shown that children who suffer from food insecurity demonstrate poorer overall health outcomes. These negative effects may include anemia, lower nutrient intakes, cognitive problems, aggression and anxiety, depression, asthma, and worse oral health. Food insecurity in adults also contributes to limitations in activities of daily living, and hastens the onset of premature aging and other worsening health conditions.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative invites you to join the fight against food insecurity, and for a future where communities are thriving across our great state. Together, we can end hunger in Wyoming.

We say "together" a lot at Wyoming Hunger Initiative because we know that the only way to make progress in the fight against food insecurity is through partnerships. When Wyoming Hunger Initiative first launched in 2019, we didn't have a single partner to call our own in Wyoming. Today, we work with corporations, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the University of Wyoming, and individuals who are all willing to share their time, their generosity, and their innovative thinking to make Wyoming a leader in ending hunger. Wyoming was built in part on the value of taking care of our neighbors; it's a value we take seriously every single day, and we know it is making a difference.

YES, EVEN IN WYOMING

Wyoming Hunger Facts



National nonprofit Feeding America's projected rate of food insecurity levels in Wyoming indicate all 23 Wyoming counties have seen a spike in food insecurity rates since 2020. Food insecurity is defined as difficulty in accessing healthy food in a household, which can include disrupted eating patterns leading to reduced food intake and hunger.



A food pantry is a distribution center where hungry families can receive food. Supplied with food from a food bank and other donated sources, pantries feed thousands of people per week in Wyoming! Because every community is different, there are many different types of pantries: they might be a standalone building or inside a church or school.



Financial barriers are not the only contributing factors to food insecurity. According to the Wyoming Health Department's Office of Rural Health, 47% of Wyoming's population lives in "frontier" areas; grocery stores are often a significant distance away, increasing the risk of food insecurity.



Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to increasing the amount of Wyoming-produced meat in the food pantry system. *Food from the Farm + Ranch* has accepted over 125 donated animals since the program's inception in 2020; this translates to high quality protein for families in need.



Americans waste approximately 67 million tons of food per year, at a retail value of \$160 billion. Many Wyoming anti-hunger organizations are beginning to seek opportunities to build partnerships in their communities to pursue food rescue programs. Rescuing salvageable food and diverting it to those in need has proven to have a significant impact on food insecurity.



When most people donate nonperishable items to a food pantry through a food drive, they reach for canned goods to give. However, other items are often in high demand and expensive to purchase: spices, butter or oil, peanut butter, honey, strawberries, potatoes, and eggs are great additions. Hygiene products are also welcome.



Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to a future in which every child, family, senior, and veteran is food secure. We won't rest until we reach this goal.

WYOMING'S ANTI-HUNGER WARRIORS

These are the boots on the ground.

ALBANY COUNTY

ACSD #1 Backpack Program
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Albany County
Eppson Center for Seniors
Family Promise of Albany County
Feeding Laramie Valley
Laramie Connections
Laramie Interfaith
Laramie Soup Kitchen
Trinity's Campus Cabinet Food Pantry
UW Student Food Pantry

BIG HORN COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Big Horn County
Greybull Backpack Program
Greybull Community Outreach Food Bank
Jack's Box
Lovell Community Food Pantry
North Big Horn Senior Citizens Center
Salvation Army/Basin Food Pantry
St. John's Lutheran Church
South Big Horn County Senior Center
The Shack
Totes of Hope

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Blessings in a Backpack
Boys & Girls Club of Campbell County
Campbell County Senior Services, Inc.
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Campbell County
Council of Community Services
Edible Prairie Project
Salvation Army
Wright Community Assistance

CARBON COUNTY

Baptist Youth Missions - Sinclair
Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County
Carbon County Senior Services, Inc.
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Carbon County
Encampment Community Food Pantry
Platte Valley Food Pantry
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
WYO Help - Carbon

CONVERSE COUNTY

Boys & Girls Club of Douglas
Boys & Girls Club of Glenrock
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Converse County
Douglas Senior Center
Father Hubbard's Cupboard
Glenrock Area Food Pantry
The King's Portion

CROOK COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Crook County
Crook County Council of County Services Food Pantry
Crook County Food Pantry
Hulett Blessings in a Backpack
Moorcroft Interfaith Community
Blessings in a Backpack, Sundance
WYO Help - Crook

FREMONT COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Fremont County
Eastern Shoshone Indian Tribe
First Stop Help Center

FREMONT COUNTY, CONTINUED

Foundation for Nations Food Bank
Native American Heritage Association
Northern Arapahoe Tribe
Lander Care & Share Food Bank
Lander Senior Citizens, Inc.
Lander United Methodist Church
Little Free Pantry Ethete
Little Free Pantry Lander
Little Free Pantry Riverton
Riverton Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Shoshoni Senior Center, Inc.
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Friday Back Pack Program
Volunteers of American Northern Rockies

GOSHEN COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Goshen County
Goshen County Senior Friendship Center
Land of Goshen Ministries
WYO Help

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Hot Springs County
Community Federated Church
Hot Springs County Senior Citizens Center
Messiah's Mall at Risen Son Baptist Church
People for People Backpack Program
River of Life Fellowship

JOHNSON COUNTY

Boys & Girls Club of the Big Horns
Bread of Life Food Pantry
Buffalo Senior Center, Inc.
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Johnson County
Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends

LARAMIE COUNTY

Ambitious Diversities Purple Pantry
Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne
Calvary Chapel
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Laramie County
Cheyenne Little Free Pantry
COME A Shelter
Element Church
Family Promise of Cheyenne
Friday Food Bag Foundation
LCCC Food Pantry
Little Free Pantry Ascension Lutheran
Little Free Pantry Grace Methodist
Little Free Pantry St. Mark's Episcopal
Meals on Wheels of Cheyenne
Needs, Inc.
OneReach
Pine Bluffs Senior Center
Safehouse Sexual Assault Services
Salvation Army
Shepherd's Closet
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
True Vine Community Church
Unaccompanied Students Initiative
Veterans' Rock

LINCOLN COUNTY

Afton Food Pantry
Alpine Food Bank
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Lincoln County
Cokeville Senior Citizens Center, Inc.

LINCOLN COUNTY, CONTINUED

Kemmerer Senior Citizens Association
Lincoln County School District #2 Education Foundation
Lincoln Self Reliance, Inc.
Salt River Senior Citizens Center
SLHRC Kemmerer Area Food Bank
South Lincoln Human Resource Confederation
Thayne Community Food Bank
Thayne Senior Center
Town of LaBarge Food Bank/Senior Center

NATRONA COUNTY

Alcova Baptist Church Food Bank
Boyd Avenue Baptist Church
Boys & Girls Club of Central Wyoming
Casper Community Church
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Natrona County
City Park Church
College Heights Community Center
First Church of the Nazarene
Food Bank of Wyoming
Joshua's Storehouse
Mountain View Baptist Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Poverty Resistance Food Pantry
Radius Church
Restoration Fellowship in Casper
Salvation Army Casper Corps
Strong Tower Family Church
Wyoming Rescue Mission

NIORBARA COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Niobrara County
Niobrara Senior Center, Inc.
WYO Help - Niobrara

PARK COUNTY

Backpack Blessings of Powell
Cent\$ible Nutrition, Park County
Cody Cupboard
Cody Senior Citizens Center
Food 4 Kids
Mannahouse Food Pantry
Powell Senior Citizens
Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes

PLATTE COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Platte County
CFSP Boxes (Senior Commodities)
Guernsey Community Food Bank
Guernsey Totes of Hope
Platte County Commodities
Platte Impact Ministries, Little Food Box
Services for Seniors
Wheatland Food Bank

SHERIDAN COUNTY

Cent\$ible Nutrition, Sheridan County
The Food Group
Hub on Smith
Lunch Together Soup Kitchen
Ranchester Community Cupboard
Salvation Army
Sheridan People Assistance Food Bank
Story-Banner Community Food Pantry

SUBLETTE COUNTY

CentSible Nutrition, Sublette County
Community Bak-Pak Program
Community Food Closet - Big Piney
Pinedale Community Food Basket
Rendezvous Pointe
Southwest Sublette Community Pioneers

SWEETWATER COUNTY

Boys & Girls Club of Sweetwater County
CentSible Nutrition of Sweetwater County
Food Bank of Sweetwater County
Golden Hour Senior Center, Inc.
Loaves and Fishes Community Soup Kitchen
Rock Springs Young at Heart

TETON COUNTY

CentSible Nutrition, Teton County
Good Samaritan Mission
Hole Food Rescue
One22 Resource Center
Senior Center of Jackson Hole, Inc.

UINTA COUNTY

Bridger Interdenominational Food Pantry
Bridger Valley Baptist Church
CentSible Nutrition, Uinta County
From the Heart Ministries
The Lord's Storehouse
Uinta Senior Citizens, Inc.
Youth Alternative Home Association

WASHAKIE COUNTY

CentSible Nutrition, Washakie County
Crisis Prevention & Response
Ten Sleep Senior Center
Washakie County Ministerial Association Food Pantry
Washakie County Senior Citizens Center

WESTON

CentSible Nutrition, Weston County
Newcastle Totes of Hope
Upton Community Food Bank
Weston County Senior Citizens

WIND RIVER RESERVATION

Eastern Shoshone Tribal Health
Wind River Grow Our Own 307



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 may 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.

Small grants bring outsized results. Just ask our recipients.

Freezer space is as valuable as gold at Afton Food Pantry, and adding more of it has been life-changing. Funding from Wyoming Hunger Initiative enabled the purchase of an additional commercial freezer, enabling the small but mighty team to expand their food available to those in need in the community.

Additional freezer space also means there is room to store donations of game from *Food from the Field*, benefitting neighboring communities in addition to Afton. This small change has allowed hundreds of pounds of high-quality protein to be distributed regionally.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is proud to provide funding for unique, local solutions to food insecurity like this one.



LEARN MORE ABOUT AFTON FOOD PANTRY
aftonfoodpantry.com

GRANTS CHANGE LIVES

Infrastructure grants help anti-hunger organizations focus on the mission.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative knows that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution to hunger. We are 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. Local solutions are not small solutions. In fact, local solutions can achieve results that reach across time and generations. When is a piece of equipment more than just a piece of equipment? When the person using it is committed to positive change and thriving communities. That's the power of infrastructure grants.



ABOVE: Cheyenne's Element Church Food Pantry Director Eiron Wilson never thought she would be excited about an electric pallet jack. People change, though, and she can't remember how she ever managed to run the pantry—which has experienced an enormous increase in demand in the past three years—without it. Tools that make her job more efficient mean she can serve people more effectively, and that's something to smile about.

LEFT: Wyoming has a decent (though short) growing season, but Wyoming Food for Thought Project in Casper dreams of growing fresh food year round! "Grow towers" purchased with a WHI Infrastructure Grant are making this dream a reality. With 80 cells per unit and high-efficiency LED lighting providing the necessary light to grow, fresh vegetables are abundant—indoors—year round for those in need. It's an innovative solution that's a game-changer.



LEARN MORE ABOUT ELEMENT FOOD PANTRY AND WYOMING FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROJECT

@ElementFoodPantry on Facebook
wyomingfoodforthoughtproject.org



ESSENTIAL CORPORATE GIVING

Wyoming Hunger Initiative depends upon corporate giving to fund innovative partnerships, develop long-term solutions, and ensure operational success. 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 the present and create stronger communities in the future. In times of crisis, this safety net needs even more support—as evidenced by the sharp increase in demand on resources due to the pandemic. We are committed to working with our corporate partners to ensure their donations achieve the largest possible impact.



UTILIZING WYOMING'S RESOURCES

Stemming from the First Lady's love of hunting and helping those in need, *Food from the Field* is a partnership between Wyoming Hunger Initiative, the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and processors from around the state to streamline game meat donation to local food pantries. Funds raised to support this program are utilized for processing fees not covered by the hunter, as well as infrastructure needed to maintain it in the future—we take sustainability seriously! *Food from the Field* has enjoyed tremendous success because of two strong Wyoming values: taking care of neighbors in need and sharing abundant resources.



BOOSTING THE LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY

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 American food bank system and Wyoming is no exception; through livestock and produce donation, food pantries can offer more meat and fresh produce to their patrons and do so without needing to seek expensive, out-of-state suppliers who often provide an inferior product. Hundreds of Wyoming gardeners of all ages have participated in *Grow a Little Extra*, donating thousands of pounds of produce for the local pantry system; 4-H and FFA members have joined the fight as well by donating their second animals to *Fair to Fork* at Wyoming's county fairs. Supporting local economies through fair compensation is a cornerstone of the program; these programs simply wouldn't exist without the individual generosity and corporate partnerships of so many. Wyoming is a state of plenty, and agricultural solutions are a key element to reducing and eliminating hunger.



RETHINKING THE NARRATIVE OF SCHOOL MEAL DEBT

According to Giridhar Mallya, senior policy officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the prevalence of school meal debt shows even small amounts of money can add up over time and become a burden to struggling families. No child should experience the effects of debt that cause a barrier to success in life. Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to doing something about it. Corporate investments in Wyoming Angel Accounts will be returned to the local county of choice with a tax deductible donation. Wyoming Hunger Initiative will continue to evaluate, analyze, and brainstorm long-term solutions to the challenge of meal debt.



A LITTLE FUNDING GOES A LONG WAY

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to supporting anti-hunger organizations already doing the hard and daily work of assisting those in need in their communities, and we will never reinvent the wheel. We are passionate about providing funding that allows for measurable outcomes and impact, however, and our infrastructure grants do just that. Wyoming Hunger Initiative has allocated nearly \$350,000 in small grants since our launch. Corporate donations earmarked for infrastructure grants allow expanded opportunities to provide money for innovative projects, local solutions, and the ability to create efficiencies so the mission is always the priority.



THANKFUL ALL YEAR LONG

Food pantries and anti-hunger nonprofit organizations across the state face a tremendous challenge during the holiday season: because of the continued increased demand on resources, it's difficult to budget for Thanksgiving meals provided to those who would otherwise go without. Wyoming Hunger Initiative invites you to join forces and bridge the gap with Project #ThankfulWyoming. Corporate donations have funded thousands of Thanksgiving meals so that no one misses this holiday and the comfort it provides, and for that we are eternally grateful.



SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT US ALL

Wyoming Hunger Initiative wants to ensure that all Wyoming families in need are able to enjoy a holiday meal, which is why we are proud to support *Shop with a Cop* programs. Our Wyoming law enforcement agencies are true partners in the fight against food insecurity in Wyoming! *Shop with a Cop* pairs children who are hand-selected by school counselors with members of local law enforcement to spend gift funds however they like—they shop together, which is an exciting adventure for all involved. These shopping trips nearly always include purchasing gifts for family members as well as household necessities. With Wyoming Hunger Initiative funding, each child is provided a Christmas meal basket to share with their families.



ENSURING THE COMFORT OF CHRISTMAS

In addition to the financial support Wyoming Hunger Initiative provides for *Shop with a Cop* programs statewide, we are dedicated to supporting Wyoming's many local food pantries as they work tirelessly to provide the comfort of Christmas to community members in need. Corporate giving for Christmas programs is an essential part of this commitment; the funding we are able to provide doesn't just provide a meal or two around the holidays; it provides comfort, hope, and the best of the season.



Become a Wyoming Hunger Initiative partner!
Visit 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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