In 2022, we celebrated Wyoming Hunger Initiative’s third anniversary and in just those three short years, we’ve learned that where there’s a hungry child, a hungry family, senior, or veteran isn’t far away. Wyoming Hunger Initiative prides itself on sustainable Wyoming solutions to Wyoming challenges and it only made sense to expand our mission to include all anti-hunger organizations committed to ending hunger in Wyoming.

We continue to be guided by four principles essential to the success of any organization. First, passion: the passion that volunteers around the state demonstrate as they serve record numbers of our neighbors is a driving motivation for everything we do. Next, people: nothing is possible without the right people on board; without our Board of Directors, Regional Directors, staff, and volunteers, we could not continue to achieve our goals. Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships! Without them, innovative approaches would simply not be possible. Lastly, perseverance: I am committed to ending hunger in Wyoming and I know with the help of so many, we can make a difference.

Wyoming Hunger Initiative stands ready to support the grassroots efforts of every Wyoming county. I’m thrilled for you to read about how our existing programs grew in 2022, and what we launched. All are Wyoming solutions.

Thank you for joining the fight.

First Lady Jennie Gordon
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.
The Wyoming Governor’s Residence Foundation Board is an engaged group of volunteers who have served since the launch of Wyoming Hunger Initiative in 2019. They travel to Cheyenne quarterly for board meetings, and attend events statewide when possible. Some of their 2022 accomplishments include:

- Executed tasks set forth by strategic plan developed in 2021
- Carefully evaluated infrastructure grant applications, selected recipients, and distributed grant funds
- Took necessary steps to start process of establishing Wyoming Hunger Initiative as an independent 501(c)(3) organization to ensure its existence for years to come
- Worked with Frank’s Butcher Shop to pilot a protein distribution program and successfully provided 18,430 lbs statewide
- Piloted the new Fair to Fork program for youth development and participation
- Oversaw the completion of a comprehensive asset map of Wyoming’s anti-hunger organizations
- Fulfilled the responsibilities of Governor’s Residence improvement projects such as outdoor grounds beautification and maintenance
What would Wyoming Hunger Initiative do without its Regional Directors? We can’t imagine. Regional Directors work to establish networks of cooperation, collaboration, and communication between local anti-hunger organizations and Wyoming Hunger Initiative; their ability to identify needs, build relationships, and brainstorm solutions makes them essential team members. Regional Directors live and work in the regions they serve, but they also travel to represent Wyoming Hunger Initiative throughout their regions. This helps them understand local need in unique ways. Some of their 2022 accomplishments include:

- Provided necessary information regarding resources to complete a comprehensive asset map of the state to be utilized by communities and those in need
- Established strong networks of communication in each of the six regions
- Shared opportunities and funding mechanisms with local anti-hunger organizations as well as provided ongoing support to utilize them
- Made and maintained connections between local businesses and organizations that will benefit children, families, seniors, and veterans in need

**BELOW:** Wyoming Hunger Initiative Regional Directors rounded out their annual retreat in Cheyenne with a team-building activity at local business Board & Brush: Dr. Caitlin Youngquist, First Lady Jennie Gordon, Tim Sheppard, Reed Barr, Sierra Mitchell, and Lori Dickinson. Not pictured: Deanna Trumble and Ashley Bright, who were unable to attend.
LEARN MORE ABOUT FOOD FROM THE FIELD
nohungerwyo.org/field
Food from the Field continues to flourish because of the solid partnerships with Wyoming Game & Fish, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Admiral Beverage, participating processors, dedicated staff and volunteers within the anti-hunger world, and of course, hunters who understand they can make a significant difference while pursuing a beloved Wyoming tradition. Our second annual retreat with key stakeholders in January helped us further refine the smooth operation of the program—we cannot overstate the value of the insightful discussions about long-term sustainability that will inform Food from the Field’s operations for years to come. Wyoming is replete with people who care tremendously about their neighbors, and this program is a prime example.

The final donation total of 2022 is not yet complete as of press time, but Food from the Field has received over 14,000 lbs of donated game meat since its launch—an amazing quantity. The financial health of the program continues to strengthen thanks to the generous actions of Commissioner Ashlee Lundvall and Pete Dube, who awarded their commissioner tags to fund the program through an annual raffle yet again this year. With the addition of 307 Meat Processing, hunters had another option for processing; our work to see the ranks of participating processors grow continues into 2023 and beyond. Continued marketing efforts are paying off: more and more hunters have heard of the program and its benefits and are choosing to participate. That’s a Wyoming solution.

*LEFT:* Hunting with Heroes Wyoming honors disabled veterans from current and past conflicts with a safe environment for fellow disabled veterans to share experiences and heal together with unique hunting, fishing, and other outdoor experiences. They’ve hosted veterans from all 50 states; participant Mark Lisi of Sparks, NV participated in 2022 and in a moving act of selflessness, chose to donate his animal to Food from the Field. We can’t thank him enough for his impact.

*BELOW:* Meet our 2022 Food from the Field processing team! These local businesses are passionate about service to their communities, and we couldn’t do it without them!
The goal for Food from the Farm + Ranch remains the same as it did when the program first launched in 2020: to boost the food supply through both Wyoming-raised livestock and locally grown produce. We are proud to report that the livestock donation element of this program is achieving that goal and changing lives in the process. As more ranchers and businesses understand the significant impact livestock donations has had on communities, the greater participation has been. This means an increase in healthy, locally-raised sources of protein nourishing those who need it most.

In 2022, 61 domestic animals were donated to Food from the Farm + Ranch by generous ranchers, and county fair donors. We continue to develop protocols that will enable sustainable processing and distribution solutions; our Regional Directors have played a critical role in this process. Food from the Farm + Ranch continues to both highlight our statewide culture of pitching in to serve our neighbors and sustainably strengthen our local food systems.

**BELOW:** The Harding Ranch donated a beef to Wyoming Hunger Initiative in August and designated it specifically for the Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne. This is a Wyoming solution.
INTRODUCING FAIR TO FORK

Sources of high-quality protein are notoriously expensive and difficult to procure for local food pantries. Wyoming Hunger Initiative strives to create innovative approaches to problems like this one, and that’s how the *Fair to Fork* program was born! A partnership between University of Wyoming Extension 4-H, FFA, and the Hughes Charitable Foundation, the program will eventually purchase hogs from every county in Wyoming through a lottery selection (only second animals not sold in the local livestock sale are eligible). Participating youth will raise their second animal; Wyoming Hunger Initiative will purchase it and ensure it is processed by a USDA or state-inspected participating facility, then deliver to a local anti-hunger organization in the county of origin.

This year’s pilot program included 14 youth participants from 14 counties; the processed pork totaled 2,255 lbs and benefited 18 different anti-hunger organizations! Perhaps best of all was the pride each participant felt having made a difference in his or her community. Wyoming Hunger Initiative is eager to continue refining *Fair to Fork* with our partners so the program may continue to garner the enthusiasm displayed for this sustainable Wyoming solution long into the future.

*Below:* Eli Case of Goshen County was honored by First Lady Jennie Gordon and Governor Mark Gordon at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas in August. All participants also received a plaque commemorating their efforts.

**2022 FAIR TO FORK PARTICIPANTS**
- Braden Crawford, Albany County
- Braxton Lane, Big Horn County
- Jayden Haugen, Campbell County
- Lyric Jaure, Carbon County
- Madeline Fleenor, Crook County
- Justice Laird, Fremont County
- Eli Case, Goshen County
- Owen McCumber, Hot Springs County
- Brynlee Loyd, Laramie County
- Wyatt Strauch, Niobrara County
- Allison Morrison, Park County
- Karly Jones, Platte County
- Natalee Hebst, Sheridan County
- Eddie Owens, Teton County
- Ira Croft, Washakie County
Launching a new program can be scary, but it’s the second year that really determines whether or not it will experience long-term success. We are so pleased to share that Grow a Little Extra exceeded our expectations on every level in 2022! This partnership between University of Wyoming Extension, Cent$ible Nutrition Program, and the Master Gardeners program was made possible in large part due to the generosity of Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. Without the amazing know-how (or willingness to figure it out) of Wyoming gardeners across the state, however, this program would fizzle out.

Instead, Grow a Little Extra more than doubled its donated harvest, weighing in at a total of 21,951 lbs. Despite our shorter growing season and occasionally tricky weather conditions, gardeners of all ages throughout the state grew beautiful, fresh produce to share with those in need.

In an unexpected twist, The Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton’s donation of surplus produce in 2021 turned into a committed effort to garden officially for Grow a Little Extra in 2022. Long known for the Wild Horse Program which provides inmates an opportunity to learn how to respect animals and people, this new opportunity to create a meaningful connection to the greater world while alleviating food insecurity was game-changing for both the Honor Farm and for residents of Fremont County.

We can’t wait for the next growing season!

**RIGHT:** Jace Mitchell of Afton, Wyoming discovered his green thumb during Grow a Little Extra’s first year and is now a devoted gardener. We’re so proud of him!
Our partnership with Cheyenne Frontier Days™ continued in 2022 with the second annual Cowboys Stompin’ Hunger campaign that culminated on Wyoming Hunger Initiative Day at the largest outdoor rodeo in the world! In addition to selling Cowboys Stompin’ Hunger t-shirts and sweatshirts, we partnered with Wyoming’s own luxury handbag maker, Alexis Drake, to design a gorgeous silk scarf in the tradition of rodeo scarves from the 1930s and 1940s. Alexis Drake donated a portion of each purchase to fight food insecurity in Wyoming, and we definitely turned heads while we stomped hunger in style.

WE STOMPED IN STYLE

GET YOUR OWN!
Wyoming Hunger Initiative and our Hunger Champions teamed up with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, University of Wyoming Cowboy Football, Ridley’s Family Markets, and Laramie Interfaith to tackle hunger at the home opener for the second year! 20,000 lbs of food was collected for Wyoming children, families, seniors, and veterans in need. While every little bit counts, it feels like a good place to point out that this year's total is more than triple of last year's donations. Laramie Interfaith distributed that food quickly and efficiently to local food pantries. That is Wyoming Together!
A BANNER GRANT YEAR

Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to sustainable solutions to hunger, and our infrastructure grants continue to be one of the most effective tools to achieve this goal. We awarded $51,751.36 in 2021; in 2022, we increased that funding over two grant cycles to $196,977.30.

This money is organization-changing because it provides the gift of time and efficiency for organizations to stretch their ability to fulfill their mission statements and serve patrons with better and more innovative approaches—based on what those organizations need most.

This funding was made possible because of our Hunger Champions, the Hughes Charitable Foundation, and the many generous contributions from individuals purchasing $5 hearts to display in our annual #heartsforhungercampaign. It’s amazing what we can achieve when we come together to solve problems.
Wyoming Hunger Initiative is committed to providing ways for everyone in Wyoming to join the fight against food insecurity. Because of our partnerships and special campaigns, we met that goal again this year. We also know you can’t solve a problem you can’t see; by working with a variety of partners in a variety of places, we are raising awareness with every passing day so that we shine light on the too-often invisible problem of hunger. The generosity of friends, family, neighbors, and strangers who joined forces to do their part made that difference—from purchasing a raffle ticket, rounding up their bill at the grocery store, donning a shirt or silk scarf, and in so many other ways. We know that together, we can end hunger in Wyoming.
Wyoming Hunger Initiative remains committed to turning around donations from corporations and individuals as quickly as possible. Why? Because food insecurity is at the root of so many problems and we are driven by a sense of urgency to do what is in our power to end it. Your generous funds supported allocations of relief funds, holiday meals, program support, and the needs of countless organizations working tirelessly to reach a future where no child, family, senior, or veteran faces the day on an empty stomach. Thank you.

THEIR GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS
A SNAPSHOT OF 2022 STATISTICS

Wyoming Hunger Initiative loves statistics! Here are a few of this year’s highlights:

16 animals were donated to Food from the Field at the 2022 Wyoming Women’s Antelope Hunt, totaling 332 lbs of game

In partnership with the Ellbogen Foundation, $110,000 was allocated in cash and purchased protein to assist with pantry replenishment due to demand

$71,770.40 was raised in the 24 hour period of fundraising on WyoGives Day in July

3,816 hearts sold during #heartsforhunger in 2022; matching donations from BCBSWY and the WY Legislature brought total to $19,082.51 raised

14 Fair to Fork participants donated 14 hogs in the pilot year of the program, totaling 2,255 lbs of pork donated to 18 anti-hunger organizations

20,000 lbs of food was donated for the Tackle Hunger food drive through BCBSWY Member Centers and Ridley’s Family Markets

Funding for 1,251 complete Thanksgiving meals allocated to 75 organizations through Project #ThankfulWyoming

21,951 lbs of produce donated to Grow a Little Extra, more than doubling the harvest of the 2021 pilot program

$25,000 in food cards distributed in partnership with the Wyoming Veterans Commission

$27,510.52 rounded up by shoppers in September in participating Albertsons and Safeway stores to provide healthy breakfasts in Wyoming

58 Hunger Champions served as ambassadors for Wyoming Hunger Initiative and fought food insecurity helping to log a record year for grant allocation

Wyoming Angel Accounts eliminated $17,232.71 of new school meal debt accrued in the first two weeks of the 2022-2023 school year
SETTING GOALS FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

From our humble beginnings in 2019 to the multiple programs, campaigns, and partnerships we manage every day in 2022, one thing remains constant: goal-setting is a crucial part of everything we do at Wyoming Hunger Initiative. We’re proud of what we achieved in 2022 and are excited for the new goals we’ve set for 2023. Those goals include:

- **Identify** Fair to Fork challenges, needs, and best practices to ensure continued growth and participation
- **Partner with** the Wyoming Beef Council, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and 307 Meats to develop a pilot beef stick program for weekend food bag programs
- **Develop a** “needs assessment” to build on the successful completion of the asset map to assess where needs are not being met
- **Expand** veteran services to meet the needs while being mindful of how they wish to be identified and served
- **Continue to expand** resources available for regional directors and the continuation of network building across the state
- **Identify gaps** through the use of strategic beta sites to provide resources as needed
- **Identify and adopt strategies** to ensure the long-term health and structure of Wyoming Hunger Initiative as a sustainable organization

As always, thank you for your support.
I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE