

FOOD BANK OF WYOMING™



Nourishing
Neighbors
Across
Wyoming



Food Bank of Wyoming team members, from left to right: Amanda Koziol, Operations Manager Inventory & Distribution; Scott Ames, Distribution Specialist; Denise Rogers, Programs Support Associate; Alex Stoops, Volunteer Operations & Safety Lead; Cathy Stepp, Accounting Specialist; Russ Reddick, Distribution Specialist; Danica Sveda, Executive Director; Emily Ashmore, former employee; Shelly Swierkowski, Development Manager Individual Gifts; Logan Cogdill, Programs Specialist; Jenna Noelle, Development Manager, Corporate Engagement; Michelle Forster, Agency Operations Specialist



Joining Together to Reduce Hunger and Strengthen Wyoming

The stories we heard from neighbors and Hunger Relief Partners this past year had a common, heart-breaking theme: I'm working harder and trying harder, and it's not enough. Extra hours worked and sacrifices made no longer cover rising cost of living expenses, leaving tens of thousands of people in Wyoming to face impossible choices between having enough to eat and having heat, medication, housing, or reliable transportation.

Throughout Wyoming, one in seven people lives with food insecurity. The reality is even harsher for kids, with one in five children living in situations where they don't have reliable access to food. Hunger rates are at a more than 10-year high, making this not just a concerning issue, but a public health crisis. Even though Food Bank of Wyoming has increased our food distribution volume by 33% over the last four years, it's still not enough.

And the need is only growing. Following major changes to SNAP and Medicaid, we are bracing for a level of hunger our community hasn't seen in Food Bank of Wyoming's 21-year history. Not only that, but the end of the Local Food Purchasing Agreement program means we have fewer resources available to purchase locally grown and raised products from our state's incredible farmers and ranchers. We are truly at a pivotal moment where our mission has never been more urgent.

I stepped into the role of executive director of Food Bank of Wyoming earlier this year after serving as the development manager for nearly three years, and I can say without hesitation that in the shadow of these challenges are powerful opportunities and hope. Food Bank of Wyoming is part of a strong and united community of nonprofits across Wyoming dedicated to serving people in even the most remote areas of our state. Our wide network of partner agencies — from shelters and transitional housing programs to mental health providers and crisis response teams — understand something essential: food insecurity is deeply woven into the challenges faced by Wyoming's most vulnerable residents.

Food is a prerequisite for every other kind of support. Without it, even the most well-designed interventions struggle to take hold. Together with organizations like Wyoming Hunger Initiative and the Wyoming Nonprofit Network, we are able to maximize the resources available to us to best support our neighbors. Food may not solve every challenge facing our communities, but it is the spark that turns crisis into stability and survival into sustainability.

Together as a community committed to ending hunger, we can build a hunger-free future for our neighbors today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Thank you for joining us in this mission.



With gratitude,
Danica Sveda
Executive Director



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Fiscal Year 2025

OUR FISCAL YEAR 2025 NUMBERS ILLUSTRATE A SUSTAINED HIGH NEED FOR FOOD AND INNOVATIVE SUPPORT THROUGHOUT WYOMING

Neighbors served 55,098

20% OF NEIGHBORS SERVED WERE CHILDREN



Total Pounds of Food Distributed
12,286,601

Meal Equivalent for Pounds Distributed

10,238,834



Meals Served on Average Per Day
28,052

Percentage of Pounds Distributed that was Fresh Produce

33%



Percentage of pounds distributed that came from the Food Rescue Program

52%

Service Area Covered
97,093
SQUARE MILES

Four drivers covered 305,228 miles in fiscal year 2025!



Volunteer Hours Logged in FY25
19,589

the equivalent of 9 full-time employees



Number of Hunger Relief Partners

150+

How We Help

Hunger cuts across demographics and borders, indifferent to the past or future chapters of a person's life. Food Bank of Wyoming meets individuals in the present, ensuring that anyone who needs it gets the nourishing food they need to thrive.

GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



FUEL EVERYTHING WE DO

Where Food Comes From

Over 94% of funding goes directly into our hunger-relief programs and supports all of the ways we attain food to distribute to our community members.



Sorting and Packing Food for our Neighbors



Each year, thousands of volunteers help us sort, pack, and get food into the hands of our neighbors across Wyoming. We could not do this work without their dedication and generosity!

Distributing Food to our Communities



We deploy several mobile pantries each month to rural communities throughout Wyoming to bring food directly to where it is needed most.



Specialized programming for after-school, summer, and weekend food for children.



The 150+ pantries, programs, and relief organizations we support through food and resources to nourish people experiencing hunger in their communities.



Monthly food boxes administered by the USDA at no cost to income-qualifying older adults at least 60 years of age.



Looking Ahead

We are hopeful for a day when Food Bank of Wyoming is no longer needed and everyone has enough nourishing food and resources to thrive. But until then, we will keep pioneering more effective, innovative ways to meet the needs of our community members.

Bringing Fresh Insights to Hunger Relief with Food Bank of Wyoming's New Advisory Council

This year marked an important milestone for Food Bank of Wyoming as we launched our first-ever Advisory Council. These nine passionate Wyomingites represent every corner of our state and bring a wide range of experiences, perspectives, and regional insights to help guide our work and strengthen our impact.



One in five kids across Wyoming lives with hunger. Food Bank of Wyoming's Advisory Council is dedicated to nourishing those children and addressing the root causes of food insecurity to ensure they can have hunger-free futures.

From strategic guidance to fostering partnerships and advocating for resources, their leadership will be instrumental in advancing our mission of igniting the power of community to nourish Wyomingites facing hunger. Matt Ballou, Marca Tanner Brewington, Barbara Anne Greene, Veronica Miller, Sarah Scott, Laura Sonderup, Kimber Tower, Karen Walters, and Lisa Weigel are the inaugural members of the Food Bank of Wyoming Advisory Council. All are Wyoming residents who are passionate about ensuring every person across the state has access to sufficient nourishing food and addressing the root causes of hunger.

"Having lived in Wyoming my entire life, I've seen the issue of food insecurity firsthand," shared Ballou, Chief Retail Officer at WyHy Federal Credit Union. "We've all had a time in our lives when we needed a little assistance, and I want to be part of an organization that lives to be that helping hand."

That sentiment is echoed by each advisory council member, a few of whom have experienced food insecurity firsthand. From volunteering with their local food pantries and other organizations focused on improving the lives of Wyomingites, to dedicating their careers to building strong communities



through the fields of education, mental healthcare, journalism, and other people-centered disciplines, these nine people don't just show up for our neighbors when it's convenient — they pioneer new ways to solve systemic problems in even the most difficult circumstances.

"There are many problems in the world that are complex and difficult to untangle, but hunger has a clear solution — it just takes all of us working together," said Tower, who is the director of the Riverton Senior Center, an instructor and music director at Central Wyoming College Theatre Department, and has a master's degree in public administration. "I've seen how food insecurity shapes lives, and I want to be part of changing that reality."

Just as it's true that lives can be shaped by a lack of access to food, so, too, can it be reshaped when hunger no longer plays a leading role in a person's life. That transformation can be seen at places like the Youth Crisis Center in Casper. The nonprofit is one of Food Bank of Wyoming's more than 150 Hunger Relief Partners and provides

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We've all had a time in our lives when we needed a little assistance, and I want to be part of an organization that lives to be that helping hand.

– Matt Ballou,
Chief Retail Officer at WyHy
Federal Credit Union

emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and therapeutic services to youth in need. And while there are myriad factors that go into supporting a young person's health and well-being, one thing is needed to sustain the rest: food. Because without nourishment, everything else becomes secondary.

"When most people think of Food Bank of Wyoming, they picture boxes of groceries being placed into the hands of neighbors at a pantry or mobile distribution. And yes — that's a big part of what we do. But it's just the beginning," shared Danica Sveda, Executive Director of Food Bank of Wyoming. "We will

continue to support the organizations that help our neighbors not just survive, but rebuild their lives. Because when someone doesn't know where their next meal is coming from, nothing else can come first."

A 2019 study published in Public Health Nutrition found that food insecurity is linked to a 47% higher risk of developing substance use disorders, even when accounting for factors like income and employment. In communities where hunger is widespread, substances are often used to suppress appetite, escape reality, or numb emotional pain. Food is often the first step toward stability, which is why Food Bank of Wyoming is committed to partnering with every nonprofit across our state that plays a role in recovery and resilience.

Food insecurity exists in every county of Wyoming and every county in our nation. Together with our partners, Advisory Council, donors, volunteers, fellow nonprofits, and other supporters of all stripes, we will do everything in our capacity to nourish our communities so that they can thrive.



Food Bank of Wyoming partners with nonprofits across the state to support people in all areas of life, from accessing food to receiving mental health and housing services.

Making Good Food Go Further with the FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

Picture the produce section in your favorite grocery store. Piles of shiny apples stacked into tidy pyramids, perfectly yellow banana bunches, the greenest of green kale and cilantro stacked neatly: it's a scene all of us know and, for better or worse, have come to expect. But fruit and vegetables don't always grow into the shapes and hues that qualify them to be showcased, just like cans get dented, labels get torn, and one egg of a dozen gets broken. So what happens to that food? Often, these items go to waste, simply because they

have a slight cosmetic imperfection or the store ordered more of a product than it could sell.

Annually across our nation's food system, 92 billion pounds of surplus food — 31% of the total food supply — is generated annually. That's 145 billion lost meals, enough to feed the entire American population one meal a day for 14 months. Fortunately, food donations have been on the rise over the last few years as more businesses improve their donation programs in recognition of the “win-win-

win” opportunity: cost savings and tax incentives, reduced food insecurity, and positive environmental impacts.

Last fiscal year, 52% of the more than 12 million pounds of high-quality, nutrient-dense items Food Bank of Wyoming provided to neighbors came from our Food Rescue Program. That's a 9% increase over the previous year — an incredible feat in promoting environmental sustainability and getting as much food as possible into the hands of people who need it.



In fiscal year 2025, over half of the more than 12 million pounds of high-quality food we provided to neighbors came from our Food Rescue Program.



“It reminds me of the old cowboy ethic of neighbors helping one another,” shared Odessa Oldham, Food Sourcing Manager at Food Bank of Wyoming. “The Food Rescue Program is an integral part of that.”

In order to fulfill our mission of igniting the power of community to nourish our neighbors, the team at Food Bank of Wyoming relies on the people who can help solve the issue of food insecurity firsthand: The members of the communities we serve. We partner with a wide array of individuals, organizations, groups, and businesses to fuel our diverse programming, all with the goal of doing whatever we can to best meet the needs of our neighbors.

One of those organizations is Food Rescue Program participant and Hunger Relief Partner Society of St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Rawlins.

In a typical month, the pantry serves around 330 children and adults — around 4% of Rawlins’ population. Mary Kay Albrechtson has organized the pantry for 12 years now, working behind the scenes to coordinate donations, volunteers, and logistics to ensure anyone experiencing hunger can be nourished.

“The only thing we ask people when they come to us is, ‘How many people are you picking up for?’” shared Albrechtson. “There’s no judgment; it’s silly to judge by appearance for any situation. Everything is so expensive. I can’t imagine trying to feed a family right now.”

Among the dozens of things Albrechtson organizes is a schedule for her pantry and pantries across Carbon County to pick up donated food from the sole Walmart store within 100 miles. By rotating which pantries get to pick up which days, the organizations have equal access to the free, high-quality food, ensuring people in all areas of the county can benefit from the Food Rescue Program.

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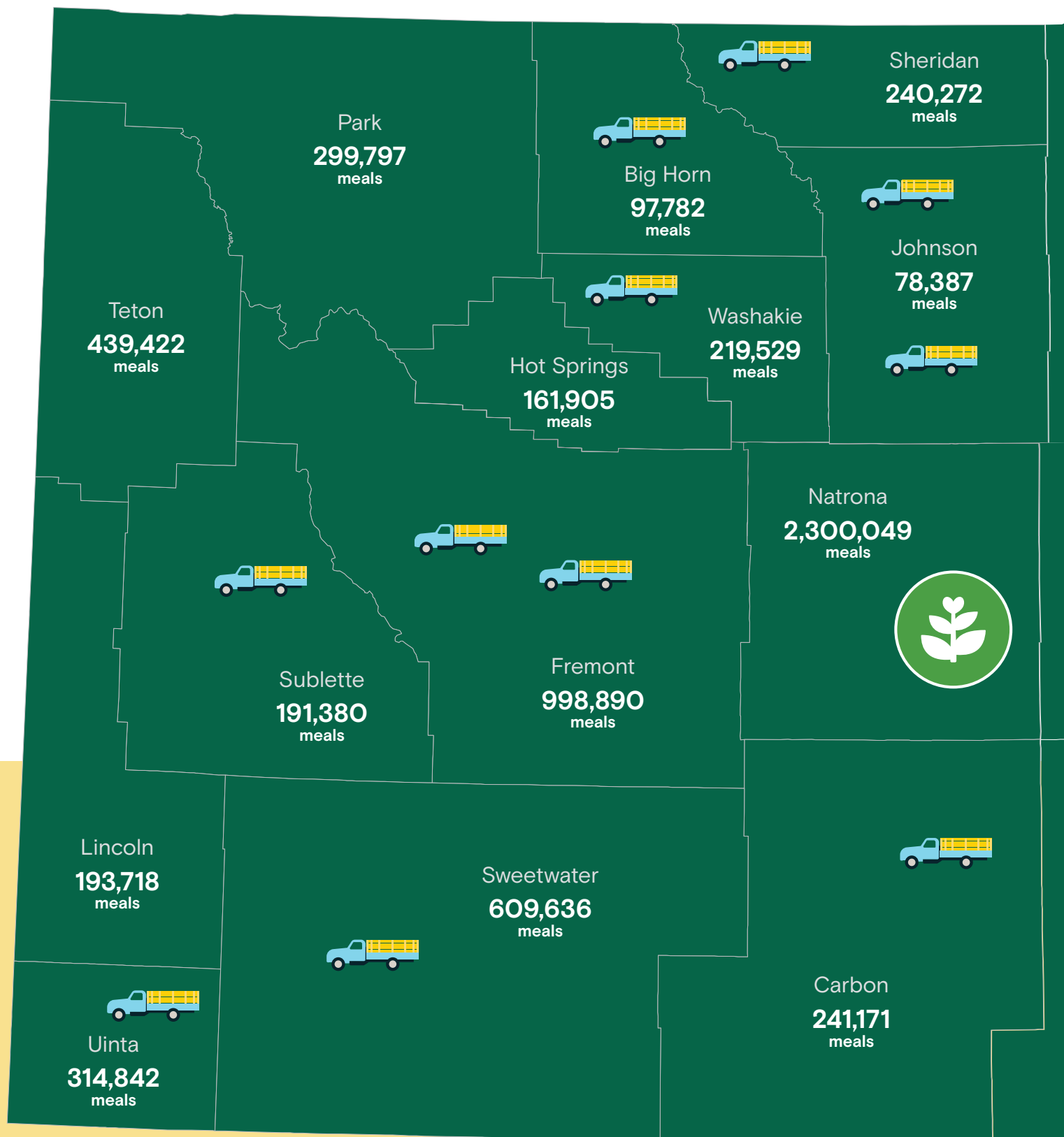
To partner with Food Bank of Wyoming has been a tremendous opportunity. It’s cool to be able to provide fresh, good food to people who may not otherwise be able to access it.

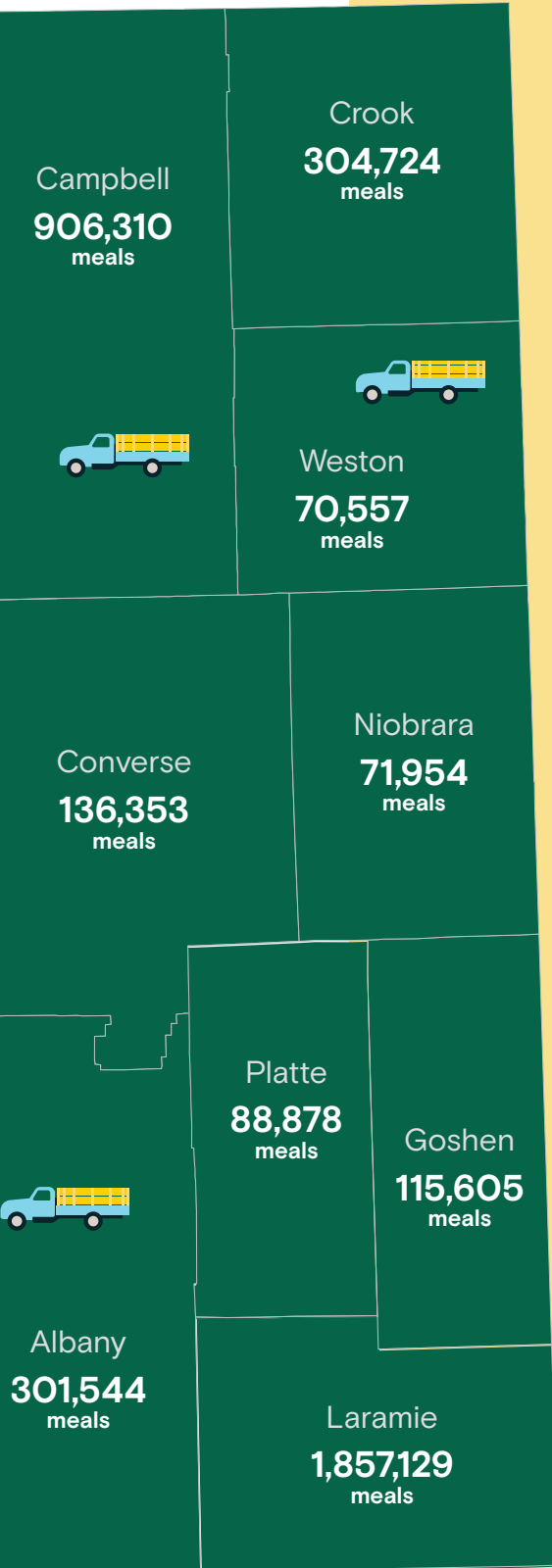
Odessa Oldham,
Food Sourcing Manager at
Food Bank of Wyoming

There are so many stories from our Hunger Relief Partners like St. Vincent de Paul that highlight how great an impact can be made when people and organizations band together to help each other. Hunger-relief work is a community effort. It takes all of us working toward the common goal of getting food to people no matter the obstacles of distance, weather, time, or access to build a stronger Wyoming. We all need to eat. Let’s make sure we all can today, tomorrow, and for years to come.



More businesses across Wyoming are improving their donation programs in recognition of the cost savings, tax incentives, reduced food insecurity, and positive environmental impacts that donating food to places like the Food Bank makes.





Nourishing Neighbors Across Wyoming

Hunger cuts across demographics and county lines, indifferent to the past, present, or future chapters of a person's life. Through our 150+ Hunger Relief Partners and mobile pantries located across the state, Food Bank of Wyoming brings food wherever it is needed most. By supporting our partners across the state, we are able to ensure that anyone who is experiencing hunger has timely and regular access to nourishing food. This map demonstrates how we serve Wyoming, including the equivalent amount of meals provided per county in fiscal year 2025 (derived from total pounds distributed).



Food Bank of Wyoming Distribution Area



Food Bank of Wyoming Distribution Center



Food Bank of Wyoming Mobile Pantry

Note: The number presented in each county is the meals equivalent for pounds distributed there through our Hunger Relief Partners and mobile pantries in fiscal year 2025. Total pounds of food distributed across all of Wyoming in fiscal year 2025 was 12,286,601 pounds, the equivalent of 10,238,834 meals.



P.O. Box 1540
Evansville, WY 82636



Mailing Address
City, State Zip

LOOKING AHEAD

Taking Action Against Hunger, Together

Right now, one in seven people in Wyoming, including one in five kids, lives with food insecurity. We don't know what next year or the years beyond that will bring, and we remain hopeful that the need for food decreases rather than increases. But hope without action does not bring change. Through our direct programs like mobile pantries and Food Rescue, 150+ Hunger Relief Partners, local agricultural partners, food and financial donations, volunteers, and likeminded nonprofits across the state, we are working to build a hunger-free future for all. It's an ambitious, big, and bold goal, and we can't get there without each and every one of you. All of us must continue to innovate together and energize one another to support our neighbors, because it is only when all of us are nourished that our community as a whole can thrive.



LEAVE A LEGACY:

Join the Heirloom Circle

Did you know you can include Food Bank of Wyoming in your will? By doing so, you'll be part of our Heirloom Circle and leave a legacy of generosity while ensuring future generations of Wyomingites have the food they need to thrive.

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Olivia Schon, Director of Development, at oschon@wyomingfoodbank.org or 307-265-2172.



Inspired to learn more about how we are answering the challenge of hunger? Look inside for stories of impact, and find our full report online at wyomingfoodbank.org/impact-report