




ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023





**“WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE  
MISSION OF FOCP, IT ALL  
STARTS WITH COMMUNITY.  
MANY HANDS AND MANY  
HEARTS MAKE OUR WORK  
POSSIBLE. THE END RESULT  
IS MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS  
TO FOOD AS THE BASIC FUEL  
FOR YOUTH SUCCESS.”**

Sheri Sander-Silva  
FOCP Executive Director

AT FOCP WE BELIEVE  
IN A COMMUNITY  
WHERE HUNGER IS  
NOT A BARRIER TO  
STUDENT SUCCESS

## OUR CORE VALUES

Accessibility, Inclusiveness, Respect, Collaboration, Enrichment,  
Resourcefulness & Shared Passion

### SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES



GRADES  
K-5 ON  
WEEKENDS



GRADES  
6-8 ON  
WEEKENDS



GRADES  
9-12 ON  
WEEKENDS

### SUMMER SERVICES



GRADES  
K-12 ON  
WEEKENDS



GRADES  
K-12 ON  
WEEKDAYS

In the 2022 - 2023 school year, FOCP served meals to over  
**1,100** students at **28** schools:

**12** K-5 schools, **2** 6-8 schools, **8** K-8 schools,  
**1** 6-12 school, **3** 9-12 schools, and **2** K-12 schools

FOCP WAS LOCALLY FOUNDED TO  
SERVE YOUTH AND IT REMAINS LOCALLY  
FUNDED, WITH NO STATE OR FEDERAL  
FUNDING. **ALL DONATIONS STAY LOCAL**  
TO ENSURE TODAY'S YOUTH CAN GROW  
INTO TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

**264,**  
**167**  
MEALS

# OUR SUCCESSES



## SUMMER FEEDING

With record K-12 enrollment, it's heartwarming how many people are willing to dedicate their time, car, and gas to ensure that food arrives at youth doorsteps for Summer Pack distribution.

These efforts are also simplified and supported by our partnership with Bolton and Menk and the City of Mankato, who create seamless delivery maps for our volunteer drivers.

In addition, our STOMP volunteers distribute fresh meals at designated food deserts five days a week all summer long.

Over the summer, we served over 3,200 youth with over 300 community volunteers.

*Reflection from Tiffaney & Jill, Programming Team*

## ENROLLMENT RISES

With the rising costs of basic needs across our country, families continue to feel the tension of making daily trade-offs: Medicine or Meals, Gas or Groceries, Housing or Hunger.

FOCP sees this firsthand as enrollment climbs each school year. Families are grateful for the extra support our generous communities collectively provide for youth.



## HUNGER HEROES

FOCP relies heavily on volunteer support throughout the year for a multitude of tasks. Check out the stats from the 2022-23 fiscal year!

### Volunteer Highlights:

- 1074 Volunteers, 3,442 Hours

### Intern Highlights:

- 15 Interns, 375 Hours



## WINTER FUELING

Our partnerships allow us to maximize our food purchase power to help over 1,000 area K-12 students over the long winter breaks.

We are very fortunate to have annual monetary matching funds from CHS and Nicollet Lions Club to encourage local giving during the important end of the calendar year.

High food prices and tight budgets force families to make tough trade-offs, and over the holidays, our winter break food boxes allow for families to focus on what matters most - being a family.

Providing healthy food to developing youth empowers them with happiness and comfort, allowing them to just be kids.

*Reflection from Lori Wollmuth, Community Relations Manager*

JULY

SEPT

DEC



MARCH

MAY

JUNE

## SPRING BREAK

**When school is out, FOCP is in!**

Extended school breaks are a great time for kids to play and relax, not worry about where their next meal comes from.

FOCP helps relieve stress during extended school breaks such as MEA, Fall, and Spring Break. Larger bags of food are packed in-house at FOCP to account for the extra days over the breaks.

One parent shared that there is confidence and security in knowing that there will be enough food during the break. School breaks are when students should be excited, not filled with dread.

*Reflection from Layne Boswell,  
Program Manager*



## SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

As the school year ends, our work continues to ramp up. Besides the gigantic efforts of summer feeding, we also begin preparing for our second-largest fundraiser, Beer, Brats & Bourbon.

At FOCP our volunteer base is large and plentiful, but donations are pivotal. Our partnerships with food suppliers allow us to stretch donor dollars further.

Our 3 annual fundraisers: Climb 2 Feed Kids, Beer, Brats & Bourbon, and Cirque du Crave raise the majority of our yearly food expenses, allowing us to feed thousands of area students.

Our fundraisers also allow us to connect with our community and raise awareness of youth hunger.

*Reflection by Holly & BriAnna,  
Marketing & Communications Team*

## SUMMER FUELING

Traditionally, our winter break enrollment was the highest, but now, with more gaps in food access, our summer enrollment is the highest it has ever been.

During the summer months children are spending a lot more time at home. The food we provide is child-friendly and easy for youth to prepare on their own.

Summer Pack helps support the transition for students from school year to summer, and they can rely on us year-round.

Our annual direct mail campaign provides crucial funds right around this time to support these important summer services.

*Reflection from Sheri Sander-Silva,  
Executive Director*





**“IT STARTED WITH OUR  
COMPANY LOOKING TO  
BE A PART OF SOMETHING  
IN OUR COMMUNITY  
THAT MADE A REAL  
DIFFERENCE. IT QUICKLY  
BECAME APPARENT THAT  
FOCP MAKES THAT REAL  
DIFFERENCE.”**

Doug Fahrforth  
Blue Star Power Systems, Inc. -  
Hunger Hero Team Member



# OUR COMMUNITIES ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE GROWING INTO THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES, REGARDLESS OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

With the rising costs of basic needs across our country, families continue to feel the tension of making daily trade-offs.

Matt Desmond, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, shares, “There are kids all over this country who aren’t eating...because the rent eats first.”

At FOCF, we know this to be true. Our participant families report that the **top three hardships faced are the cost of housing and utilities, low wages, and medical expenses.**

*According to the US Census Bureau, 22.3% of Mankato’s population lives in poverty, and Mankato is just one of six regions served by FOCF.*

**The need is great, and the need is growing.** Our simple enrollment ensures there are no barriers between youth and adequate nutrition.

**FOCF seamlessly provides services year-round to thousands of local students.** Some youth rely

heavily on school meals, knowing that food may be dwindling or low at home. **FOCF helps fill weekend and school break feeding gaps to help empower youth and lighten the load for families.**

These feeding efforts remain **community-founded and community-funded, with no federal or state funding.**

Our gracious communities ensure that students are growing into the best versions of themselves, regardless of current circumstances.

Research shows that students who receive adequate food during out-of-school hours show up ready to learn on Monday. They also exhibit better behaviors and performance in school and as well as at home.

A local teacher shares, “**I love that students can receive the food pack for the weekend so they don’t have to worry about what they’re going to eat before they get back to school. It provides them with more energy and less stress & worry.**”

## NUTRITION WITH FOCF

PARENTS REPORT FOOD PACKS HELP THEM WORRY LESS ABOUT WEEKEND FOOD FOR THEIR CHILDREN **94%**

PARENTS REPORT THAT ADULTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD ARE PART TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYED **92%**

PARENTS REPORT EARNING LESS THAN \$40,000 A YEAR WHILE BEING PART TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYED **65%**


PARENTS REPORT IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENTS’ ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE, ENERGY LEVEL, AND MORE **86%**

PARENTS REPORT THEIR CHILDREN UTILIZE FOCF FOOD PROGRAMS YEAR-ROUND **63%**

PARENTS REPORT THEIR CHILDREN UTILIZE FOCF FOOD PROGRAMS ONLY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR **36%**

**“WITH THE COST OF EVERYTHING GOING UP IT GETS HARD TO PAY FOR GROCERIES. FOCF FOOD PROGRAMS FILL THE GAPS AND IT’S SUCH A RELIEF.”**

PARENT OF ENROLLED STUDENT

A photograph of two men sitting at a table outdoors, likely at a community meal. The man on the left is older with grey hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with the text "DON'T GO TO SCHOOL SPONSORED BY". The man on the right is younger, wearing a colorful floral shirt and sunglasses on his head, holding a bottle of St. Peter's brandy. They are both smiling. In the background, other people are seated at tables, and the setting appears to be a community center or church event.

**“WE SUPPORT FOCPC BECAUSE  
WE WANT TO SEE THE  
FUTURE LEADERS OF OUR  
COMMUNITIES GET EXACTLY  
WHAT THEY NEED: FUEL FOR  
THEIR BODIES, HEARTS AND  
MINDS. WE WANT THEM TO  
BE CARED FOR, EVEN IF IT’S  
JUST A MEAL OR SNACK.”**

Adam Finney  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Vernon Center



# ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

## JANUARY



## CLIMB 2 FEED KIDS

"WE LOVE GETTING INVOLVED WITH FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS BECAUSE WE KNOW FIRST HAND HOW MUCH THEIR SERVICES HELP FAMILIES. GROWING UP, MY FAMILY UTILIZED FOCF TO HAVE FOOD THROUGH THE WEEKEND. NOW THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO GIVE BACK, IT MEANS A LOT TO US TO SUPPORT SOMETHING SO IMPACTFUL TO OUR COMMUNITY."

CLAY & KRISTI UDDLEY, EVENT PARTICIPANTS

A winter fundraiser for all ages! This peer-to-peer fundraiser brings the community together for summits and plummets at Mount Kato. C2FK is FOCF's largest fundraiser and had a charitable impact of over \$95,900 with 320 climbers participating! Climb 2 Feed Kids is FOCF's oldest and largest fundraiser and has been going strong since 2014.

## JUNE



## BEER, BRATS & BOURBON

"TO THINK THAT A CHILD MAY NOT PERFORM AS WELL AT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF A LACK OF NUTRITION IS UNACCEPTABLE. THAT'S WHY WE CONTRIBUTE OUR TIME TO EVENTS LIKE BEER, BRATS & BOURBON. THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION CAN SOMETIMES BE HEAVY, BUT BBB IS A PRIME OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH THE TOPIC IN A FUN ATMOSPHERE WHILE USING THE MOMENT TO EDUCATE."

TJ PALESOTTI, EVENT SUPPORTER & ATTENDEE

The name says it all: Beer, Brats and Bourbon. This laid-back summer festival raises funds to support feeding area youth. These funds are crucial for funding our summer feeding efforts. Over 400 attendees helped raise more than \$71,000 to end youth hunger! Feeding Our Communities Partners has hosted Beer, Brats and Bourbon since 2017.

## OCTOBER



## CIRQUE DU CRAVE

"I KNOW CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITIES DO NOT HAVE CONSISTENT ACCESS TO FOOD. MANY ARE GOING HUNGRY AND WORRY ABOUT WHEN THEIR NEXT MEAL WILL BE. I SUPPORT FOCF BECAUSE THEY WORK TIRELESSLY TO FILL THE FOOD GAPS AND KEEP OUR KIDS FED SO THEY CAN LEARN, PLAY AND GROW UP STRONG AND HEALTHY."

CORALYN MUSSER, EVENT ATTENDEE

An evening of dazzling cuisine and mystical performances under the big top! Cirque du Crave is a unique experience that makes a lasting impact. But besides all the fun and games, this event raised over \$54,600 with 300 circus-goers in attendance! Cirque du Crave has been hosted by Feeding Our Communities Partners since 2018.

# NOURISHING CHILDREN

50,000 +

20,000 +



10,000 +



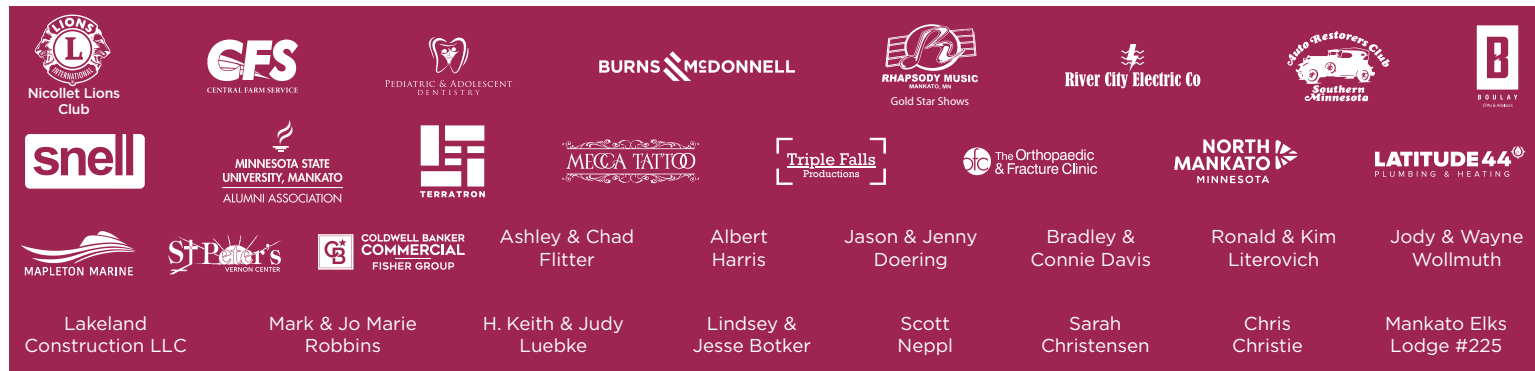
5,000 +



2,500 +



1,500 +





# EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

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Rachel Worley  
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In Memory of Don & Darleen Baumberger  
In Memory of Roger Saman  
In Honor of Dr. Clarke Slovik  
In Memory of Vera Holzapfel  
In Memory of Jack Christensen  
In Memory of Gary Nickels  
Happy Birthday Nancy Bruce  
In Honor of Sheri Folsom-Meek  
In Memory of Carol Orcutt

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Navitor  
The Free Press  
MNSU - Campus Kitchen  
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Triple Falls Productions  
DeGrood's Appliance

SCAN QR CODE TO  
VIEW ALL PARTNERS



*Gifts recognized in this report were received 7-1-2022 through 6-30-2023.  
For corrections contact us at  
[focp.admin@feedingandfueling.org](mailto:focp.admin@feedingandfueling.org)*



## MEET OUR TEAM

*Pictured left to right*

Layne Boswell, *Program Coordinator*  
 Rob Cornelius, *Director of Operations*  
 Melissa Trent, *Program Manager*  
 BriAnna Dols, *Marketing & Design Manager*  
 Sheri Sander-Silva, *Executive Director*  
 Holly Dodge, *Communications Coordinator*  
 Lori Wollmuth, *Community Relations Manager*

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[WWW.FEEDINGANDFUELING.ORG](http://WWW.FEEDINGANDFUELING.ORG)



2120 Howard Drive West, Suite J  
 North Mankato, MN 56003

**FOCP HAS A MISSION TO ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY  
 IN SOLVING YOUTH HUNGER**

FOCP is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization  
 Federal EIN: 27-2374187

**“I HAVE YOUNG KIDS, AND I  
 SEE FIRST-HAND THAT WHEN  
 THEY ARE FULL, THEY ARE  
 HAPPIER, MORE ENERGETIC,  
 AND READY TO TACKLE THEIR  
 DAY. EVERY CHILD IN OUR  
 COMMUNITY DESERVES THAT  
 RELIABLE FOOD SOURCE SO  
 THEY CAN BE PREPARED TO  
 SUCCEED.”**

Jared Koch  
 FOCP Board Member



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