



P.O. Box 909 - Buffalo, WY 82834

2020 Annual Report

The Bread of Life Food Pantry served 7,900 individuals with weekly food service in addition to providing Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas dinners to 160 families each Holiday.

The support from our community and organizations within Wyoming amazed and humbled the Board of Directors. With God's blessing grants, fund drives, and individual donations equaled over \$186,000 in revenue.

Key Events:

- Changes to Board of Directors: There were numerous changes to the Board of Directors as 3 long standing members retired at the end of January. In January, Chuck Rinn was added to the Board. In February, Kelly Norris became Chair, Kari Kinder-Hanson started her term as Vice-Chair, and Wes Killian started his service as Treasurer. Jean Vignaroli took over as Secretary in April. The Board added a Summit Church member representative, DJ Puente and a YMCA representative, Alaina Griffith in August. Lastly, with Lisa Wagner stepping down, Brad Turley, Big Horn Baptist Church was added to the Board in October.
- COVID-19: As the unknown coronavirus started to influence daily life in Johnson County, the Pantry adapted, over came challenges, and stayed open. A Best Management Practices Plan was established for the Pantry and approved by the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming and Johnson County Public Health. An Operational Phasing plan, which included three phases, was also created as the Pantry closed the noon hour and released all its volunteers. The Pantry operated three days a week for two hours, with Board members, YMCA staff, and Johnson County School District staff helping implement a drive-thru ordering system. Starting in mid-September, the Pantry reopened the noon hour after retraining all volunteers with new COVID-19 Best Management Practices.
- Hygiene Items Added to Inventory: From April through August, the Community Resource Center of Johnson County purchased and delivered much needed hygiene products to the Pantry for dispersal. Laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, and feminine products were much welcomed additions to the Pantry's inventory. When grant funding had been spent, the Board evaluated the Pantry's budget and approved the continuation of these items to be dispersed within the Pantry.
- Addition of Buffalo Churches: This fall we welcomed Big Horn Baptist Church and Grace Fellowship to our family of Churches who help during our operational times. Adding both churches helped increase and stabilize our volunteer help.
- New Sign: This spring we were blessed with the installation of a new sign that helps direct people to where the pantry is located. The beautiful sign was created by our own Board Member Wes Killian.
- Holiday Dinners: Before COVID-19 was a daily topic of conversation, the Board decided to provide 160 Easter dinners for the first time ever. Meals were to be shopped for at DJs Grocery, just like the Thanksgiving dinner program, but due to shortage concerns, the Pantry provided the Easter dinners at the Pantry. All holiday meals were successfully given out through the Pantry this year, which took a good deal of coordination between our volunteers and stockers.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors, Kari Kinder-Hanson, Wes Killian, Father Doug Wasinger, Sid Parker, Rick Brus, Lynne Turner, Jean Vignaroli, Chuck Rinn, Brad Turley, Alaina Griffith, and DJ Puente for all their efforts and time given this year. I would like to thank our community for all of your support and prayers.

Kelly Norris, Chair BLFP

In 2021, the Bread of Life Food Pantry served **4,500 individuals** with weekly food service in Johnson County.

The support from our community and organizations within Wyoming amazed and humbled the Board of Directors. With God's blessing, fund drives, CARES Act funding allocated to us via Johnson County, and individual private donors, donations equaled over \$219,000, with an additional \$150,000 given by the Wyoming Episcopal Diocese for the construction of our building addition.

2021 Key Events: St. Luke's Episcopal Church funded & approved the design of new Volunteer T-shirts. These new shirts help those who come for services better identify our volunteers during operational hours or at Food Pantry events.



Photo Credit: Jessi Dodge/Bufalo Bulletin

On June 1st, with a grant funded by the Wyoming State Forestry Division, Bread of Life Food Pantry joined with the Boys & Girls Club of the Bighorns, Johnson County School District, Johnson County Commissioners, Clear Creek Conservation District, Powder River Conservation District, Town & Country Buffalo Garden Club, Wyoming State Forestry, Heartland Tree Care, Tree Mechanics, J&L Sons Logging, Wyoming Hunger Initiative, & the Governor & First Lady of Wyoming to establish Buffalo's Community Orchard, which is located on Johnson County School District land, adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club on West Lott St.



With the help of the Buffalo High School Cross Country team, National Honors Society, FFA members, Seasonal Services, & J&L Sons Logging, BLFP moved our operations to & from Bomber Mountain Civic Center (June – September) while our building was under construction.



At the end of June, Bread of Life Food Pantry honored retired Board Members Pam McFadden, Johnnie Pond, Jo Ann McKenzie, & Lisa Wagner at a picnic with Board members & their families.



In partnership with Buffalo's cross-country running program, Bread of Life Food Pantry helped to host a very successful Zombie Run! The community event had over 20 local business sponsors & brought in over \$7,500 in funds that was split between the two organizations.



This summer BLFP transitioned to a computerized management system. The computer & software was funded by a Wyoming Hunger Initiative grant.

A 24 ft X 24 ft addition was built onto the original Food Pantry this summer, with improvements for additional disabled parking. Construction was completed by Alpine Construction & funded through a Wyoming Episcopal Diocese grant. Additional improvements were made to the Pantry such as new paint, & new refrigerators & freezers that were funded by a CARES Act grant.

Two new desks were built by Board Member Wes Killian & a new bench was made & donated by Paul Mumm.



Pictured: Buffalo Board of Realtors Easter Food Drive & Easter meals being picked up to be taken to families in Kaycee.

Bread of Life Food Pantry was able to provide Easter, Thanksgiving, & Christmas holiday meals to 130 families in Johnson County, thanks to financial & food donations given to us by our generous community.

In November, Bread of Life Food Pantry started a new Birthday Coupon program for kids 18 years & younger. The month of the child's birthday, each receive a coupon to be redeemed at either local grocery store. The coupon is for cake mix, frosting, & ice cream. For \$10, a donor can make a child's birthday a bit sweeter!



Thank you to our Board of Directors: Kelly Norris, Kari Kinder-Hanson, Wes Killian, Father Doug Wasinger, Sid Parker, Rick Brus, Lynne Turner, Jean Vignaroli, Chuck Rinn, Brad Turley, Alaina Griffith, DJ Puente, & John Vaselin for all their efforts and time given this year!

Thank you to generous community members, organizations, & businesses for your continued support & prayers!