

# April 2014 eNewsletter

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Fighting hunger, feeding hope.



THC New sletter  
APRIL 2014

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\*NAME|\*

The Hunger Coalition continues to break records with the number of families we are serving each week. Last week we reached an all-time high of 120 families, nearly 300 individuals, at our three distributions!

Due to a decrease in fresh food donations, we have been forced to purchase more food than ever before. The below graph demonstrates how important your donations are. Click on the graph for more info.

In March, the number of food boxes we distributed nearly doubled from last year. The news is alarming, but with your help, we are up for the



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challenge to ensure all are fed well and respectfully.

Warm Regards,  
Jeanne Liston, Executive Director

### HOPE GARDEN SEASON IS HERE!



Spring has sprung! Our loyal [Hope Garden](#) team is sewing seeds and plotting an abundant growing season. With hearty vegetables, sweet berries and savory herbs in the forecast, we invite you to [join our volunteer family](#) and get your hands dirty in The Hope Garden!

**Spring volunteer schedule:**  
Mondays and Thursdays,  
6-7:30pm at The Hope Garden.  
Please contact [Monica](#) at 788-0121 for more details. All are welcome!



All food harvested in the garden goes directly to THC food recipients.

### [2014 Hope Garden Wish List](#)

- Electronic herb scale (found at Atkinsons')
- Potting table for greenhouse
- Soil probe for testing
- Click [here](#) for more!

### SNACK PACK PROGRAM'S TROUBLING INCREASE



As our organization continues the [unfortunate trend of breaking records](#), we enjoy recognizing our partners who allow us to meet the tremendous need for many children in Blaine County.

Since 2008, The Hunger Coalition has delivered Friday backpacks of food to students who have been identified as having an insufficient supply of food to get them through the weekends and long school days. "I hope for [less crying because of a lack of food](#)," a new parent explained when applying for the [Snack Pack Program](#).



### AND THE WINNER IS...

This year's Spring Corporate Food Drive brought in a total of 1,833 meals for our friends and neighbors!

Congratulations to Sun Valley Company with a collection of 242 pounds and \$560 in cash donations!



A dedicated staff, led by Human Resource Administrator Paula Rath, allowed them to hold onto their title and the coveted Golden Can Award for a second year in a row!

Marketron was a close second with 206 pounds and \$500 in cash donations!



Additional participants: Idaho Mountain Express, St. Lukes Wood River Medical Center and

We have experienced a shocking spike in numbers, doubling our distribution from last year and **breaking an all time record** for this program to date, with 176 children weekly.

The **highest increase has been at the Wood River Middle School**, tripling since last year. This has placed a tremendous workload for a few dedicated middle school staff members led by school social worker, Tod Gunter, to ensure **each child receives their food in a confidential and respectful manner**.

We give three cheers to the tremendous efforts of Tod Gunter, Dot Weller, Holly Coiner and Stani Malmgren! **THANK YOU**

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### COOKING MATTERS

We are wrapping up another successful Cooking Matters series this month, sending individuals into their kitchens with a new skill set. "I could never get my kids to eat fruits and vegetables. I learned different ways to prepare them and now my kids eat them." - Cooking Matters Graduate



Cooking Matters is in partnership with the Idaho Foodbank and No Kid Hungry campaign through Share Our Strength. This valuable 6 week cooking series teaches participants to shop smarter and use nutrition information to make healthy choices when cooking delicious meals with their family while on a budget. The Hunger Coalition hosts this series 2-3 times per year and our clients love it!

"My favorite part about the class is now my daughter and I cook together." -Cooking Matters Graduate

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### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Make an impact! The Hunger Coalition is looking for **volunteers** to distribute food to families in need **every Monday afternoon in Bellevue**.



We also need volunteers to do a **weekly food pick up** at a local grocery store and deliver it to our Bellevue warehouse.

Contact **Monica** at 788-0121 if you're interested

in either of these volunteer opportunities and want to make a difference!

POWER Engineers

Thanks to all for participating!

THANK YOU!



We are tremendously grateful to the Gladys E. Langroise Advised Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation for providing a \$5,000 grant to feed children this summer through our Sack Lunch program.

We truly appreciate your generosity!

### IDAHO GIVES

Mark your calendars! You can help us meet our goal of \$5,000 to provide healthy meals to children this summer.



Idaho Gives is a statewide, 24 hour giving day that takes place online. In 2013, Idaho Gives was

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## VACCINATION CLINIC

In further support of the [Animal Shelter](#), we hosted a free vaccination clinic for our clients at our Bellevue office last month.

41 animals were greeted by volunteers and given vaccinations, tags and collars. As a result of the clinic, the Shelter was able to sign up 6 animals to be spayed or neutered. **Success!**



launched by Idaho Nonprofit Center as an avenue for nonprofits to reach new donors. In its inaugural year, 541 nonprofits raised \$578,735!

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## THE HUNGER COALITION

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