



Fighting hunger, feeding hope.



THC Newsletter  
October 2017

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Dear <<First Name>>,



There's an uncomfortable fact of life in our community: **slack season is debilitating our working class.** After a summer of empowering food support programs and shared abundance, **the harsh reality of slack season has surfaced in our food bank lines.**

From the beginning of September to the end, **we saw a 48% increase in people needing food.** These are local construction workers, landscapers, child care workers, and hospitality professionals - **people you rely on who also need your support** this season. As we enter a challenging time of year for our neighbors, the generosity and hope of those committed to the cause help keep us moving forward.

There are several opportunities to help. **Your gifts** are invested in food and support programs

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to provide immediate relief for struggling families. Volunteers walk through our food bank lines, distribute holiday meals, rescue food from local grocers, and bring meals and snacks to hungry children. Local groups and organizations facilitate [food drives](#) to help fill our shelves. You too can advance this humbling community effort to ensure no one in Blaine County goes hungry.

Thank you to everyone who continues to help support this critical mission.

With Gratitude,

Jeanne Liston, executive director

FROM THE FIELD



photo by Judy Cahill

As the days cool down, we reflect on an amazing growing season. This season, our community harvested over 7,500 pounds of fresh fruits and veggies (and counting!) from [Bloom Community Farm](#) and [The Hope Garden](#). To think, this time last year, we were excited to report a respectable 1,300 pounds of harvest.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this remarkable growth possible. To the many volunteers, including 224 [Volunteer for Veggies](#) participants, partners, donors, and staff who joined together around good food and, as a result, strengthened our community.

BLOOM YOUTH PROJECT



LOCAL SUPPORT



Thanks to the following for your support in September!

Grants

[St. Luke's Wood River Foundation](#)  
\$8,900  
towards Nutrition Education

[Spur Community Foundation](#)  
\$10,000  
2017 Award of Excellence for outstanding leadership and service to the community

In-Kind Gifts

[Perkins Coie LLP](#)

[Sotheby's International Realty](#)

[The Papoose Club](#)

[Food Ovation Exchange](#)

[Elephant's Perch](#)

[Black Owl Coffee](#)



It seems like only yesterday [Bloom Youth Project](#) interns first set foot on [Bloom Community Farm](#), a little green, not knowing exactly what to expect. Six months later, they've far exceeded our expectations.

Megan Schooley, Bloom Youth program director said, "The interns have really impressed us. There's so much to be proud of. They've all come forward with a real skill set, compassion, leadership and professionalism."

As their internship winds to a close, Bloom Youth have been drafting future dreams and considering their next direction. When asked what he would want to learn from a future career, potentially in teaching, Matt said, "Anything and everything! I love learning and am constantly pushing myself to experience and educate - because even teaching is a learning experience."



photos by Judy Cahill & Charlotta Harris

## THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Do you need assistance with food for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner? Sign up for a Hunger Coalition Thanksgiving Basket.

We'll provide you with a turkey and all the fixins' for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Application Deadline is November 9.

[Click here to apply online.](#)





This fall, our all-star team of Bloom Youth interns launched Bloom Food Truck and Library with The Community Library so working families can purchase discounted produce and scratch-made meals at Balmoral Playfield in Woodside every Thursday.

The rotating weekly menu has included posole, veggie curry, veggie chili, and ratatouille all using harvest fresh ingredients from The Hope Garden and Bloom Community Farm. It's also been a great opportunity to put Bloom Truck back to work in a new capacity after an eventful Summer Food Program. The opportunity to check out books alongside meals and fresh produce has been a big hit!



WE'RE HIRING!

ON WHAT A NIGHT



Last month, we invited the community to celebrate all of the progress made possible through community support and honor the remarkable growth of Bloom Youth Project interns.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. It was an evening to remember! Check out photos from the evening here.

photos by Judy Cahill & Charlotta Harris

BACKPACKS AND DAILY BITES



Our Backpack and Daily Bites Programs are in full swing now that school is back in session. The Backpack Program provides backpacks full of nutritious meals for children to take home and Daily Bites are pantries of healthy snacks that children in need can access



Are you or someone you know looking for a rewarding career with an awesome team? We are hiring a [Client Resource and Education Coordinator](#) to help build a thriving community. This is a multi-faceted position that requires professional office and bilingual communication skills as well as the ability to handle the physical elements of being in the field conducting outreach and education throughout Blaine County. [Must be fluent in Spanish and English](#) and work well with people from a variety of backgrounds. [Click here for a full job description and application details.](#)

[The Hunger Coalition](#) is a flexible, fast-paced workplace with a dynamic team and unique benefits.

Thank you to Frances and [St. Luke's Center for Community Health](#) who have been partnering with us to fulfill this role in the interim, helping improve the lives of our neighbors and bridge food and health support services.

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**PARTNER'S CORNER: KRAAY'S MARKET AND GARDEN**



This month, we celebrate our new partnership with

Generous funding for our Children's Food Programs make these essential programs possible. Thank you to everyone who has invested in the well-being of our children.

**GLEANING WITH MEANING**



Over 50 homeowners from Blaine County and surrounding areas have donated their fruit tree harvest, many with the help of our talented volunteers. Although we have had several amazing volunteers help with our [Gleaning Program](#), including Kim and Robert Neill, Bret Hall, Andrea Ruiz, Bekka Mongeau, Wendy Schoessler and Jackie Padilla, [The Sage School](#) has been a key partner in making this program run more smoothly than ever by expanding their reach to Bellevue neighborhoods. The students have collected 855 pounds and counting!

Kraay's, a local farm in Bellevue, offers high quality, organically grown produce and specialty items to customers throughout the Wood River Valley. Thanks to a generous donor whose goal is to support local farmers while feeding the hungry, we can fill the shelves of our food bank with fresh, local produce even in the winter months. Kraay's is also committed to providing us the best prices possible so we can share their fruitful bounty with families in need. We are grateful for the partnership between donors and farmers that gives everyone access to the healthy food they deserve.



photo by Judy Cahill

Thank you to Boulder Mountain Clayworks for hosting another wonderful Bowl-A-Thon, where the community came out to make beautiful bowls to be sold at our Empty Bowls event January 14, 2018.

In the meantime, schedule your book club or service organization for an Empty Bowls event at BMC this fall, from Oct 10 - Dec 10.



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