



**2015-2016**

**Community Impact Statement**  
*celebrating 110 years of service*

Since 1906, Family Service has believed that a better life is possible for our neighbors in need. Our mission is to prevent hunger, homelessness and alleviate poverty in Yellowstone County through community involvement. We achieve this by helping struggling families with a toolbox of essentials for stability: food, clothing, rent or utilities assistance, education and more.

Generous donors and volunteers are vital partners in our work, compassionately providing hope, dignity, and respect to our neighbors in need.

**Programs to Meet Basic Needs: FY 2015-2016**

- **Food Distribution** : approx. 1.3 million pounds distributed to more than 9,100 households & through our **Community Food Room** where 15 other organizations and 33,800+ families received excess food products
- **Clothing Distribution** at no/low cost (\$0.00-\$0.50/piece): 76,560 items
- **Rent or Utility Assistance** to keep people in their homes or start housing again: \$ 70,748
- **Education Funding** to improve employment opportunities : \$7,442 – 30+ participants
- **Other:** Back to School, Holiday, Adopt-a-Family, birthday books & vision care assistance

**Who do we serve?**

- Total Yellowstone County families served in fiscal year 2015-16: **9,518** families
  - Working families: **30.6%**
  - Clients living with disability: **28.5%**
  - Children served in FY 2015-16: **7,361**
  - Elderly clients: **34.3%**
  - Single mom with children: **17.4%**
  - Total number in client families: **22,575**

**Funding— 100% private funding: donations, private grants, corporate sponsorship and food**

- Amazing value of food donations via Fresh Grocery Rescue from Albertsons, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Costco, Target, Lucky's Market, Sysco, Franz Bakery & others= **\$2,072,800** per Feeding America guidelines

**Needs Analysis**

Housing status—80%+ live in unstable circumstances

- 73% in Rentals or trailers with lot rental
  - 18% buying/own home
  - 15% in retirement/subsidized senior apts
  - 8% other: motels, couch-surfing, homeless
- 34% of Family Service clients live with more than one family unit in a single family home*

Why do they come in for help?

- 24% live below \$12,000 gross/yr
- 68% live below \$24,000 gross/yr
- 87% work at least one job or live on Soc. Security, disability or survivor income
- Emergencies or personal or work related crisis often push families beyond their resources



# Feed, Furnish, Fortify

your gifts make a difference!

## Personal Impacts

**Success and stability are just ahead!** Education for Better Employment creates real change for those who are ready. John worked in sales for years, living on the whim of the economy and the hours he was assigned. After many years of hand to mouth existence, he decided to make a change. Knowing of Family Service through our food box program, he asked us to help him go back to school to get his paralegal certificate. Over 2 years later, with lots of dedication and sacrifice, he achieved his goal and is now at a new job, allowing him to gain experience and achieve a better life **through your important support!**

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**When you are really trying to do it right!** Maria came to Family Service, needing a food box for her family of 4. She was trying to adjust after leaving an abusive relationship. She had a new job and her 3 children at home needed food. During her intake meeting, she mentioned that she needed another pair of black pants to wear to work, and if possible, could we help with some shoes, because her feet really hurt at the end of her 8-hour shift. When we realized that the broken down cotton slippers she had on were the culprits, it was easily remedied. Maria left with a generous 100+ lb. food box, 2 pairs of black pants, 3 black shirts and a supportive, correctly sized pair of shoes. She was moving ahead, doing it right and, **because of you**, we were able to help.

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**Living on a wish and a prayer!** Our senior food box delivery program reaches seniors who often live on less than most of us spend on our monthly technology bills. **With your generous donations**, Family Service was able to add another subsidized senior living location. During our initial intake appointment, we met several senior ladies whose income is less than \$490/month. One woman shared that she no longer buys tea or coffee; it is too great a luxury. Another told us that she regularly makes a can of soup last over several meals, because the cost of her insurance pharmacy co-pays forces a decision between food and medicine. One woman cried when realizing food would be delivered just for her...she felt humiliated having to ask for help from her neighbors so often.

**A true privilege--providing food, rent, utilities, clothing and much more for those whose lives overwhelm and exhaust, promoting dignity & hope!**

**Thank you to our wonderful donors and friends!**