



2017-2018 Community Impact Statement

Since 1906, Family Service has been here—helping our neighbors in need. Our mission is to prevent hunger, homelessness and poverty in Yellowstone County and surrounding areas through community involvement. We

achieve this by helping struggling families with a toolbox of essentials for stability: food, clothing, rent or utilities assistance, help with additional education and more.

Generous donors and volunteers are vital partners in our work for 112 years, compassionately providing hope, dignity, and respect to those who are struggling.

Building Campaign:

After client services, the most important new effort in FY 2017-18 was our Building Campaign. After more than 10 years of research and 31 years in our current facility, we found a property that will become our “forever” home. Through the generosity of many in our community, Family Service purchased a property with 2 warehouse buildings and 2.4 acres in June 2018. This campaign will raise \$5.1 million to fund the property purchase, remodeling & renovation. We expect to move into the new space in the second quarter of 2019 and thank the generous donors who are making it happen!

Programs to Meet Basic Needs: FY 2017-2018

- **Food Distribution:** approx. **1.9 million pounds** distributed to **11,236** households in bountiful and sustaining food boxes & through our *Community Food Room* where **24 other** organizations and 33,800 households received excess food products. *Senior/Shut-in Food Box Delivery:* Food boxes delivered to homes once/ month: **3,914**
- **Senior Commodity Food Program:** A new program this year at Family Service, we started in October 2017 and **3,451 seniors** received commodity food bags.
- Total food households/people: **14,687 households** with **27,128 people** in FY 2017-18
- Clothing Distribution: no/low cost (0-50¢/piece) items distributed = **84,068**
- Rent or Utility Assistance to keep people in their homes with the utilities on or provide deposit assistance to start **housing again: \$69,593 to 378 households with 1,052 people**
- **Education** for Better Employment: funding to improve employment opportunities, moving people to longer term self-sufficiency **\$11,594 – 34 participants**
- **Other:** Back to School, Holiday, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas and Vision care assistance

Who do we serve?

- Total Yellowstone County families served in fiscal year 2017-18: **15,212 households**
 - Working families: **24.0%**
 - Families living w/disability: **18%**
 - Children served in FY2017-18: **7,108**
 - Elderly clients: **50%**
 - Single mom with children: **18%**
 - Total number in households: **28,224**

Funding—Funding is achieved through donations, private grants, thrift store, corporate sponsorship, food donations and our new senior commodity program pays a small state stipend.



Feed, Furnish, Fortify

Your gifts make a difference!

Personal Impacts

Sometimes people are hurting! Family Service sees and hears situations that surprise us. A young professional came to us seeking food and we were so surprised! He had been out of work for about 4 months and given his level of college debt, could not afford to pay bills and feed himself and his young family. College debt is not the usual story that we hear as the obstacle for our families, but it was certainly a large part of his situation. This young couple needed a short-term hand up to get over a hump that they NEVER thought they would encounter. It was a tough ask for him, indeed; and **because of your generosity**, we were here to lift them up for a few months, until all the pieces formed a whole again!

With injury comes hardship! A fun game of softball yielded unexpected results—no one ever expects this kind of accident will happen to them! Joe came into Family Service with his 2 preschool age children to get help so that he could avoid eviction. He was playing on a softball team and a wild throw caught him in the face, broke a number of bones and caused a significant concussion. Because of his brain injury, he was off work for months, which was devastating to his family. No paycheck also meant no rent money, so he was facing eviction. **Thanks to generous donors like you**, Joe got the help needed and left Family Service very relieved, with a bountiful food box and notice to his landlord that he could catch up on rent. Since he was back at his job, future rent was more assured and he was “back in the game!”

New Program! In October of 2017, Family Service assumed the responsibility for the Senior Supplemental Commodity Food Program, which allows senior citizens whose annual income is less than 130% of federal poverty guidelines to receive specially selected food options to help them have enough to eat. This is a huge undertaking and we are privileged to provide this new outreach to seniors. In the first 7 months of the program, over 3,450 senior households received this wonderful option—and more seniors are qualifying every month, with a longer-term goal of 2,000. This is possible only because you care enough to help! Thank you!

*A true privilege--providing **food, rent, utilities, clothing and much more** for those whose options are few, allowing them to be lifted to **stability!***

Thank you to our wonderful donors and friends!