MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Indy Hunger Network partners, volunteers, supporters, and friends,

When 2020 began, the board and staff of Indy Hunger Network (IHN) were ready to start the year, focused on launching new initiatives and expanding successful programming. In February, we launched Community Compass, a multi-platform technology tool to connect people to food assistance resources in Marion County, in partnership with the City of Indianapolis’ Office of Public Health and Safety and Mayor Hogsett. Just weeks later, everything changed when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in our city. IHN staff began working from home, had to put some programs on hold, and started working on other projects to assist our hunger relief partners and our community with immediate needs.

Our staff showed dedication and flexibility in taking on new tasks at a moment’s notice. Second Helpings opened a satellite kitchen program to prepare more meals and requested help with coordinating that effort. We reassigned an IHN AmeriCorps VISTA member to work with Second Helpings from March-June to meet that need. We received repeated pleas for help from community members who were unable to leave their homes and in desperate need of food. In response, we partnered with Gleaners Food Bank and Nine13 Sports on a brand new home delivery program that brings Gleaners pantry boxes to Marion County residents’ front doors. A few weeks later, Second Helpings joined the effort, giving homebound community members the option to receive prepared meals, rather than groceries, if they are unable to cook. IHN’s staff is leading the call center for home delivery, receiving all requests by phone and text and preparing data for the delivery team. To date, we have answered over 30,000 calls and set up home delivery for over 24,000 households. We are in the process of transitioning the call center to Gleaners staff to manage long term.

Since March 2020, IHN has been leading regular calls with hunger relief partners across the state, including key staff at the Family and Social Services Administration, Indiana State Department of Health, the National Guard, the City of Indianapolis, Feeding Indiana’s Hungry, No Kid Hungry, food banks across the state, and local Marion County hunger relief organizations. This coordination has allowed us to respond quickly to the rapid increase in need for food and to ensure that we are all pulling together, rather than working in silos or duplicating efforts. Through these phone calls, we’ve been able to keep up-to-speed on changes in federal nutrition programs, CARES Act funding, and food supply chain issues. The calls have also facilitated sharing of resources, including truckloads of produce, sources for hand sanitizer and masks, temporary staffing resources, funding sources, and ideas for recruiting volunteers during a pandemic.

These examples of true collaboration have highlighted the importance of an organization like Indy Hunger Network. Our mission is to ensure that everyone who is hungry can access the nutritious food they need. We accomplish that by bringing together the partners working tirelessly to feed our community and supporting them in their work, through collaborative projects and advocacy to help us all meet our goal of bringing an end to food insecurity in the Greater Indianapolis area. We are grateful to you for all the ways you’ve been a part of our work this year. We don’t know what 2021 will bring, but the Indy Hunger Network is looking forward to another year of partnership to meet the needs of our community.

With thanks,

Katherine (Kate) Howe, Executive Director
Our Team
IHN’s current staff members include:
• Megan (Songer) Gendig, Cooking Matters Program Manager
• Kate Howe, Executive Director
• Martha Malinski, VISTA Coordinator
• Genevieve Miller, Director of Advocacy
• Alex Sindorf, Food Assistance Programs Manager

We also rely on AmeriCorps VISTA members for their year-long terms of service. In 2020, those VISTA members serving IHN were:
• Claire Crosby
• Adaline Heitz
• Hannah Hurt
• Lisa Joseph

New Team Members
We added three new staff members to our team in 2020.

In May, Alex Sindorf was hired as our first Food Assistance Programs Manager to continue several successful projects she led during her two years with IHN as an AmeriCorps VISTA member. Alex leads the Food Pantry Network, including our annual Food Pantry Networking Summit (virtual in 2021), township food pantry groups, pantry grants program, and promotes the implementation of best practices in pantries. She also oversees Food Drop, works on Community Compass, and manages our websites.

Martha Malinski joined IHN as VISTA Coordinator in August. She oversees a team of six VISTA members at Indy Hunger Network and three partner sites, providing professional development and coaching, as well as managing reporting, recruitment, and other administrative tasks for the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Martha also leads our social media efforts and donor acknowledgements.

Just before the year ended, Genevieve Miller was hired as our first Director of Advocacy. In this new role, Genevieve will communicate with policy makers and the public about food insecurity and the work of the Indy Hunger Network and partners. She will coordinate our efforts to improve policy related to poverty and hunger through advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

We hope we’ll have the opportunity to introduce you to our new staff members in person in 2021.
We are grateful to our board members for their leadership. In 2020, we welcomed a few new board members from both new and existing member organizations.

**Dawn Barnes**  
Society of St. Andrew | Regional Director

**Tauhric Brown**  
Incoming Vice-Chair | CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions | CEO

**Marcus Casteel**  
Grace Care Center | Pastor of Engagement

**John Elliott**  
Advocacy Committee Chair/Incoming Treasurer | Gleaners Food Bank | CEO

**Matthew Feltrop**  
Patachou Foundation | Executive Director

**Jose Fuxa**  
Elanco | Executive Director, Global Engineering

**Ann Hartman**  
Connect2Help | CEO

**Milele Kennedy**  
City of Indianapolis | Food Policy & Program Coordinator

**Rachel Lane**  
Indiana FSSA | Chief Transformation Officer

**Dave Miner**  
Bread for the World | Volunteer

**Barb Morris**  
Meals on Wheels | CEO

**John Ryan**  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul | President

**Stephen Smith**  
Chair/Incoming Grants Committee Chair | Corteva Agriscience, Global Technical Education Leader

**Shellye Suttles**  
Secretary & Projects Committee Chair | Indiana University | Research Scientist, Sustainable Food Systems

**Jennifer Vigran**  
Treasurer | Second Helpings, CEO

**John Whitaker**  
Vice Chair/Incoming Chair | Midwest Food Bank | Executive Director

**Peter Zubler**  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul | Executive Director
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Indy Hunger Network’s member organizations participate in IHN’s projects and help lead the organization. A representative from each member organization sits on IHN’s Board of Directors. New organizations added in 2020 are shown in color.

CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions

The City of Indianapolis

Corteva Agriscience

Elanco

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana

Grace Care Center

Meals on Wheels | Partners in Nutrition

Midwest Food Bank

The Patachou Foundation

Second Helpings

Society of St. Andrew

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
HOME DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP

Gap in Food Assistance
The COVID-19 pandemic uncovered a need for home delivered groceries and meals. Many people who regularly visited food pantries or hot meal sites before the pandemic were unable to visit those locations during the pandemic, because they were at high risk for COVID, in quarantine, home with kids who were e-learning, or lacking in transportation.

Indy Hunger Network partnered with Gleaners Food Bank, Second Helpings, and Nine13 Sports to quickly put together a home delivery program to reach these homebound families. Indy Hunger Network staff led the call center, managed program data, and coordinated delivery schedules. Gleaners and Second Helpings provided the food, and Nine13 Sports handled delivery.

Home Delivery Metrics
Home delivery clients served, March 31-December 31, 2020:
- 37,423 calls answered
- 36,929 households served
- 76,378 Gleaners family meal boxes delivered
- 103,794 Second Helpings meals delivered
Our Cooking Matters classes started off in the typical way this year, with six in-person classes taught at four partner locations in Indianapolis. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, we canceled all in-person classes. By May, it became clear that we would not be able to resume in-person classes for a while, so our staff reworked our plans to offer online classes using Zoom. We quickly learned what worked and what didn’t, and by fall online classes were running smoothly, with positive feedback from class participants and site coordinators.

**Program Metrics**
- Taught 6 in-person classes and 18 virtual classes, reaching 86 participants
- 76% graduation rate
- 78% of class participants reported an increase in knowledge and change in healthy eating habits as a result of class participation
- Completed a [Cooking Matters tool kit](#), in partnership with Indiana University, to help organizations across the state start a Cooking Matters program

**Testimonies**

How has Cooking Matters affected your life?

“Having confidence in the kitchen will help the little one be comfortable helping and trying new things.”

“I will learn to incorporate healthier foods into our diet.”

“Enjoy the time with family while cooking. Get them involved.”

“How to cook together and ways to get them to eat more healthy if they are involved.”

“Different ways of preparing meals that my family will enjoy.”
**New, Collaborative Tool**

Our studies of hunger in Marion County over the past 7 years identified lack of information as an important reason why people experiencing food insecurity don’t access all the resources available to them. Working closely with the City of Indianapolis’ Office of Public Health & Safety, we developed a smartphone app to quickly and easily connect Indianapolis residents with information on how to access food assistance. Community Compass was launched in February 2020.

**Community Compass Metrics**

Here are the stats:

- 11,012 app downloads on Android and iPhone devices
- 1,384 users of the text service (Send the word “hi” or “hola” to 317-434-3758.)
- 9,623 pageviews for indyhunger.org/compass
- Distributed 8,000 flyers, 50 yard signs, and dozens of posters promoting Community Compass, as well as advertising through billboards, bus ads, radio, and TV

- Added Feedback and Filtering features in July 2020
- Added Spanish language capability in September 2020
- Held 10 training sessions for partner organizations. Let us know if you’d like to schedule one for your organization!
**Food Rescue**

FoodDropUSA.org helps truck drivers donate rejected loads of edible food to hunger relief organizations across the state of Indiana, reducing the amount of food dumped in landfills, increasing the supply of fresh food reaching people using food assistance, and allowing drivers to write off undeliverable shipments of food.

**Food Drop Metrics**

In 2020 we:

- Partnered with 11 hunger relief organizations in Indiana
- Rescued 106,325 pounds of donated product, valued at $154,171
- Added a toll free number (1-855-FOODROP) and a call answering service
- Started a volunteer program to help answer calls and redirect loads
**WIC MARKETING**

**Underutilized Program**
The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) leads to improvements in nutrition, physical health, mental health, and educational attainment, yet the program is underutilized by eligible families in Indiana.

**Marketing Campaign**
Indy Hunger Network worked with Marion County WIC and marketing firm Caldwell VanRiper to create an ad campaign to raise awareness about WIC and encourage more families to apply. Digital banner and social media ads ran in November and December and can be viewed on our website and Facebook page.

**WIC Campaign Metrics**
- 2,194,410 impressions
- 5,295 ad clicks to call or visit WIC website
- 1,215 calls to Marion County WIC from click-to-call ads
- 190 text messages from ads, resulting in 140 new families enrolled in WIC through text
We continued to support food pantries this year in several ways.

**Manual of Best Practices**

Our *[Manual of Best Practices for Food Pantries]* was released in July and distributed in print and electronic versions to partners throughout the city.

**Virtual Events**

Though we had to cancel the Food Pantry Networking Summit, scheduled for March 19, 2020, we held virtual networking group meetings to support collaboration and communication among food pantries. We also kicked off our *Virtual Pantry Summit Series*, which we will continue to offer monthly in 2021.

**Grant Program for Food Pantries**

Thanks to funding from Corteva Agriscience, the Marion County Public Health Department, and the City of Indianapolis, we were able to distribute $114,203 in grants to 37 food pantries to help them implement best practices outlined in the manual, including distributing more fresh, healthy foods, expanding their space to serve more people, and reducing wait times by improving intake systems. Some grants were also used to help pantries respond to COVID-19 by buying equipment to modify or expand operations.

**Healthy Nudges**

We worked closely with six pantries to provide individualized assistance in the implementation of healthy nudges, which are practices that encourage pantry visitors to select healthy foods.
**Importance of Advocacy**
While much of our day-to-day work focuses on projects, local food security is dependent on strong federal nutrition programs and good public policies. As shown in the chart to the right, federal nutrition programs, including SNAP and WIC, account for 84% of all food assistance in Marion County. Our advocacy work is focused on strengthening policies affecting these programs so that our local food security projects can be as effective as possible.

**Talking with Legislators**
In 2020, Indy Hunger Network and partners participated in the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference and Lobby Day in Washington, DC, which provided an opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers about the importance of hunger. Additionally, we partnered with Bread for the World to support their Offering of Letters initiative.

**Director of Advocacy**
Thanks to a multi-year grant from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, IHN hired its first Director of Advocacy. Genevieve Miller will work with IHN’s Advocacy Committee to lead our advocacy work.
Indy Hunger Network periodically measures food insecurity and the size of the meal gap in Marion County through a survey of residents.

**2020 Surveys**
We conducted our regular study in February 2020, but when the pandemic hit in March, we knew that the landscape of hunger in our city was changing dramatically. We conducted a second study in June to measure pandemic-related changes in food insecurity and the meal gap.

**Results of Study**
Through these surveys, we found that:

- The meal gap nearly doubled between February and June.
- At the same time, the number of meals provided by hunger relief organizations and federal programs in Marion County doubled, as well.
- 7% of households in Marion County miss meals in any given week, meaning that more than 67,000 people in our city don’t have enough to eat on any given day, despite all the food assistance programs available.
- Families with children living in the home and African Americans are disproportionately impacted by hunger.

More than **25% of Marion County residents** are struggling to put meals on their tables.
More Than 25% of Marion County Residents Are Struggling to Put Meals on Their Tables

A study conducted in February and June 2020 revealed the stark truth about hunger and food insecurity in Marion County: more families than ever are struggling to put food on the table. The 2020 Meal Gap Study measures the quantity of meals needed to assure enough food assistance is available for individuals with need. The results are sobering and should be a call to action for everyone in our community.

Marion County Meal Gap

9 million annually

9 million annually

380,000 meals per month

380,000 meals per month

740,000 meals per month (increase due to COVID-19)

Increase due to COVID-19.

7% of households are missing meals in any given week, and 60% of those are missing five meals or more weekly.

45% of these food-insecure households have one or more children living in the home.

African Americans are disproportionately impacted, with hunger nearly half of study respondents indicated they don’t have the food they need in order to prepare healthy meals at home.

Nearly half of study respondents indicated they don’t have the food they need in order to prepare healthy meals at home.

There is always higher demand for food assistance during the winter & winter 2020-2021 is likely to be worse.

AFRICAN AMERICANS are disproportionately impacted, with hunger nearly half of study respondents indicated they don’t have the food they need in order to prepare healthy meals at home.

NEARLY HALF of study respondents indicated they DON’T HAVE THE FOOD THEY NEED in order to prepare healthy meals at home.

50% higher than the general population.

50% of these food-insecure households have one or more children living in the home.

45% of these food-insecure households have one or more children living in the home.

AFRICAN AMERICANS are disproportionately impacted, with hunger NEARLY HALF of study respondents indicated they DON’T HAVE THE FOOD THEY NEED in order to prepare healthy meals at home.

50% HIGHER than the general population.
2020 MAJOR DONORS

We are grateful for our donors, whose generous support makes our work possible. The following donors contributed at least $10,000 to our work in 2020. We also appreciate the many other individual and corporate donors who supported us throughout the year.

AmeriCorps VISTA
Anonymous family foundation
Anthem Foundation
Central Indiana COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund (C-CERF)
City of Indianapolis
Community Health Network
Corteva Agriscience
The Glick Fund
Herbert Simon Family Foundation
Indiana Minority Health Coalition
Indiana State Department of Health
Indiana University Health
Marion County Public Health Department
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Share Our Strength
William Witchger Family Fund

VOLUNTEERS

The following individuals generously gave of their time and talents in 2020 to advance our mission.

Alison Muckerheide
Ann-Marie Valdez
Azaria Brown
Barb Doty
Byron Daugherty
Cassie Woodburry
Christina Bredhold
Courtni Hood
Courtni Tex
David Cobb
David Russell
Debbie Russell
Divya Hyde
Elizabeth Klimes
Emily Patterson
Gary Szeszycki
Hannah Miskell
Heather Pinkerton-Bromley
Insydia Rivera
Jessica Oakes
Kaitlin Cornwell
Karl Schnelle
Kate Million
Kevin Watkins
Kirk Stahl
Leann Robertson
Maranda Fitzpatrick
Mary Lou Blue
Michael Ulmer
Sara McCoskey
Shane Scarlett
Shelby Mulry
Taylor Young
Vidal Sanchez