

# BEYOND HUNGER

## FY 2019 Annual Report

Formerly  
Oak Park  
River Forest  
Food Pantry



A new name and logo marked a historic change for our agency in 2019. The name Beyond Hunger reflects the steadfast dedication and collaborative spirit of Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, while more accurately expressing our mission to end hunger in all 13 ZIP codes we serve.

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[www.GoBeyondHunger.org](http://www.GoBeyondHunger.org)

In some ways, ending hunger is simple. We know what to do. Provide food in times of crisis. Empower people with the tools they need to prepare healthy food inexpensively. Redirect potentially wasted food. Connect people to ongoing supportive resources while building more equitable systems that address the root causes of hunger. Simple? Yes, but not easy. While we may not have eliminated hunger, our progress is impressive. Read on to learn how this work has impacted four individuals, leading to enhanced food security.

### Dr. Salinas



#### Direct Hunger Relief

### Wafaa



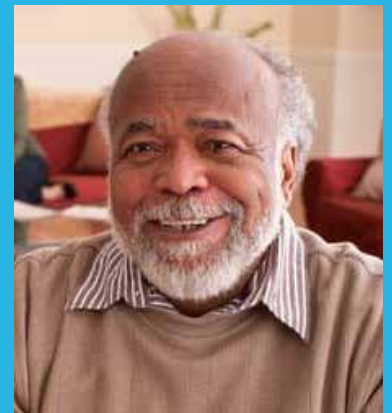
#### Nutrition & Wellness

### Thom



#### Sustainable Food Solutions

### Melvin



#### Hunger Free Communities

# Direct Hunger Relief

## Meet Dr. Salinas

Homebound seniors and disabled adults can be particularly vulnerable to hunger due to health and mobility issues. That's why we deliver groceries to these neighbors in Oak Park, River Forest, and a portion of Austin. In addition to hunger relief, these visits offer a critical social connection, helping offset the loneliness and social isolation too common for this population.



Those connections are also important to Adriana Riano, Beyond Hunger's Program Manager. "I was initially the main person calling clients to get their food choices every month. Talking to Dr. Salinas was one of my most dreaded tasks back then. I didn't understand why he was always unhappy with our food options, because I thought they were pretty good. I explained repeatedly that we were limited to the food available at the local food bank. Providing items like 'chorizo' or 'crunchy peanut butter' was out of our control."

"One day Dr. Salinas asked me, 'Adriana, do you like arroz con pollo?' I quickly replied, 'Yes, I love it!' He laughed and proceeded to invite me to his home to have a meal with him. While I was not able to share a meal with him, that invitation alone changed everything. Since then I have learned many things about Dr. Salinas. For example, he lives alone and doesn't have any family that live close by. Now, I understand that Dr. Salinas just wants someone to talk to. When he calls, we joke around, he gives me a hard time, and I enjoy every minute of it. He's a big part of why I am passionate about this work."

**HOME  
DELIVERY**

provided groceries to  
**811 SENIORS**  
& people with disabilities



**OPRF Food Pantry • Summer Meals • Home Delivery • Food4Thought**



**By purchasing foods through our local food bank and a wholesaler, we pay far less than grocery store prices. The result? More food for people who need it.**

# Nutrition & Wellness



## Meet Wafaa

We know you can't end hunger simply with a bag of groceries. Research shows that providing education on nutrition and cooking markedly enhances food security for a whole family. Just ask Wafaa. As she was shopping at the Food Pantry last year, Wafaa learned about the opportunity to participate in a cooking class. She signed up, and her life--and her children's lives--changed for the better.

During her first day in the cooking class, Wafaa received a test that showed her blood sugars fell into the elevated zone. Surprised at the result, she followed up with her physician. She learned she was pre-diabetic, that her cholesterol was high, and that she was anemic. Determined to improve her conditions, Wafaa took every opportunity presented at Beyond Hunger to learn more. "The dietitians at the Food Pantry helped me a lot" she said. "They taught me a lot about how you cook, how you change from unhealthy food to healthy food." Wafaa took the lessons to heart. And today, her blood sugar and cholesterol numbers are all within normal limits. She is no longer anemic and has more energy for her six kids.



**244 PEOPLE**

participated in store  
tours &

**COOKING  
CLASSES**

**Nutrition Education • Cooking Classes • Grocery Store Tours • Health Screenings**

## Of Trade Wars and Freezers

You wouldn't think a food pantry had much to do with international trade. But this year the trade war with China and steep tariffs have resulted in a glut of pork in the domestic market. To ameliorate the potential devastation to U.S. farmers, the administration has created a \$12 billion bailout program, with the USDA purchasing an additional \$1.3 million worth of pork for nutrition assistance programs. As a result, tons of pork (literally!) are flooding our food pantry freezers.

Why is that a problem? Space limits healthy options. With our limited freezer capacity, pork elbows out other options like fish or chicken. We are stocking more canned products, but canned chicken doesn't stretch as far as a roaster. Of course, there are non-meat products and people are still grateful for all the food we provide. But we'll all be glad when we can offer more variety again.

**NUTRITION  
EDUCATION**

**99% agree**

"I better understand My  
Plate and the  
importance of including  
fruits and vegetables  
with my meals."





# Sustainable Food Solutions



## Waste Not

Volunteers are critical to every aspect of Beyond Hunger, clocking on average **2,000** hours every month. Every volunteer, including those in less public roles, is helping to end hunger in our communities. And some of them are helping sustain our environment as well.

Thomas Schouten, who has been volunteering for 11 years, does both. Each week, Thom drives to local grocery stores that are part of our Food Rescue program. Food that has not been purchased, and is at risk of being wasted, is removed from grocery stores and brought to the Food Pantry where it is sorted for freshness. Inedible food gets composted. The work may not be glamorous, but it is deeply satisfying—and impactful. Last year over 113,000 pounds of food made its way to people in need instead of into the waste stream.



For Thom, volunteering has layers of meaning. “It doesn’t feel like work,” he said. “There hasn’t been a day when I didn’t want to come to volunteer. I have always felt so valued by the staff. And I know I am doing something in my community for my community. There are a lot of hungry people for whom the Food Pantry plays a vital role. We should all be aware of that.”

**Surplus Project • Rescue Program • Grow-a-Row • Farmers Market Double Bucks**



## Rescue Partners

Thanks to our generous rescue and surplus project partners, thousands of pounds of food are diverted from landfills and given to our neighbors in need.

# Hunger Free Communities

## VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS

Beyond Hunger serves 382 veterans each year



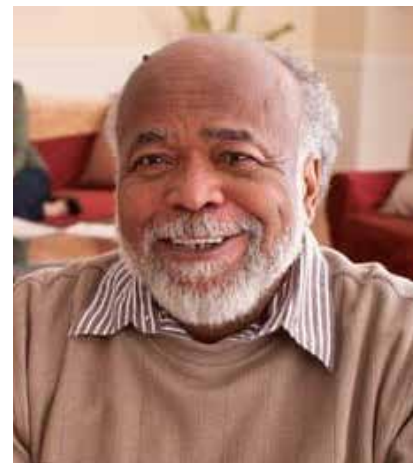
How can a community be hunger free? By working together to identify need, coordinate resources, and bolster political will for collaborative action, we can build a community where everyone has access to the food they need. Sometimes that's as simple as helping someone with a complicated benefits application or finding out how one slipped through the bureaucratic cracks.

Henry, an 86-year-old Oak Park veteran, is a proud man who likes to do things on his own. But the process to renew his CTA Ride Free Permit had him stumped. So, when he was referred to Amanda Kuhn, our Social Services Coordinator, he accepted. Finding Amanda kind and helpful, Henry also mentioned that he had applied for SNAP on his own six months earlier but had never heard back. Amanda was able to log into the application database to check his status and found that he had been approved and had \$250 worth of benefits waiting for him. With supplemental food and mobility access, Henry feels like he's regained his independence.

### Coalition Building • Advocacy • Financial Literacy • Social Services

Many of those we serve are on special diets that can make living on a fixed food budget even more difficult. It's one of the many reasons Amanda is diligent about trouble-shooting SNAP application problems, and why she is delighted when she can help someone like Melvin.

Like Henry, Melvin had applied for SNAP on his own. He'd been successful in his initial application, but the renewal was not coming through. Amanda contacted DHS, which processed his case on the spot, reinstating his SNAP benefits immediately, including \$1,059 in SNAP benefits that were waiting for him. When Amanda gave Melvin the good news, he exclaimed "Holy Shoot!" (Seriously, no swears. Melvin is a gentleman.) Melvin was overjoyed that he and his wife would now be able to purchase the special foods her diet requires.



**85%**

of households served by Beyond Hunger include at least 1 older adult, person with a disability, veteran, or child



# Beyond Hunger is thankful for

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Housing Forward  
Full Circle Fitness & Social Club  
Music and Potlucks  
West Cook YMCA



# Volunteer Honor Roll

Volunteers are the real backbone of Beyond Hunger. Beloved by clients and staff alike, volunteers are admired for their selfless generosity. Space restrictions limit this list to those who served over 50 hours, but we are grateful for all those who served, whether one hour or one thousand. Hours listed here are for FY2019 service only.

\*Denotes inaugural member of the Volunteer Leadership Team

## 200 Hours or More

Mark Puccetti\*  
Mark Pepp  
Paul Clark  
Brian McHatton  
Jane Santilli\*  
Nancy Hartman\*  
Charles Lake  
Donna Morris  
Jay Michaels  
Donna Steele  
Amit Jayachandran  
Joan Slanina

## 100 to 199 Hours

Pam Walsh\*  
Fredric Birt  
Charles Barlow  
Thomas Roche  
Jacqui Ross  
Keith Wittman  
Connor Ficca\*  
Judith Hamje\*  
Bill Grady\*  
Jennifer Vehrs  
Jerry Murray  
Thomas Schouten\*  
Robert Personett  
Kenneth Van Spankeren  
Willie Mae Harris  
Melissa Clopton  
Jean Noble  
Audrey Todd\*  
Cheryl Gandolff\*  
Kathi Kyrias\*  
Georgina Balbontin\*  
Pam Merker  
Blanche Cameron  
Laura Hall-Schordje  
Armand Garcia  
Susan Kram-Kumler  
Denise Jones  
Darlene Smith  
Shannon Jones  
Sarah Sears  
Claudia Zinanni  
Sophie Reeds\*  
Charlene Cliff  
Peter Jaffe-Notier

## 50 to 99 Hours

Joel Heinz  
Kathleen Walsh  
Joan Taylor  
Linda Bolte  
Judith Longman  
Andrea DiPasquale

Antoine Allen  
David Terebessy  
Phyllis Voosen  
Kenneth Navarro  
James Szyman  
Joseph Gwozdz  
Laura Gutierrez  
Seguin Berkeley  
Ann Puccetti  
Barbara Moline  
Bianca Ribauda  
Jan Sebastian  
Anne Johnson  
Sherry Thorson  
Noel Dunn  
Aidan Molina  
Sue Cossey  
Angel Camacho  
John Garofalo  
Jessica Rich  
Jane Barker\*  
Gretchen Hameister  
Thomas Matas  
Phil Taylor  
Tracy Wilson  
Steven Pasko  
Alex Stevic  
Leslie Brown  
Bobbie Hald  
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Becky Rubio  
Michael Chlumecky  
Sakina Calcuttawala  
Catherine Rison  
Orly Slobodkin  
Lisa Manning  
Sandra Luckins  
Valerie Woods  
Cynthia Jared  
Mena Boulanger  
Greta Nekrasova  
Melissa Klett  
Ann Steevens  
Wendy Bottomlee  
Joan Iatrides  
Janet Guevara  
Mary Jane Welter  
Michelle Iocca  
Christy Longo  
Bryce Wilson  
Debbie Redleaf  
Roman Ebert  
Trudi Eblen  
Karole Bair  
Lynn Robinson

David Endless  
Sandi Filbert  
Martina Perez-Zuleta  
Doris Green  
Kristin Schmidt  
Jonathan Panton  
Bill Janulis  
Scott Barrett  
Nancy Sjostrom  
Tracy Williams  
Reid Wilson  
Menta Academy  
St. Christopher's  
Episcopal

## 25 to 49 Hours

Sandra White  
Linda Cox  
Lou Malnati's  
Jackson Mitchell  
Richelle K Pierce  
Linda Bachelder  
Nathan Pellizzari  
Cooper's Hawk  
Susie Narkis  
Julian Garcia Bariel  
Alan Lin  
Derek Withers  
Chris Ray  
Debra Lorson  
Kristina Entner  
Helen Wei  
Vicky Lekovich\*  
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Jim Doss  
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Brian Hameister  
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Adam Kowalczyk  
Amanda Massie  
Joanne Libfeld  
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Erin Jacobson  
Lorraine Padour  
Lindley Johnson  
Mia Corsino  
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Giovanna Tesfaye  
Michael Swaine  
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Gregory Haines  
Suzanne Langner  
Sheryl Roche  
Debbie Creticos  
Arnel Delcarmen  
Points of Light  
Lisa Moragne-Kayser  
James Kebinger  
Brittany Hante  
Sue Rollins  
Juliet Stills  
Alyssa Sayatovic  
Ronald Elling  
Jamal Sachleben  
Ember Clevesy  
Graham Hawthorne  
Elizabeth Parson  
First United Volunteers  
Maia Farrar  
Jake Van Santen  
Grant Miller  
Opportunity Knocks  
Seth Miller  
Opportunity Knocks  
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Paulina Guzman  
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Walter Stoller

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Daniel Castellano  
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Ben Bottorff  
Margaret Scudder  
Mike Bartik  
Anders Gullberg  
Christine Keyes  
Grace Lin  
Dawn La'Rocco  
Gregory Senese  
Joe DiUlio



# Financial Report Fiscal Year 2019

The financial report below indicates the robust health of Beyond Hunger. The change in net assets reflects planned infrastructural improvements funded with reserves. We continue to enjoy in-kind donations of volunteer hours that are not completely captured in this report. We are grateful for every one of those hours and all your generous gifts. Together we are creating the hunger free community we all aspire to have.

## Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 791,063        |
| Grants receivable         | 10,000         |
| Prepaid Expenses          | 9,460          |
| Property and Equipment    | 39,606         |
| <b>Total Assets</b>       | <b>850,129</b> |

### LIABILITIES

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Accounts payable         | 21,159        |
| Accrued payroll          | 20,987        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> | <b>42,146</b> |

### NET ASSETS

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Board designated                        | 413,253        |
| Unrestricted                            | 347,430        |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>    | <b>760,683</b> |
| Temporarily Restricted                  | 47,300         |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                 | <b>807,983</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and net Assets</b> | <b>850,129</b> |

## Statement of Activities

### REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Individual Contributions (28%)    | 580,409          |
| Congregation Contributions (2%)   | 51,356           |
| Business Contributions (4%)       | 85,545           |
| Government Grants (1%)            | 17,762           |
| Foundation & Other Grants (7%)    | 137,431          |
| GCFD credits (1%)                 | 11,740           |
| In-Kind Food and Supplies (44%)   | 925,424          |
| Special Events (12%)              | 243,248          |
| Interest and Other Income (2%)    | 43,557           |
| <b>Total Revenues and Support</b> | <b>2,096,472</b> |

### EXPENSES

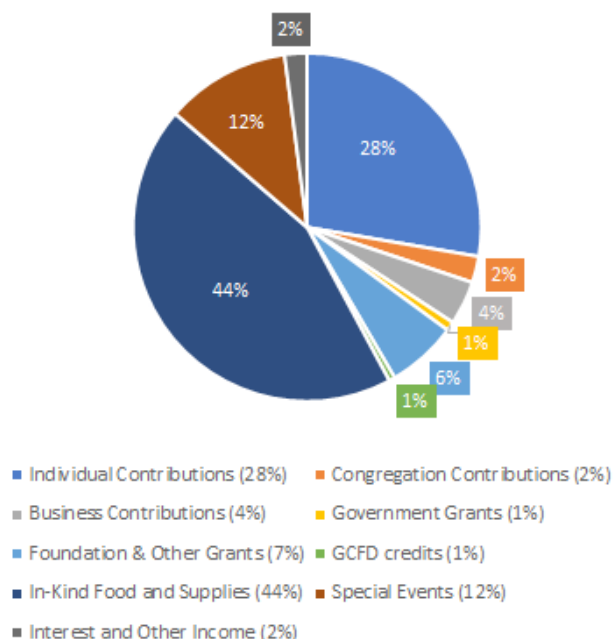
|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Program Services (85%)      | 1,863,950        |
| Management and General (5%) | 110,123          |
| Fundraising (10%)           | 208,408          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>2,182,481</b> |

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **(86,009)**

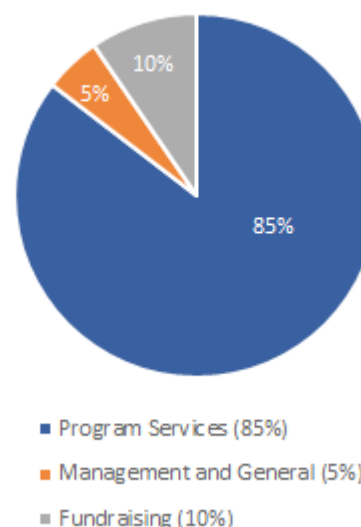
### NET ASSETS

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Beginning of year | 893,992 |
| End of year       | 807,983 |

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT



EXPENSES



## Beyond Hunger is thankful to the following funders for grant support in FY2019

Amazon Smile Foundation  
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CROP Hunger Walk – HWW  
Economy Shop  
Exelon  
Forefront  
Future Philanthropist Program, a giving group of Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities  
Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Manaaki Foundation  
MB Charitable Foundation  
Moller Family Foundation  
My Emma Email Marketing  
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation  
Pledgeling Foundation  
The Catholic Bishop of Chicago – Rice Bowl  
The Community Foundation, *Strengthening Inland Southern California through Philanthropy*  
The Forever Fund  
The Retirement Research Foundation  
Thrivent Financial  
Tyson Foods Nonprofit Summer Jobs Program  
U.S. Department of HUD, CBDG grant from Village of Oak Park  
Women Leaders in Philanthropy Fund, a giving group of Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation

# Training to See

The Board of Directors has been working to ensure that Beyond Hunger has the advantage of varied perspectives to help serve our entire community.

“We need multiple perspectives to richly understand the needs of our community,” affirms Stephanie Schrodt, Board Vice-President. “Blind spots created by a lack of racial and ethnic diversity can be particularly concerning, as they may result in strategies and plans that ineffectively address societal challenges and inequities, or even reinforce them.”

One strategy arising out of this work is the establishment of a client task force engaged in a wholesale evaluation of the Food Pantry program. Program participants are now an integral part of the team creating and implementing assessment protocols that will enhance programs. “I guess we’re in the best position to know what’s working and what’s not,” said one task force member. “It feels great to be part of making it better for everyone.”



## Intern Programs Support Summer Meals

By Mike Gross, 2019 Intern

As an intern, my main responsibility was to oversee the operations at the Summer Meals Open Site, where any child 18 or younger could come get a free lunch and enjoy fun programming. Among

**SUMMER MEALS**  
provided  
**25,727**  
meals & snacks to kids & teens



the kids’ favorite activities were the summer reading program and book giveaways hosted by Oak Park and River Forest libraries. They also loved the cooking classes focused on teaching the importance of diet. And of course, everyone appreciated a steady supply of water balloons to stay cool during the hot Chicago summer.



*Five interns were supported in part through generous grants from Tyson Foods Nonprofit Summer Job Program as well as Women Leaders in Philanthropy and Future Philanthropist Program, both giving groups of Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation*



# FY2019 Impact



We believe hunger is solvable, and the solution includes us all. In the following pages, you'll see how our work has impacted real people this past year. Thank you for sharing and supporting that vision.

Michele Zurakowski  
Executive Director

Betsy Backes  
Board President

## BEYOND HUNGER

848 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301

Harnessing the power of communities to end hunger



Formerly  
Oak Park  
River Forest  
Food Pantry

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #98  
Oak Park IL

**NUTRITION  
EDUCATION**

**99% agree**

"I am better prepared to make healthy choices at the grocery store."



**273% more**

Individuals and families received social service referrals and assistance with applications than in 2018



**WORTH OF MEALS  
DISTRIBUTED PER  
PERSON**



**22,964**

meals & sides salvaged by the

**SURPLUS  
PROJECT**