Plate Expectations 2019
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Resurgence Brewing Co., 55 Chicago St, Buffalo

Enjoy food, beer, wine, games, rock climbing and more at our annual fundraising event! Tickets start at $60, with limited VIP options available. Plate Expectations is proudly presented by Wegmans. Buy your tickets today at pe2019.eventbrite.com.

19th Annual Motorcycle Run & Rally
Saturday, September 14, 2019
Newell-Faulkner American Legion Post 880, Eden

Riders, cars enthusiasts and community members will find a home at this motor-centric event. The annual motorcycle rally and car show includes food, beverages, raffles, vendors, “dice runs” and live entertainment all day. You do not have to ride to attend the rally. Register online at foodbankrunwny.com.

Holiday Wreath Sale
October 2019

Preorders for our holiday wreath sale will begin in October! Pick out the perfect handmade wreath or centerpiece for your home as the holiday season approaches. A portion of the proceeds support FeedMore WNY’s Meals on Wheels program.

97 Rock’s Operation: Rock Out Hunger with DJ Jickster
November 2019

97 Rock’s DJ Jickster will live on a FeedMore WNY trailer at Kaleida Health’s Millard Fillmore Hospital collecting frozen turkeys, nonperishable food and monetary donations to help feed community members in need during the holiday season!

Food 2 Families
Friday, December 6, 2019
Tops Friendly Markets locations throughout WNY

Join Tops Markets, WGRZ-TV Channel 2 and FeedMore WNY for Food 2 Families! Little Brown Bags of Hope to benefit our food bank program will be sold at local Tops stores in November leading up to the food and fund drive.

Continue to check our websites at foodbankwny.org or mealsonwheelswny.org for the latest information on these events and more!
UNITED AGAINST HUNGER

WHAT IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH?
September is Hunger Action Month – a time when hunger-relief organizations and anti-hunger advocates across the nation call on our community members to get involved in eradicating hunger.

There many ways you can help us feed our food-insecure neighbors, from donating food or funds to volunteering your time and talents for one of our programs. You also can take action by supporting FeedMore WNY events or raising awareness on the realities of hunger with your friends, family, and coworkers or through social media. We would be happy to come to your school, office or community group to give a presentation on hunger in WNY and how you can help.

Contact Communications Director Catherine Shick at (716) 852-1305 or cshick@feedmorewny.org to request a speaker.

It does not have to take a lot of time or effort to help end hunger. Every dollar raised, food item donated and hand extended in help makes a real difference in the lives of our hungry community members. Take action today!

ORANGE IS THE OFFICIAL COLOR OF HUNGER ACTION MONTH!
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Community Volunteer
Richard Grimm, Immediate Past Chair
Magavern Magavern Grimm LLP
Matt McAfee, First Vice Chair
M&T Bank
Eric Decker, Second Vice Chair
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National Fuel Gas Company
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Wegmans Food Markets Inc.
Lamont Williams
Community Volunteer
Barrie Yochim
Meals on Wheels of the Jamestown Area

Message from the President

Significant progress has been made since the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY joined forces to become FeedMore WNY. Our talented team has been working hard to fulfill the organizational goals we set when coming together as a unified nonprofit. These initiatives include the creation of child summer feeding programs, more comprehensive senior feeding opportunities and a workforce development program through the establishment of a Community Kitchen.

In June, we expanded our BackPack Program – which provides take-home bags of food to hungry students when they are not in school – to serve children and their families during summer vacation. We anticipate providing an additional 10,000 pounds of food to 250 children through seven sites through this initial expansion. We will continue to enhance summer feeding during later phases of this project, utilizing the strength of our commissary to provide daily prepared cold lunches in addition to BackPack distributions.

We are engaged in phase one of our five-year plan to augment senior feeding opportunities. Through this initiative, seniors will be able to eat a wholesome midday meal at congregate dining sites and will be provided bags of nutritious food to take home. We also continue to develop our workforce training program and have commenced a public survey asking potential students to share their needs and desires for the program.

FeedMore WNY’s progress is made possible thanks to the partnership of the Western New York community. We ask for your continued support as we take these critical steps forward in eradicating hunger. September is Hunger Action Month, and we have plenty of opportunities for you to take action in the fight against hunger. In this newsletter, you will find ideas on how to hold a food drive, how to become a volunteer for our Meals on Wheels home-delivered meal program and information on several fun events where you can lend your time, talents or treasure to support our mission.

We encourage you to get involved with FeedMore WNY this Hunger Action Month and throughout the year. With your partnership, we can continue our mission of offering dignity, hope and a brighter future to our Western New York neighbors in need.

Together, we WILL feed more!
Tara A. Ellis, President and CEO

FeedMore WNY Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Szychowski

The parking lot of West Seneca’s New Hope United Methodist Church comes to life each weekday just before noon, as volunteers for FeedMore WNY’s Meals on Wheels program gather in advance of their delivery routes. Joe, a five-and-a-half year volunteer with the program, has made it an integral part of his weekly routine, delivering meals three times a week.

“I’m hooked,” Joe said. “I need to do this. Not only to give my time and talent, but to be there for those who may not have someone else.”

For many Meals on Wheels recipients, their volunteer may be the only person they talk to on any given day. “We became friends,” Joe said, referencing one meal recipient on his route. “She shares her stories with me about health and family. I feel honored they share and trust their stories to me.”

Through daily or weekly visits, volunteers often are the first to notice if something is out of the ordinary. In the case of one recipient, the observation of a break in routine potentially saved her life.

“I would normally walk into the kitchen and say hello when delivering the meals. One time, she wasn’t sitting in her usual spot,” Joe said. “She wasn’t well and collapsed. I called 911 and the fire department came. I’m lucky to have been there.”

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Meals on Wheels program. By taking the time to bring food and friendship to neighbors in need, volunteers deliver more than just a meal – they deliver friendship and peace of mind.
You have the power to make a positive difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. There are many ways to get involved during Hunger Action Month and beyond!

**Volunteer** - Volunteering is deeply satisfying and easy to fit into even the busiest schedule. To learn more or sign up today, contact Volunteer Manager Justina Cincotti at (716) 852-1305 or jcincotti@feedmorewny.org.

**Hold a Food Drive** - Holding a food drive is not only a great way to help feed your neighbors in need, but it can be a fun, team-building project for your office, classroom or community group. Contact our Volunteer and Events Coordinator, Gaelyn Clay-Adams, at (716) 852-1305 or at gclay-adams@feedmorewny.org to set up your food drive today.

**Donate** - Your donations are greatly appreciated and help us to continue our vital work. We have included a return envelope for your convenience, you can make a secure donation online at foodbankwny.org or mealsonwheelswny.org.

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**FeedMore WNY expands BackPack Program to help children during summer**

Nearly one in five children in FeedMore WNY’s service area struggles with hunger. While many of these children rely on their school’s breakfast and lunch program for nutritious meals during the academic year, these programs often end during summer vacation – leaving food-insecure families scrambling to make up these missing meals.

One of FeedMore WNY’s founding initiatives is the creation of child summer feeding programs. In June, we expanded our BackPack Program to serve children during summer vacation. Through this program, children receive bags of nutritious, kid-friendly and easy-to-prepare food – including canned tuna, peanut butter, pasta and tomato sauce, as well as canned fruits and vegetables – to take home for themselves and their families.

“We are grateful for this program. It helps make sure the kids we serve have enough food during the weekends,” JoAnn Hernandez, operations director for The Belle Center, said. The Belle Center’s food pantry has been a longtime member agency of FeedMore WNY’s Food Bank program, and its summer camp is now one of the first sites to participate in FeedMore WNY’s Summer BackPack Program.

Hernandez said The Belle Center distributed about 90 to 100 Summer BackPack bags each week. FeedMore WNY anticipates distributing approximately 10,000 additional pounds of food through the expansion of the BackPack Program.

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**Advocacy Corner**

Advocacy is an essential component of fighting hunger and effecting change. That is why FeedMore WNY has established a comprehensive government affairs plan to support our new mission, our expanding hunger-relief programs and the vulnerable community members who rely on our services. Here are some of our current advocacy efforts:

- **Increase Funding to Expand Services** – In order to expand the programs and services we offer, it is critical that we maintain our current funding sources while exploring new opportunities at the federal, state, and local level.

- **Census 2020 Complete Count** – Did you know that each individual missed by the Census represents a loss of $2,600 per year for the next 10 years in New York state funding that helps programs like ours? In addition, the Census Bureau offers temporary employment opportunities for our unemployed and underemployed neighbors.

- **Workforce Development** - We are currently developing a culinary training program where we will work with individuals to prepare them for work in the culinary field and beyond.

- **Lead the Conversation on Hunger** - With more than 300 member agencies, 50 Stay Fit senior dining sites and 26 Meals on Wheels delivery sites, FeedMore WNY is on the frontlines in the fight against hunger in our community. With our extensive knowledge on this important topic, we are hoping to become your go-to resource on hunger issues in WNY.

If you are interested in staying informed with the advocacy work FeedMore WNY is doing, we invite you to sign up for our Advocacy newsletter at foodbankwny.org or mealsonwheelswny.org.