

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



FOOD FINDERS ADDS RESOURCE COORDINATOR

DEDICATED TO HOWARD COUNTY NEIGHBORS

Allison Norman, Director of the Howard County Food Access Alliance, notes “one of the biggest challenges for those leaving abusive situations is providing food for their families.” Leaving dangerous or abusive situations can present significant hurdles for people transitioning to safer environments. According to the Domestic Violence Services Network, this period is often the most dangerous, with survivors experiencing increased violence and facing severe challenges related to housing and access to food.

Norman, who also teaches cooking classes at a local women’s shelter, adds, “People often need help setting up new bank accounts and addresses to access public assistance. Navigating these tasks and finding necessary documentation can be overwhelming, but having someone to guide them through the process is crucial.”

While Howard County is filled with stories of community-minded compassion and perseverance, Norman reminds us that there is always work to be done. This is where a resource coordinator position can have a substantial impact.

Family Service Association (FSA), Food Finders Food Bank, and Howard County Food Access Alliance (HCFAA) are collaborating to address this issue directly. Food Finders is expanding our resource coordination team by adding a dedicated resource coordinator to serve Howard County. Research conducted by the Mari Gallagher Research and Consulting Group shows that Howard County residents miss 63,000 meals each week due to food scarcity. Feeding America’s 2022 Map the Meal Gap study further reveals that 78% of food-insecure children in the county live in households eligible for federal assistance but face barriers to accessing these resources.

RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Continued from cover

Alongside one-on-one support, the resource coordinator for Howard County will include outreach and educational efforts to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and simplify the process of accessing public services. The new, grant-funded role will offer personalized support to help individuals, connecting them with essential public assistance programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

Kier Crites Muller, President/CEO of Food Finders, shared, "We are grateful for the opportunity to add a dedicated resource coordinator to our team, enhancing our services in Howard County. This position will strengthen ongoing efforts to help individuals navigate the often overwhelming systems and resources available, ensuring they receive life-stabilizing support. By partnering with trusted community organizations like FSA and HCFAA, we can streamline referrals and collaborate more effectively, allowing each of us to focus on our unique strengths. Thanks to the Community Foundation serving Howard, Clinton, and Carroll Counties for supporting our mission." This initiative is a meaningful step towards improving access to essential support services, and we will continue to update you on its progress and impact.



Scan the code above with your phone or visit
www.food-finders.org/get-involved to learn
more!

SCHEUMANN CENTER FOR HUNGER RELIEF



June Scheumann speaks to reporters

This summer, Food Finders Food Bank proudly finalized the purchase of the Market Square property, which houses the Fresh Market food pantry. We were thrilled to celebrate this significant achievement with Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, Commissioner Tom Murtaugh, and West Lafayette City Clerk Sana Booker. Their presence underscored the collaborative spirit that made closing on the property possible.

Thanks to the collective efforts of the City of Lafayette, the City of West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County, we secured over \$1,000,000. Additionally, Food Finders is deeply grateful to June Scheumann, who made a generous \$1,000,000 donation, enabling us to complete the purchase. In honor of her extraordinary gift and the ongoing support of the Scheumann Foundation, we are naming this essential community space the Scheumann Center for Hunger Relief.

Despite encountering some challenges throughout the process, unwavering support from our community and leaders was instrumental in reaching this milestone. Importantly, the Fresh Market will retain its name and will continue operating within this larger center dedicated to hunger relief. We are excited about the future and the expanded opportunities this new facility will offer. As we develop and grow our services, we envision this space as a hub for comprehensive hunger relief efforts, serving as a beacon of hope and support for neighbors in need.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH



Sonya J. Margerum Fountain

This Hunger Action Month, Food Finders kicked off our efforts with a vibrant display of local support. The Tippecanoe County Courthouse, Sonya J. Margerum Fountain, and the Lafayette Public Safety Center turned orange, as a collective gesture highlighting the actions necessary to end food insecurity in Food Finders' 16-county service area.

This month, we also encourage you to reach out to our lawmakers and advocate for a robust, bipartisan farm bill, urging them to prioritize the needs of Hoosiers facing food insecurity and the food banks dedicated to helping them in the upcoming Farm Bill discussions. Specifically, we are pushing for increased funding for essential nutrition assistance programs, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We also encourage community members to join local efforts to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger by joining Food Finders, Haiti Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Center, and Lafayette Urban Ministry, at the 32nd annual Hunger Hike, a community fundraising event whose mission is to raise awareness and make a difference in the fight against hunger — locally, regionally & globally.

Details for this year's event:

- Sunday, September 22
- 1 p.m. – Event begins; 2 p.m. – Hike begins
- Riehle Plaza, Lafayette

During Hunger Action Month, there are several ways to support the fight against hunger. Consider donating to and volunteering with Food Finders. Share your commitment on social media, and ask your friends, family, and followers to join the movement to end hunger. Together, we can make a difference!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



Dear Friends,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and dedication to Food Finders Food Bank's mission. As I reflect on my journey as President/CEO of Food Finders over the past year and a half, I am proud and inspired by the milestones our team has achieved. We have undertaken a comprehensive internal reorganization, laying a solid foundation for the future. This strategic effort has been essential in positioning us to better address the adequacy of our services, ensuring equitable food distribution across our 16-county service area.

In line with our strategic plan, our internal changes have been accompanied by a significant expansion in community engagement and outreach. These efforts reflect our commitment to not only meeting immediate needs but also building long-term, sustainable partnerships.

I am also thrilled to share that our team will be participating in the Feeding America Agency Partner Capacity Building Foundations Institute. This opportunity will enhance our skills, empower us to better serve our partner agencies, strengthen our organizational capacity and thus better serve people facing hunger.

Additionally, we are honored to be recognized by Feeding America through a Housing Stability grant. This grant will provide funds to support the expansion or enhancement of housing-related programs, including eviction prevention services, financial counseling for homeownership, and integration of food bank services with housing solutions. Food Finders is one of only three food banks in the nation to be selected for this prestigious grant which is a testament to the importance of our Resource Coordination program and the hard work and dedication of our entire team and our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our mission. Together, we are making remarkable progress, and with your continued partnership, we are confident that we will achieve even greater successes in the future.

With gratitude,

Kier Crites Muller
President/CEO



WABASH WALLS

Food Finders' warehouse was chosen as part of this year's Wabash Walls festival, curated by The Arts Federation, and paired with Rabi Towing, an American artist from Los Angeles. Towing raved about the hospitality he received from the Lincoln neighborhood. Centered around universal and community power, the mural features various symbols of strength and power, aspects of Towing's personal artistic aesthetic, and local elements, such as an astronaut and a vintage hot air balloon.



1204 Greenbush Street
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Fall 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2024 Events at a Glance

September 22	Hunger Hike
Nov 1- Dec 6	Drive Away Hunger
October 17	World Food Day & Food Finders 43rd Birthday
November TBA	Gobble Wobble 5K
November 27	Feed the Need Day
December 3	Giving Tuesday

For complete event details, visit
our website at
www.food-finders.org.

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Food Finders Food Bank is excited to kick off its 14th annual Drive Away Hunger fall food drive on November 1st, running through December 6th. We invite the community to unite in stocking our shelves and ensure those facing hunger can provide for their families this winter. After surpassing our 650,000-meal goal last year, we're setting our sights higher for 2024 with a new goal of 750,000 meals. Your support is crucial in helping us reach this ambitious goal!



Scan the code with your phone or visit
www.food-finders.org/dah to learn more!