



THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Jacob Greenberg, Chairman * Angenie McCleary, Vice-Chair * Dick Fosbury, Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

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BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE

Blaine County Commissioners this week authorized an additional allocation of \$25,000 to The Hunger Coalition, a Blaine County based non-profit organization, to help address the rising demand for food from families under increased stress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Blaine County Commissioner Angenie McCleary said, “It is critically important that we come together as a community and all do our best to support those in need during this difficult time. Blaine County government’s role is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the people and this includes helping to address hunger. The Hunger Coalition is best suited to provide this service. I am proud that the Blaine County Commissioners are able to assist the Hunger Coalition in its efforts to feed more individuals than ever with our \$25,000 in assistance.”

Hunger Coalition Executive Director Jeanne Liston said, “The Hunger Coalition is tremendously grateful for the \$25,000 in emergency funding from Blaine County to help provide additional food in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the County’s partnership and confidence in our ability to feed the most vulnerable in our community through this crisis.” She added that, “On Monday, The Hunger Coalition fed 131 families, a 32% increase compared to recent months. Many who showed up had just been laid off and have no idea when they will be able to return to work. It’s unclear how long we will need to be on the front lines at this increased level, but would guess that it’s going to take months for people who have been laid off to get back on their feet. While we may not be able to help with utilities or rent, we can help with good food that will allow them to free up funds to pay for fixed costs while keeping them healthy.”

The Hunger Coalition said it intends to use these funds to purchase more food and help cover increased staff costs for their distributions. The funds also will be used to cover the purchase of more supplies, like gloves and cleaning materials, needed to help keep staff, volunteers and participants safe.

Blaine County contracts with The Hunger Coalition annually for its services in order to leverage the organization’s total effort to address food insecurity in Blaine County. This new authorization is in addition to the annual contracted amount. Blaine County is

providing these funds from its contingency account, citing the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Blaine County's most economically vulnerable individuals and families. Information about The Hunger Coalition can be found at <https://thehungercoalition.org/>.

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