



CHANGING THE SYSTEM FOR GOOD

THE FUTURE IS LOCAL

Wyoming Food For Thought Project

900 Saint John Street, Casper, WY 82601 (307) 337-1703



@wyomingfoodfor
thoughtproject



@wyfood4thought



www.wyfftp.org



VALUES

Community: We seek the greatest good for our communities. Our Mission and actions reflect our endeavor to cultivate community.

Integrity: We are of strong moral character and incorruptible. Our actions are true to our words -- our words true to our beliefs.

Honesty: We are rooted in truth, direct in our dealings, and open with our intentions.

Respect: We treat all others with dignity -- as we would like to be treated. We honor our differences and our similarities.

Commitment: We are sincere and steadfast in our purposes.

Discretion: We respect the privacy and confidentiality of our relationships and the information entrusted to us.

Judgment: We act in good faith, responsibly, with care, competence and diligence.

Focus: Our actions are prioritized so that we may remain true to our beliefs and responsible to our community and business.

Compliance: We abide by the laws and standards of our governments and our communities.

Compassion: We approach our interactions and decisions with empathy and consideration



VISION

We envision a world where diverse Wyoming communities feel connected to the land and each other, are proactive in the learning and implementation of food procurement, and everyone has access to fresh, local, healthy, affordable food at all times.

WE CREATE LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS BY:

EMPOWERING
our neighbors and community

PROVIDING
services and resources

EDUCATING
through programs and opportunities

CHANGING THE SYSTEM FOR GOOD

AT WYOMING FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROJECT, WE WORK EVERY DAY TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM FOR GOOD. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?

It means that every single thing we do is done with intention, and that intention is to change the way our community fights hunger.

Gone are the days when "at least it is something" is enough. If we want to end hunger, we must start at the root of the problem: education, upward mobility, access, and equity.

EDUCATION

We provide free food bags year-round for individual children on the weekend and long breaks to ensure that when they arrive at school on Monday they are ready to learn, not suffering. We do this without any financial investment from the school districts we serve. It is completely community driven because we know that having access to a good education is a proven route to climbing out of poverty.

UPWARD MOBILITY

We offer an affordable shared use commercial kitchen and share our knowledge on food businesses in order to create upward mobility for food entrepreneurs who otherwise would have none. We connect food entrepreneurs with resources, including our kitchen, as well as training and other business needs (marketing, insurance, structures, etc.). If someone has a dream but no means to accomplish that dream, they never attain it. And for some, the path upward can be as simple as access to an affordable kitchen space.

ACCESS

Our Food is Free program includes a little free pantry where anyone can go at any time and take what they need; 225 community garden beds where we plant the beds and everyone has access to them, no questions asked; and food rescue where we divert good food from the landfill and instead use it to provide meals to our neighbors.

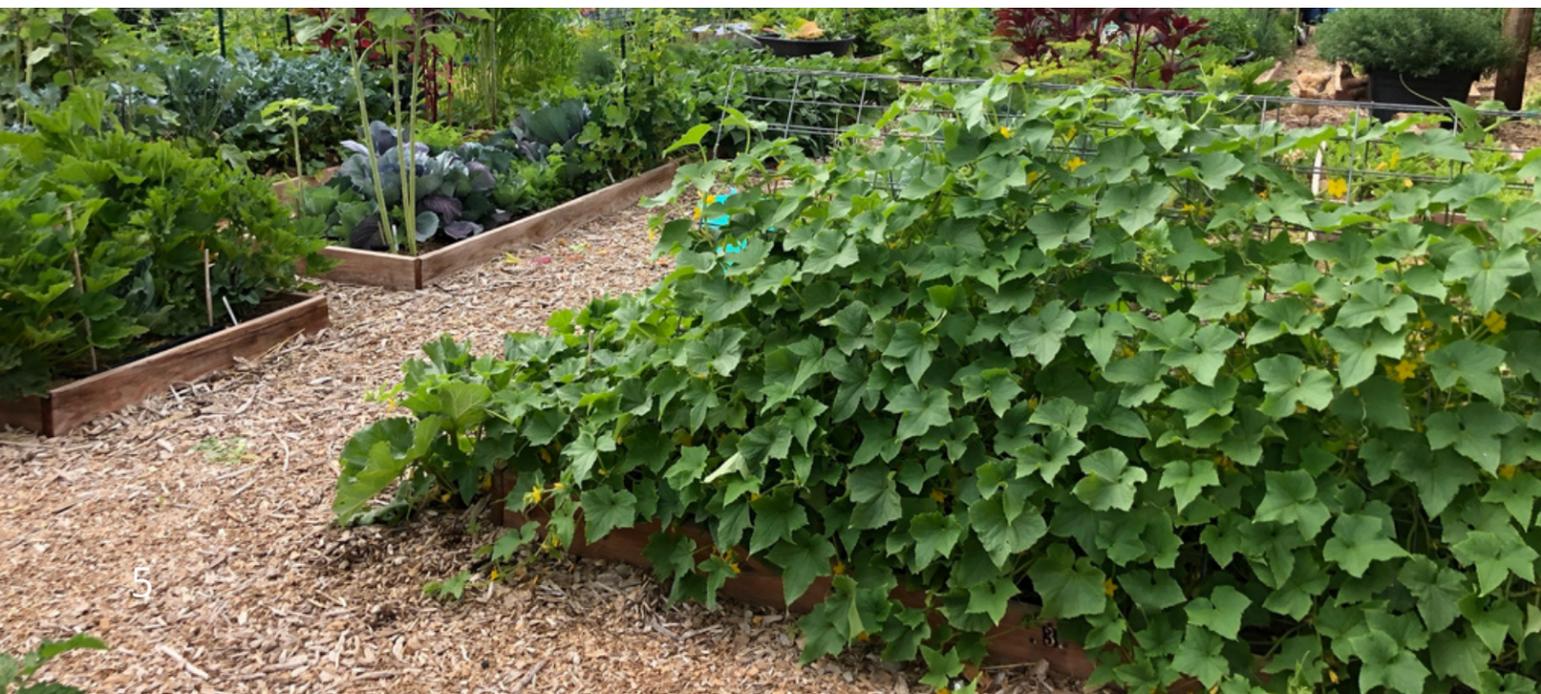
EQUITY

We work to make sure that if you need help, direction, mentoring, or anything else we can provide, that we do that, no questions asked. We never ask for someone to justify their need. We just help.

We believe that no matter who you are, what you look like, where you live, or what you believe—you matter. And we want to help you attain your fullest potential. We do that through avenues related to food.

That's why we do what we do.

The future is local.



WHY WE'RE HERE

Hunger goes unnoticed by many who aren't personally impacted by it. But the reality is that hunger is an every day experience for many people in our own community. Hunger is often an outcome of food insecurity—when households are unable to acquire adequate food due to insufficient money and other resources.

When 40% of the food in the U.S. is wasted yet there are still thousands of people in the community who are hungry, it's obvious that there's a deeper systemic issue that is preventing food access and food security.

Our mission was born in response to a need for solutions. We are devoted to addressing issues at the root in order to change the system for good. Where we find holes in the hunger safety net; we plant seeds to cultivate a different future.



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TODAY



OUR IMPACT IN 2020

As we all know, this past year was a year unlike any other. Initially, it presented challenges that required creative solutions. But we are skilled in the work of creative solutions to meet roadblocks as we work to feed hungry kids. We've been doing it for years, and though this past year presented challenges, it didn't stop us from moving forward.

In fact, our impact in 2020 was even greater than in prior years. We recruited more volunteers, delivered twice as many food bags, continued to collect donated food, and leveraged unique opportunities and collaborations with businesses that were presented by the pandemic in order to benefit those with the greatest need.

COVID DIDN'T STOP US, WE JUST INNOVATED.



375k MEALS DELIVERED TO KIDS



1000+ VOLUNTEERS



225+ GARDEN BEDS



Home deliveries for kids

To meet kids where they were—at home and learning virtually—we crafted and implemented a plan to deliver food bags directly to kids' homes through home deliveries. To do this, we collaborated with Natrona County School District and then recruited volunteers to deliver bags to doorsteps all around town.

In addition, we collaborated with Natural Grocers to rescue food that would have otherwise been thrown away by due to COVID regulations that prevented the return of food. This helped to make the home delivered food bags even better.

Also, protein from fair animals was collected and distributed to the families of the children receiving home deliveries.

Creative ways to meet needs with volunteers

The work we do at Food for Thought depends on volunteers. With lockdowns in place, this presented a challenge as we tried to understand how to get the community to help, especially while food bag numbers doubled.

But we found a way. Early on, large families took on the food bag packing to socially distance and keep the building COVID free. Most of our regular volunteers stayed home to stay healthy, so we looked to alternative groups to help, like Wyoming Recovery, the Ryan Larsen Family, home delivery drivers, the Bus Hub, school nurses and counsellors, donors, and more.



Completion of four-season greenhouse

In 2020 we finished our four-season greenhouse and kept it warm with compost all winter. This greenhouse is used to grow fresh produce and herbs we use in products we produce ourselves.

Increased food bag deliveries

Between 2019–2021, we increased the amount of food bags we deliver each week by a whopping 100%. The demand for food grew during the pandemic, and so did the amount of food bags we delivered to children. Where there's a need, there's a solution, and we make it happen.





Mobile Market Bus

Our Mobile Market Bus became licensed, inspected, and wrapped—making it ready to roll for 2021. Our Mobile Market now brings fresh, local food to our neighbors all over Natrona County, breaking down the barriers to access to local food for everyone.

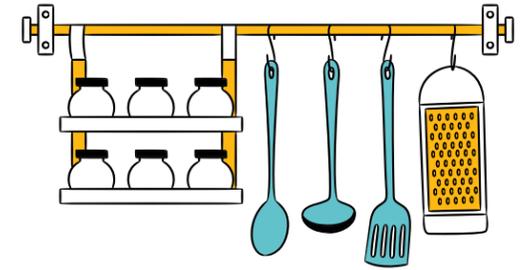
This project was completed as a Masters Project by our volunteer Marie Schilling.



New Box Truck

We leveraged the CARES Act Funds in 2020 to purchase a new refrigerated box truck. This truck will enable us to move more good food for kids in our community, and to collaborate with food producers in other parts of the state.

Operational Good Food Hub kitchen



In 2020 our commercial kitchen in the Good Food Hub became operational. This space provides opportunities for upward mobility. If someone has a dream but no means to accomplish that dream, they may never attain it. And for some, the path upward can be as simple as access to an affordable kitchen space.

Brew For Thought

In 2020 we collaborated with Skull Tree Brewing in Casper to bring Casperites a locally produced beer. Brew For Thought is an American Red Ale brewed by Skull Tree Brewing with Cascade Hops grown by at our urban farm at our program center.

We featured Brew For Thought Red Ale at a community event in the Spring of 2021, including local music and featured food from users of our commercial kitchen. The beer was also served on tap at Skull Tree Brewing.

Skull Tree Brewing's spent grains are then used in our compost, making it a collaboration that truly comes full circle: farm to pint to farm.





THE FUTURE IS LOCAL

Wyoming has always valued the independent spirit, yet we are systemically dependent on outside resources to keep our state operating. This is especially true when it comes to the one thing we truly can't live without: food.

Wyoming Food For Thought Project believes that building a sustainable and local food system fits right in line with Wyoming's spirit. That's why we work everyday to develop a strong, interconnected food system that can sustain itself. Our goal is to revive a sense of self-sustainability where everyone in Casper has equal access to producing and harvesting their own food all while growing a strong, local economy.

The solutions are local.
The future is local.

GET INVOLVED

We are a community based organization whose existence relies on the involvement of our community through giving of time, energy, and resources. We are always using volunteers—sign up on our website.

Make a donation at wyfftp.org or mail it to our program center.

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