



Hungry Hearts
Foundation

2020 and 2021
ANNUAL REPORTS

Dear Friends,

We entered 2020 with lots of positive momentum and enthusiasm, all of which would quickly be challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic declaration and the quarantine lockdowns that followed. We were facing difficult decisions both on the organizational level, as well as the personal. Our organization relies on donors to give food and money to our cause, volunteers to pack and distribute our food packets, and on schools to be open so that the food could be delivered to the children served by our foundation. As the pandemic started, we thought we were facing a perfect storm of disruption on all three levels. We had prepared for rainy days, as any responsible charity should, so we were ready to face the storm financially. But we had to figure out how to adapt to the new dangers, risks, and environment for everyone involved.

I am constantly amazed by the truly incredible and selfless group of volunteers that make up and run our organization. After several emergency meetings to assess the situation and figure out our next steps, it became very clear that our volunteers were determined that they wanted to keep operating, because as one encapsulated our predicament perfectly, "there are still hungry children out there and I fear for them." We changed our protocols to implement the then-recommended safety procedures and our operations continued. Hungry Hearts Foundation has continued to successfully operate through the entirety of the pandemic.

Since schools were closed and remote for a whole school year, we could no longer deliver packets through the school counselor offices, but had to deliver them in alternate ways, depending on the needs and abilities of the families we serve.

As days turned into weeks, and weeks into months of pandemic restrictions, we were proactively applying for grants to secure stability in our revenue to ensure that we could continue operating uninterrupted, no matter how long the pandemic kept going.

By the end of fiscal 2020 we recorded a total of \$103,245 in revenue of which \$57,250 was achieved through grants, and netted \$37,491 in expenses. The expenses ended being significantly below our expected amounts as the number of children enrolled in our program dropped, due to more aid being distributed through other organizations (Food Banks, etc.) in our community, as well as monetary aid being distributed directly to families in need, thereby likely requiring less aid from our organization.

As 2021 started, we were quite hopeful that it would bring with it a slow return to normalcy, especially as vaccines started to be distributed. Schools started planning going back to in-person learning again, and we expected our operations to slowly return to our pre-pandemic process of food distribution through schools as well.

By the time school started in-person in the Fall, we had started once again adding more children back, which we had lost from our program in 2020. This again is likely due to other local and national support programs being eliminated and due to the need for additional food in these families increasing. We are seeing a positive growth trend that we expect will bring us

back on the path to the pre-pandemic levels of children enrolled over the course of the 2022 calendar year.

We ended fiscal 2021 with a total of \$57,663 in revenue and netted \$25,957 in expenses. The expenses ended again being significantly below our normal amounts as the number of children enrolled in our program were lower than usual, but slowly returning to pre-pandemic enrollment numbers. We believe this growth will continue to accelerate as other pandemic-era aid is being eliminated.

Hungry Hearts Foundation, with the help of our donors and grantors, has survived the difficulties of the pandemic and is financially well-positioned as we exit the hardest years of the pandemic and slowly return to pre-pandemic levels of children supported. As we look ahead to 2022 we will continue to look into providing additional services at the schools we support with the funds we have to maximize the effect of the funds received toward our mission.

On behalf of the organization and the Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our fearless volunteers, sponsors, and the community who showed admirable bravery in the face of the risks and uncertainty of the pandemic. Together, we have been through a lot and it has made us that much braver, wiser, more resilient, and determined to keep going strong.

Sincerely,

Mirza Avdic
Executive Director, Chair, and Co-Founder