



**RAPID CITY  
COLLECTIVE  
IMPACT**



SERVING UP  
*Success*



THE FOOD SECURITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE HAS A MISSION  
TO END FOOD INSECURITY IN RAPID CITY

# 22 AGENCY PARTNERS

*Came to the table together*

TO FORM THE FOOD SECURITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE



**JOHN T. VUCUREVICH  
FOUNDATION**

*...to make a piece of the world a brighter place.*

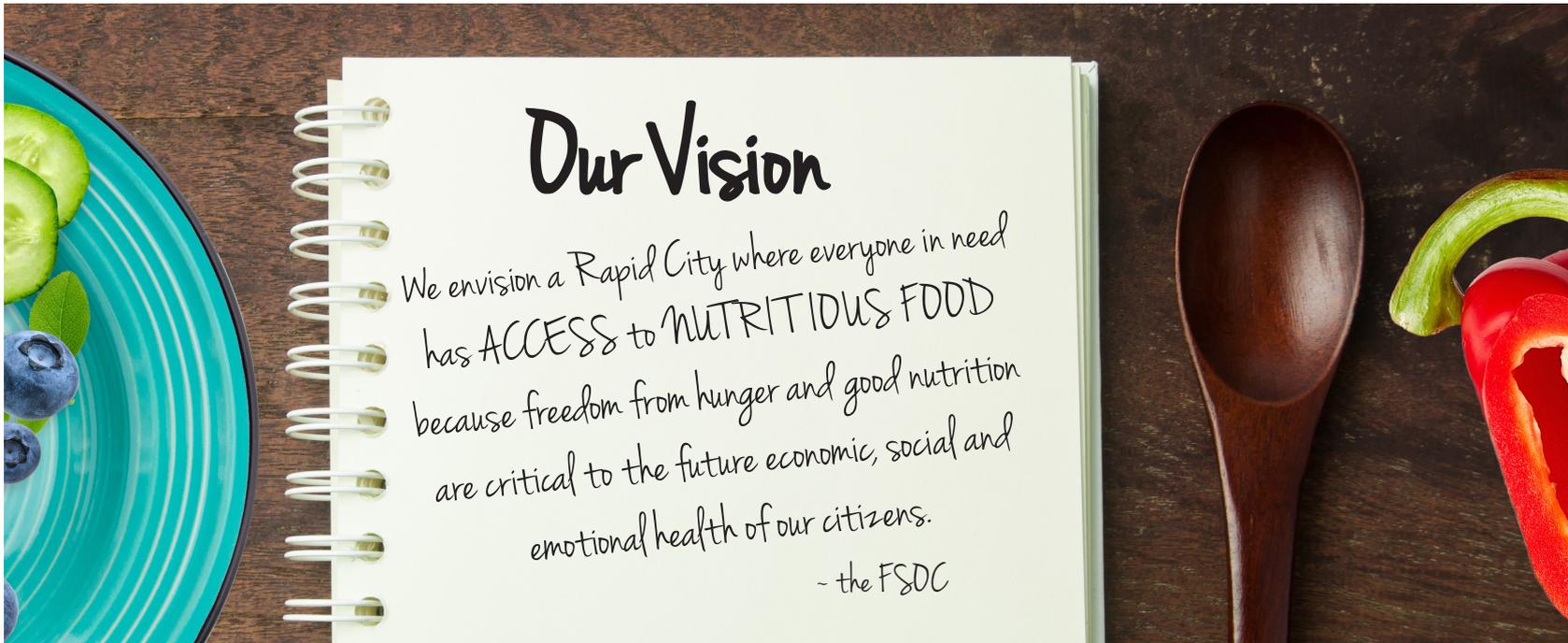


# GENESIS

## OF THE FOOD SECURITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Discussions held by Rapid City Collective Impact in 2016 highlighted a need for focused attention on food security in the Rapid City area. By the fall of 2016, the Food Security Oversight Committee (FSOC) was created with the goal of leveraging existing community resources to better address food needs in the city.

The FSOC created a common mission, vision statement and values that govern the group in the collective efforts.



### FSOC OBJECTIVES

#1

Identify food access gaps in Rapid City.

#2

Build an actionable, common agenda amongst food security stakeholders that address demonstrated food access gaps.

#3

Conduct a community awareness campaign of food-related challenges, opportunities and the work of the FSOC.

Mary Corbine was hired in March 2017 to coordinate the efforts of the FSOC. Since then, 15 meetings have been held with an average attendance of 14 members.

# IDENTIFYING GAPS AND NEEDS

A data collection effort, including mapping and community member interviews, was launched in the summer of 2017 to better understand food access issues in Rapid City.

## INTERVIEWS

from  
**254**  
Community  
Members

To learn more about the barriers that individuals and families face, community members who regularly access charitable food were interviewed.

Among the barriers mentioned, transportation was identified as one of the key challenges to accessing food.

Other concerns that were identified by community members: location of charitable food sites, food benefits that fall short of need, and limited availability of nutritional food options.

## MAPPING

Members of the FSOC employed GIS mapping software to pinpoint neighborhoods experiencing food insecurity. Mapping included factors such as household incomes, current food sources (both charitable and retail), and walking distance to those sources.

The food map displays 51 food retail access points, with the majority being convenience stores that are typically more expensive with fewer healthy options.

**Only 10 of the 51 retail access points are grocery stores.**

The food map displays 38 charitable access points to include pantries, summer food sites for kids, and congregate meals and/or sacked lunches (19 additional charitable access points were not available to the general public).

*\*Please see map insert for details or visit [RCCimpact.org](http://RCCimpact.org) to download maps.*

## CONCLUSIONS

**IDENTIFIED GAPS | COMMUNITY MEMBERS LACK SUFFICIENT ACCESS TO FOOD:**

in 13 geographic areas in Rapid City



after business hours & on the weekends



during extended holidays & over the summer



with nutritious food options



# ADDRESSING THE GAPS



The Club for Boys was granted funds to provide overtime pay for a staff member to be on-site on Fridays throughout the summer to handout **backpacks with food to The Club for Boys Club members and their families** for the weekends.

Youth & Family Services received funds to **feed adults accompanying children** to the YFS Monroe Street site during the summer. YFS representatives say, traditionally, youth attendance has increased when free meals are offered to adults as well.

Community Health Center of the Black Hills received funds to provide patients who are diabetic and experience food insecurity with **monthly "prescribed" food boxes** filled with nutritious food items and healthy recipes.

Fork Real Community Café received funds to provide **cooking classes for families** on Saturdays over the summer to accommodate the food gap over the weekend. Families learn how to prepare nutritious meals on a budget through hands-on experience. The ingredients, cooking tools and recipes are sent home with families, so they can recreate meals at home.

Bethel Assembly of God Church received funds to **establish a food pantry with Knollwood Apartments** to make food more easily accessible to those residents. This grant will help to increase access to food in a priority area during non-business hours and weekends throughout the year.

## ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

- Based on the 13 priority areas identified, Feeding South Dakota expanded its mobile distributions to better accommodate neighborhoods in need. These additional distributions are taking place on Saturdays. In addition, Rapid City Area Schools (RCAS) took into consideration the food maps in determining the route of the school district's new mobile food truck.
- Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota and the agencies that provide free summer meals to kids (RCAS, YFS and YMCA) are partnering to provide free meals to individuals who are 60+ and accompanying youth to summer feeding sites.
- Four new food pantries have been established in priority areas of Rapid City. Mary Corbine collaborated to open a new food pantry funded by the Riddle Family at Rapid City High School for students in the RCAS district. She also helped to establish new pantries at Black Hills State University - Rapid City, Mercy Housing and Rapid City Regional Health Family Medicine Residency.
- Other individuals and organizations, including Rural America Initiatives and students of Western Dakota Tech, utilized the food maps to petition for outside grant funding and inform project design.
- FSOC members recognized a lack of food service for kids during the week prior to school starting. In response, four summer feeding sites will remain open during that time period in August 2018, and two school sites will be open on the Monday and Tuesday of the week school starts.
- In 2017, the FSOC identified that meals were not being provided on the weekends over the summer. In response, the YMCA secured funding from Black Hills Energy to provide lunches on Saturdays during the summer.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FROM MAY 2017 TO MAY 2018

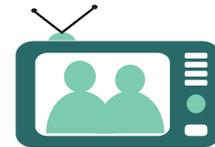
48 posts on the RCCI Facebook page, reaching over 60,000 Facebook users.



More than 3 dozen unique news stories featured on local TV, radio and in print news.



Public Service Announcements promoting summer feeding sites and other food security efforts have aired on multiple TV and radio stations.



Each year, nearly 10,000 food maps of the summer feeding sites have been distributed to local students and at non-profits serving individuals and families in need across town.



RCCI was Bethesda Christian Broadcasting's ministry of the month in February 2018. This opportunity afforded the food security effort to be featured in PSAs on 3 local BCB stations and websites.



7 digital RCCI newsletters featuring food security efforts have been distributed to hundreds of individuals and organizations in the Rapid City area.



## QUOTES FROM PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

*"I love the unified efforts of working together with different businesses and nonprofits in our community. We are teaming together to address food security and the food challenges families are facing in our community. Together, we can make a difference."*

~ Darcie Decker, Nutrition Director  
Youth & Family Services

*"The Club for Boys sees food insecurity as a community issue that affects many of our families and, subsequently, the healthy development of our members. We believe that through our participation we can help make the motto of the Food Security task force, 'Every Mouth, Every Meal, Every Day,' come true for our members and their families."*

~ Mark Kline, Asst. Executive Director  
The Club for Boys

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## CLIENT QUOTES

Why is it important that we address food insecurity as a community?  
We asked our community members what makes it hard for them to get enough food for themselves and their family.

This is what they had to say:

"Large family, 2 meals a day, not enough food stamps, not enough income. When income goes up, food stamps go down and rent goes up!"

"Getting out of the motel would help because then I would have a full fridge and a stove. I could then use leftovers and shop for larger amounts."

"I am a single mom going to school full time with a 15 hour a week part time job."

"Food restrictions, my son requires gluten free, dairy free, not able to keep up due to cost."

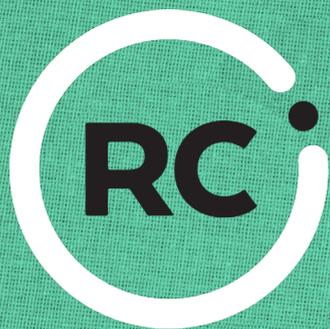
"I am handicapped and don't have a job, so I live on a fixed income. Utilities go up when it is hot or cold and then there isn't enough money to get food."



"I have transportation, but whenever I have a temporary day shift assignment, I can't get to the food programs and supplies are limited."

"Working full time and attending school full time is a challenge. I find it hard to keep up financially, and also, it is hard to meet the demands at home. I can't seem to afford appropriate food to feed the family."

"At the end of the month, money gets tight around the same time we are running out of food. Without money for transportation, there is no way to get food."



## **RAPID CITY COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

A community-supported initiative involving members of local government, nonprofits, faith-based communities, businesses, grass roots citizens and a backbone organization who share the common goal of improving quality of life in Rapid City.

RCCI is a program of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

[www.rccimpact.org](http://www.rccimpact.org) | PO Box 231, Rapid City, SD 57709 | [www.bhacf.org](http://www.bhacf.org)