Our Commitment to Equity, Justice, and Belonging

Honoring the Land

Missoula Food Bank & Community Center respectfully acknowledges that we gather, work, and share nourishment on the current, traditional, and ancestral homelands of the Séliš (Salish) and Qlispé (Upper Kalispel or Pend d'Oreille) People. For generations, they have loved, protected, and stewarded the valleys and waters of this region. We also recognize that these landscapes have long served as vital places of meeting, trade, and connection for the Ksanka (Kootenai), Blackfeet, and other Indigenous nations throughout Montana.

As an organization dedicated to the health and vitality of our community, we commit to honoring these original caretakers and their descendants. We pledge to move forward with gratitude, collaboration, humility, and an active responsibility to care for this land and all who live upon it.

Rooted in Anti-Racism and Inclusion

At the heart of our mission is a simple, powerful truth: food is a basic human right. True food security cannot exist without systemic justice. We recognize that hunger and poverty are not accidental; they are deeply tied to historical and ongoing inequities, including systemic racism, that disproportionately affect Indigenous, Black, and neighbors of color across Montana and our nation.

Intention into Action

To create a community where everyone can truly thrive, we embrace an active anti-racist path. For us, being an inclusive organization means:

- **Leading with Dignity and Compassion:** We strive to create a lasting sanctuary of belonging, free from stigma, shame, and judgment, where every individual is seen, valued, and respected.
- **Elevating Impacted Voices:** We believe those who experience food insecurity firsthand must be the leading voices in creating long-term solutions to poverty and hunger.
- **Dismantling Barriers:** We actively examine and improve our internal policies, partnerships, and practices to root out bias and expand equitable access to healthy, nourishing food for every neighbor.
- **Cultivating Collective Well-Being:** We build bridges of solidarity across our diverse community, understanding that our collective well-being is entirely dependent on how well we protect and care for the most vulnerable among us.

We are proud to stand with our community as partners in equity. Today and every day, we commit to doing the continuous, necessary work of unlearning bias, fighting systemic injustice, and nurturing a healthier, more unified community.