

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact:

Jenna Rhoads

HRDC Communications Manager OR

jrhoads@thehrdc.org

406-585-4883

Jill Holder

HRDC Food and Nutrition Director

jholder@thehrdc.org

406-586-7600

HRDC's Fork & Spoon Celebrates Nine Years

Bozeman, MONT. – This month, HRDC's Fork & Spoon celebrates nine years of providing pay-what-you-can meals. Over nine years ago, Heather Grenier (HRDC COO at the time, current CEO), had the idea to buy the former Frontier Pies Building and open Montana's only pay-what-you-can restaurant, known at the time as the Community Cafe. This was HRDC's creative solution to help those who were hit hardest by the recession. Originally, meals were prepared at HRDC's Gallatin Valley Food Bank and transported to the Cafe, until kitchen renovations were complete. Meal service was staffed by founding partners from the faith-based community. In April 2018, HRDC's restaurant got a new name, now known as Fork & Spoon, alongside a new logo, farmhouse-style tables bordered by orange and blue chairs and scratch cooked meals that send a message that everyone matters.

There is nothing virtual about hunger, or homelessness, illness, or the loss of a job. These are real challenges that impact real people in the community every day. Whether in a recession or a pandemic, Fork & Spoon remains committed to providing delicious and soul-nourishing dinners (at no charge, just like the first one served in 2012) to anyone in need of a hot meal.

"Nearly 25,000 take-out meals have been served in the past twelve months of the pandemic, largely to the most impacted citizens of our county. Some may be your friends or neighbors. Others you may have passed on the street, masked and anonymous. There have been so many new customers this year and the Fork & Spoon rose to the occasion," says Rick Hilles, Fork & Spoon Program Manager.

Please consider helping Fork & Spoon celebrate and continue this good work by purchasing a Take & Bake meal or paying it forward for someone else. Although the order window is now closed, those who completed a Take & Bake order for Friday, March 26 will receive a celebratory Birthday cake!

"Thank you to our founding partners, the thousands of volunteers, donors, and past and current staff who have ensured that over 200,000 delicious and nutritious meals were provided to our community over the last nine years," says CEO & President, Heather Grenier.

Fork & Spoon is a vital part of HRDC's response to address hunger in the area. Fork & Spoon operates from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Sunday through Friday, takeout only, on a pay-what-you-can basis. To learn more about Fork & Spoon, visit www.forkandspoonbozeman.org. For more information about HRDC, visit www.thehrdc.org.

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