



# Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

## Minnesota Public Benefit Corporation / Annual Benefit Report

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 304A



Read the instructions before completing this form  
 Must be filed by March 31  
 Filing Fee: \$55 for expedited service in-person, \$35 if submitted by mail

The Annual Benefit Report covers the 12 month period ending on December 31 of the previous year.  
 Notice: Failure to file this form by March 31 of this year will result in the revocation of the corporation's public benefit status without further notice from the Secretary of State, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 304A.301

1. File Number \_\_\_\_\_
2. Corporate Name: (Required) EAT FOR EQUITY CATERING, SBC
3. The public benefit corporation's board of directors has reviewed and approved this report.
4. In the field below, enter the information required by section 304A.301 subd. 2 or 3 for the period covered by this report. (see instructions for further information): Note: Use additional sheets if needed. (Required)

*Please see attached report*

5. I, the undersigned, certify that I am the chief executive officer of this public benefit corporation. I further certify that I have signed this document no more than 30 days before the document is delivered to the secretary of state for filing, and that this document is current when signed. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

*[Signature]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Public Benefit Corporation's Chief Executive Officer

3/28/22

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date (Must be dated within 30 days before the report is delivered to the Secretary of State for Filing)

**Email Address for Official Notices**

Enter an email address to which the Secretary of State can forward official notices required by law and other notices:  
EMTORG@EATFOREQUITY.ORG

Check here to have your email address excluded from requests for bulk data, to the extent allowed by Minnesota law.

**List a name and daytime phone number of a person who can be contacted about this form:**

EMILY TORGRIMSON                      612-470-4328

Contact Name                                      Phone Number

**Entities that own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed must register with the MN Dept. of Agriculture's Corporate Farm Program.**

Does this entity own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed?  
 Yes  No



## 2022 SPECIFIC BENEFIT CORPORATION REPORT

Eat for Equity Catering's specific benefit purposes are:

- 1) Promoting and modeling equitable and sustainable food sourcing
- 2) Providing access to conscious food choices
- 3) Using catering to support local nonprofit causes

In 2022, Eat for Equity Catering continued to build on our programs that meet community food needs. We used our benefit purposes and values as guiding forces in those business decisions. Our values are sustainability, diversity, generosity, inclusion, and collaboration.

### **SLIDING SCALE MEAL BOXES**

Delicious, sustainable prepared food accessible to our community at a sliding scale. Eat for Equity Catering helps put good food on your table. Our weekly prepared meal boxes come with 90% of the work already done. We source fresh, local and organic ingredients and feature a new menu each week. We simmer and roast, chop and clean up - so all you have to do is clean your plates!

We engage our community to provide for our community - our customers can choose to pay it forward so others can pay what they can. The Meal Box Program includes both pay-what-you-can and pay-it-forward options, so all our customers can access good, nutritious food. One customer wrote, "Meal boxes have been amazing for our family over the last two years - during busy work weeks raising a toddler and welcoming a new baby - and just adding joy, new flavors, and making dinners easier. With Eat for Equity I find myself enjoying the cooking I choose to do!"

We prepared the equivalent of over 10,000 local and organic meals, available for sliding scale to our neighbors. We also provided 369 pay-what-you-can meal boxes in 2022, which is an estimated 2500 meals.

### **FREE PREPARED MEALS**

Our continued work with Minnesota Central Kitchen and Second Harvest Heartland recognizes that hunger isn't just about access to food. In its third year, the Minnesota Central Kitchen project [now renamed Kitchen Coalition] provided more than 1.3 million prepared meals - and Eat for Equity Catering provided 34,471 of those free prepared meals, an increase of 27% more meals this year.

We're a kitchen partner with Kitchen Coalition and prepare 600-1000 meals a week that are distributed to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. It serves up culturally connected,



## 2022 SPECIFIC BENEFIT CORPORATION REPORT

We prioritize cooperative and nonprofit organizations because we believe that their structures help to create equity. Cooperatives are owned and run jointly by their members, who share in the profits or benefits. Examples of our nonprofit or cooperative food vendors include Co-op Partners Warehouse, Seward Co-op, and Frontier Co-op.

Nonprofits build equity by being mission-driven, often created by or with input from the community, and by reinvesting profits back towards their mission. Eat for Equity Catering is owned by a nonprofit, Eat for Equity. Non-profit vendors we use include The Good Acre.

We track our food purchases through our accounting system and code vendors as cooperative, women-owned, or minority-owned businesses. We share our sourcing list and our food policy on our website ([eatforequity.org/sourcing](http://eatforequity.org/sourcing)).

In 2021, we spent 40% of our food dollars with cooperative/nonprofit, women- or minority-owned businesses. This is a decrease from 2021 and 2020, when we were able to spend respectively 54% and 66% of our food dollars with cooperative-, nonprofit-, women- or minority-owned businesses. As we reviewed our purchasing, we found that we had unintentionally shifted a significant amount of purchases from Coop Partners to Fortune, and added purchases from a new national vendor, US Foods. Both of those purchasing shifts resulted in less dollars spent at cooperative/nonprofit, women- or minority-owned businesses.

As we think about improving this goal we have to be intentional about the process for adding new sources. We began purchasing from Laune Bread and Cheesecake Funk this year, and increased purchasing from Sin Fronteras, all local, women- or minority-owned businesses who have amazing products.

### **Sustainable food sourcing**

Eat for Equity Catering prioritizes purchasing of local, organic, and fair-trade foods because we see deep value in investing in our local communities and in production practices that are healthier for the planet and for farm workers.

What does "local" mean to us? Products are local if they are grown in the five-state region around us (MN, WI, IA, ND, SD), or if they are produced or processed locally (beyond repackaging). We track our food purchases through our accounting system and code items as Local, Organic, or Conventional. If food is both local and organic, we code it as Local. Local products can be either organic or conventionally grown.

Almost all of our ingredients are either local or organic. In 2022, 61% of our food dollars were spent on local or organic products. In 2022, local food accounted for 32% of total food purchases. An additional 29% of food purchases were for organic foods that were not local.

Our goal for 2022 was to source 80% of our food dollars on local or organic products. Unfortunately, we fell short of that ambitious goal for some of the same reasons above, as well



## 2022 SPECIFIC BENEFIT CORPORATION REPORT

Another customer wrote about the pay-what-you-can boxes, "Thank you for making an accessible, pay-what-you-can option for your boxes. The ability to nourish my body with your healthy, delicious creations without compromising my limited budget is such an incredible gift."

Our customers responded generously to a pay-it-forward option, paying more than the "Regular Price" to be able to offset the cost of the pay-what-you-can option for others in our community. For example, with Omnivore Meal Box, our most popular option, 60% of customers chose a pay-it-forward option [ranging from \$5-\$20 more / box] to offset the cost of the pay-what-you-can options [ranging from \$20 - \$80 / box]. This has been a fairly consistent average year to year. This spirit of generosity is core to our values as a company, rooted in our parent nonprofit's mission to build a culture of generosity through sustainable community feasts.

One of our customers wrote, "We just really appreciate the care taken in planning and making the meals, and we appreciate the opportunity to contribute a little bit (by paying forward) to help our neighbors access this food. We also appreciate this business and the other parts of the organization that are helping to provide food support to folks in our community."

### **Featured Chefs**

As part of our weekly prepared Meal Box program, we began working with Featured Chefs to highlight their menu and point of view, and to promote their businesses. We primarily focus on women chefs and chefs of color, with goals to share our platform and resources with those chefs, learn from them and provide our customers with diversity of flavors, and as an opportunity for them to experiment and grow their businesses.

Our featured chef program features a different chef and their menu on a regular basis. Chefs design their menu and work with our staff to prepare it. In 2022, we worked with Chefs Chandra Walbolt and Maurice Walker.

Eat for Equity Catering pays for all food costs, staff costs, kitchen costs so that there is no out of pocket cost to the participating chef. Chefs earn a stipend [\$500 minimum] and 10% of sales. We started to provide a photographer to take photos of the chef and their food that they can use for their business moving forward.

### **Inclusive food choices**

We want to offer our clients an inclusive catering experience, and make sure all their guests can join in the meal. We cater to food sensitivities and dietary needs - for example, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free- by clearly labeling allergens with every menu item and featuring a range of menu items that fit those needs. We label our products as vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free and mark the top nine allergens (dairy, egg, wheat, shellfish, fish, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, sesame).



## 2022 SPECIFIC BENEFIT CORPORATION REPORT

### **Charitable donations**

A strong indicator of our commitment to using catering to support local nonprofit causes is our continued donations to other nonprofits, both with in-kind donations, discounts, and monetary contributions. Our goal is to generate profits from Eat for Equity Catering events to support nonprofit causes.

In 2022, Eat for Equity made a \$5000 donation to support the Du Nord Foundation Community Market, a community food resource. We also started to organize fundraising events as part of our regular meal boxes. For example, after a shooting in a gay club in Colorado, we designed a Rainbow menu and contributed pay-it-forward funds to support two organizations supporting and celebrating our queer community in the Twin Cities.

In 2022, Eat for Equity Catering estimates that we donated the equivalent of at least \$5000 in prepared food, raw ingredients, and other in-kind food donations to community organizations and nonprofits. While we scaled back all off-site catering this year, the events that we prioritized were for nonprofit groups, where we also gave 10-50% discounts to those clients to make it more affordable.

The Eat for Equity Catering Board of Directors is currently comprised of Emily Torgrimson, Executive Director. Emily Torgrimson has prepared, reviewed and approved this report.

In addition, this report has been shared with and reviewed by the Eat for Equity Board of Directors. Eat for Equity is the owner of Eat for Equity Catering, SBC.



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**Original File Number 992025200030**

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
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*Steve Simon*

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State