

2023-2024 Annual Report



A year of increasing need

This past year we continued to see increased need for food assistance as the cost of living grows. Families in our community are looking for ways to fill in the gaps in their budget as food, housing, and utility costs rise. Affordability of food is a major concern particularly for seniors living on a fixed income. Overall, we served 101,718 individuals this year, an increase in 9% from the previous year. We had 2,825 people visit The FOOD Pantry for the first time, and we saw particular growth in visits of larger household sizes showing that generations and families are combining households to save on housing costs. The growth in service demands additional food resources and The FOOD Pantry distributed nearly \$5.5 million dollars worth of food to our neighbors in Waukesha County. Our food recovery program is a major source of food and our generous community provides most of the financial support through general donations to ensure we can assist our neighbors in Waukesha County.

A message from our leadership

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support our community has shown The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County. Your generosity, dedication, and compassion have been essential to our mission, especially during a year marked by continued change and growing need.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of individuals and families relying on The FOOD Pantry to help make ends meet. As the demand for our services grows, so too does our commitment to adapting and evolving. Change is never easy, but thanks to the remarkable flexibility and dedication of our volunteers and staff, we have continued to strengthen our operations and expand our impact.

I am especially grateful for the warm welcome I've received in my first year as Executive Director. It is an honor to be part of such a caring and resilient community, and I look forward to working together as we build a brighter, more food-secure future for all.

With sincere appreciation,
Lyndsay Johnson, Executive Director



Impact snapshot

35,572

Total number of program visits

2,760

Children served, 32% of all clients

937

Seniors served, 10% of all clients

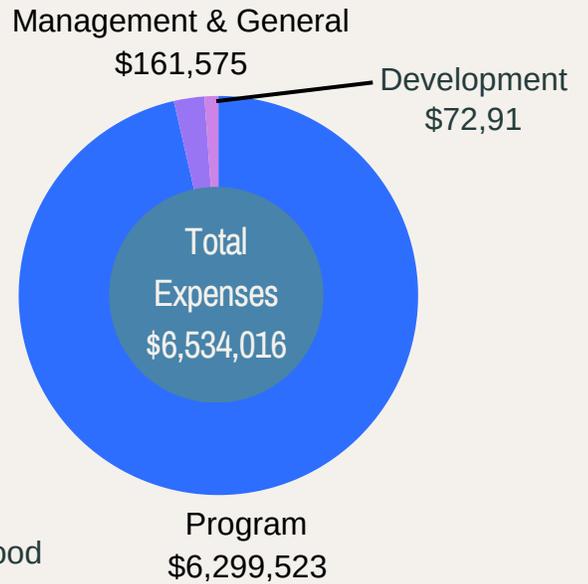
3,457

Number of unique households served

8,628

Number of unique people served

Revenue & Expenses for Fiscal Year 2023-2024



At The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County, we respect all of the contributions we receive, whether they come from our events, appeal letters, or from the many donors you who bring their food and financial donations directly to The FOOD Pantry. We understand the high value placed on the gifts given to us and the importance of our responsibility to use them wisely. For the last 46 years we have maintained a proven record of being steadfast stewards of the resources that our community provides for The FOOD Pantry. We thank you for the opportunity to maximize these gifts, allowing us to provide food, hope, and dignity to our neighbors in need.

Programs & Services



Grocery Distribution

The primary purpose of the FOOD Pantry is to distribute food to all income-eligible Waukesha County residents in need of food assistance. This year, there were 32,581 grocery visits, and increase of 25% from the previous year.

Grocery distribution was offered via full choice indoor shopping, pre-packed express pickup, and scheduled orders. 95% of groceries were distributed via these three methods. The other 5% was 1,942 deliveries to 206 unique individuals who are homebound due to disability or lack of mobility.

Food Recovery

This program gleans quality food from various businesses that would otherwise be thrown away. The food through this program is distributed directly to The FOOD Pantry clients, as well as shared with other shelters, pantries, and meal sites in the community.

This year the Food Recovery program gathered and distributed over \$2.6 million worth of meat, dairy, produce, nuts, bakery, and other types of food.

Federal Food Programs

Although the FOOD Pantry is not a government agency, it does facilitate distribution of federal food programs. The FOOD Pantry is a contracted agent of The Emergency Food Assistance Program or TEFAP, distributing commodity foods from the USDA to anyone who is income eligible.

In partnership with Community Action Coalition, The FOOD Pantry became the distribution hub for all TEFAP foods for the entire county, bringing 14 other nonprofit agencies to our location once a month to receive their monthly allocation of TEFAP foods.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program or Stockbox is a nutrition program of the USDA designed for seniors age 60+ who are income eligible. The Stockbox is available once per month which provides about 40 pounds of shelf stable foods.

Birthday Bags & Holiday Foods

Although not necessities, these programs are offered to clients registered at The FOOD Pantry to ensure that they can share a celebratory meal with their family. Each year, more than 300 children receive specially packaged birthday bags with cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, and balloons. Approximately 1,500 families receive holiday food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. A typical holiday meal would include a turkey or ham and an assortment of traditional fixings.

Infant Needs & Special Diet

These programs meet the needs of clients who, because of age or medical conditions, require special foods. For families with infants and young children ages three and under they types of products offered include diapers, wipes, formula, and baby foods.

The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County provides food, hope, and dignity to county residents in need, and advocates to increase awareness of hunger through community partnerships.



We envision a future without hunger in Waukesha County.

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The **FOOD**
Pantry
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

Additional copies of this report available upon request. Use the contact information below.

info@waukeshafoodpantry.org

waukeshafoodpantry.org

1301 Sentry Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186

262-542-5300
