# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

AUTUMN 2026

## DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THIS GIVING TUESDAY

Every day, The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County helps neighbors facing food insecurity find nourishment, support, and hope. Behind every bag of groceries is a person or family with a story. Your generosity helps make a meaningful difference in their lives.

One of our clients shared: “The FOOD Pantry helps me get food for my family every week, and I am so grateful for that support.”

This Giving Tuesday, December 1, your gift can go twice as far! Thanks to a generous $50,000 matching gift from four anonymous donors, your support can help provide more food to our neighbors and meet the growing need in our community. Your gift matters. With this special matching opportunity, your generosity can have an even greater impact on local families facing food insecurity.

SCAN ME!

**How You Can Help:**

- **Give Online:** Visit www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/tuesday on Tuesday, December 1 or scan the QR code to go to our GivingTuesday donation page to have your gift count towards the match.
- **Mail a Check:** Send your donation to The FOOD Pantry with “GivingTuesday” in the memo by December 1 to be matched.
- **Give Food:** Not able to give financially? You can still make a difference! Drop off non-perishable food items at Door #5, at The FOOD Pantry at 1301 Sentry Drive in Waukesha. We accept donations Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM or Saturday, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM. High-need items include: cereal, peanut butter, canned proteins like tuna or chicken, and canned fruits and vegetables.
- **Host a Food Drive:** Rally your workplace, school, or faith community! Visit our website and find in the menu: ‘Get Involved/Host a Food Drive’ for resources to get started or email jeremy@waukeshafoodpantry.org.

**Let’s make this Giving Tuesday count.**

Save the Date!

**April 17, 2027**

*Golden Mast Inn, Okauchee, WI*

Join Us in the
Fight Against Hunger in Waukesha County.
Be Part of “More than a Meal” – Our Annual Fundraiser.

The FOOD Pantry

More Than A Meal
Annual Fundraiser

Watch for updates on our socials and website
www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/more
We hope to see you there!

A Publication of The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

The FOOD Pantry
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters of The FOOD Pantry,

Nearly 50 years ago, The FOOD Pantry began serving our Waukesha County neighbors facing food insecurity. Today, we are entering a new chapter marked by significant firsts that are strengthening our foundation for the future.

Each milestone represents more than an organizational accomplishment. It reflects our commitment to providing food, hope, and dignity to the growing number of individuals and families who turn to us for help.

**For the first time in our history, we own our home.** In December 2025, The FOOD Pantry purchased a building at 1705 South Prairie Avenue. With 20,000 square feet on more than three acres, this property offers the opportunity to create a pantry designed around the needs of the people we serve.

While renovations are still ahead, our vision is a welcoming, efficient space where families can access food with dignity and fresh food can be safely stored and distributed. Most importantly, this new home will give us room to grow as the needs of our community evolve.

**For the first time, we have launched a capital campaign.** Purchasing and renovating this building is a significant investment in the future of The FOOD Pantry. Our capital campaign invites the community to invest not only in a building, but also in the long-term financial sustainability of The FOOD Pantry. Together, we can create a space that meets today's needs while enabling us to serve our neighbors for decades to come.

**For the first time, our endowment is supporting ongoing operations**. Thanks to Karen and Dick Vaughn's extraordinary $1 million endowment gift, The FOOD Pantry received its first endowment distribution to support our work. This generous investment helps offset rising operating costs and strengthens our financial foundation for the future.

**Our growth reflects the growing importance of our mission.** In 2021, we served 4,280 people through 45,130 pantry visits. By 2025, that number had grown to 9,400 individuals through 111,730 pantry visits. In just four years, the number of people we serve more than doubled, while pantry visits increased by nearly 148%. These numbers represent more than growth. They reflect the neighbors who rely on us to help put food on their tables and underscore the importance of ensuring The FOOD Pantry is prepared to meet the needs of our community. While our 2026 statistics are not yet finalized, the need for food assistance in Waukesha County reinforces the importance of our mission.

As we look toward 2027, we do so with gratitude for how far we have come and determination to meet the challenges ahead. Nearly 50 years of service have taught us that when our community comes together, extraordinary things are possible. Thank you for being part of our story and for helping us build a stronger future for the neighbors who count on us.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Lyndsay J Johnson

**Lyndsay Johnson**
Executive Director

**The FOOD Pantry Staff**
Pictured left to right (front row): Marina Rodriguez, Jeremy Otte, Lyndsay Johnson, Michael Egly, Annette De Jesus
(back row): Wendy Jones, Robert Baranzyk-Kloskey, Zach Trafton, Joseph Boyle, and Ricardo Escamilla

# NO NEIGHBOR HUNGRY--HELP US REACH OUR GOAL THIS YEAR

The FOOD Pantry's capital campaign, No Neighbor Hungry, continues to move forward thanks to the generosity and commitment of our community. We began this journey in 2025 with an $8 million fundraising goal, and we are excited to share that 280 individuals and organizations have participated so far in making our vision for a new home a reality. **Today, we have just $1.73 million left to raise!**

Our campaign is about more than a new building. It is an investment in The FOOD Pantry's long-term ability to serve our neighbors, respond to growing needs, and provide a welcoming and efficient experience for the families who count on us.

Our original $8 million goal includes funding for several critical components of this vision:

- **Building purchase:** This goal was accomplished in December 2025, when we purchased our new home at 1705 S. Prairie Avenue.
- **Renovations to the building:** Approximately $3.75 million of the budget was allocated to transform the building into a functional, welcoming space that supports our growing operations and improves the food pantry experience for clients, staff, and volunteers.
- **Refrigeration:** Approximately $500,000 is budgeted for refrigeration equipment. The current refrigeration is often at capacity, limiting our ability to accept additional food. The equipment has also reached the end of its useful life, resulting in costly repairs. New equipment will allow us to safely accommodate more food and better meet the needs of our community.
- **Endowment:** The goal is to have $2 million in an endowment to provide long-term financial stability and help sustain The FOOD Pantry's mission for generations to come.

**Sharing Our Vision for the Future**

On August 20, we welcomed 113 guests to an open house at our new facility. Visitors toured the space and saw firsthand how this new home will transform our ability to serve families across Waukesha County. With expanded parking, additional storage, loading docks, greater refrigeration capacity, and a larger client service area The FOOD Pantry's new home will be designed to optimize our operations which will help us meet today's needs and prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

**Our Path to 2028**

We plan to continue fundraising through the remainder of 2026, begin construction in 2027, and complete construction and move into our new home in 2028. With $1.73 million remaining, we are within reach of making this vision a reality, but we need our community's continued support to get there.

**Will you help us cross the finish line?**

If you would like to support the capital campaign, please scan the QR code included in this newsletter or use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. Please indicate that your contribution is designated for the capital campaign so your gift can be allocated appropriately.

Contribute Today

Make an impact

Every gift makes a difference. Whether you contribute to the campaign, introduce us to a potential supporter, or share our vision with others, you are helping build a stronger, healthier Waukesha County.

Through this effort, we can create a community where no neighbor goes hungry.
Learn more at www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/no_neighbor_hungry



The FOOD Pantry
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

**MISSION:** 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.

**VISION:** We envision a future without hunger in Waukesha County.

**NON-PROFIT STATUS:** The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County is a non-profit community organization, maintaining 501(c)3 status, and all donations are tax deductible where allowable by law.

The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ellen Vermillion

## RESTURANTS SUPPORTING THE FOOD PANTRY

**Delafield Panera** will be supporting The FOOD Pantry's No Neighbor Hungry capital campaign on Tuesday, November 10. 25% of sales from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm will be donated to support the capital campaign. Use code **FUND4U** on the app, at the kiosk, or online.

**Chipotle in Pewaukee** will be supporting The FOOD Pantry's No Neighbor Hungry capital campaign on Monday, December 14. 25% of sales from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm will be donated to support the capital campaign. Use code **G9KAAET** online or in the app.

Thank you to all of our partners for helping us fight hunger in Waukesha County!

# WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PANTRY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

## SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE® CAMPAIGN

From **November 19 to January 4**, Subaru's annual Share the Love® Event returns–and once again, **Wilde Subaru in Waukesha** has selected **The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County** as their **Hometown Charity!**

When you **purchase or lease a new Subaru** from Wilde Subaru during the event and choose The FOOD Pantry as your charity of choice, **Subaru will donate $250** to support our mission of feeding neighbors in need. Since 2015, the Share the Love® campaign has resulted in **$451,100 in donations** to The FOOD Pantry!

## MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE CAMPAIGN

**Waukesha's Meijer** store continues to share their generosity as a supporter by selecting The FOOD Pantry as a recipient of their **Simply Give** campaign. From now until the end of the year, Meijer customers can purchase Simply Give donation cards which are converted into Meijer food-only gift cards for The Pantry to use to fill donation gaps.

This year, Meijer is holding a double match day to benefit The FOOD Pantry on **Saturday, December 12**. That means for every $10 card purchased, Meijer will donate $30 to The Pantry. Since 2016, the **Meijer Simply Give** campaign has resulted in **$356,800 in donations** to The FOOD Pantry!

## SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – "CHECK OUT HUNGER" AT WOODMAN'S!

From November 1 through December 31, 2026, Woodman's will run its annual **Check Out Hunger** campaign. When you shop at the Waukesha Woodman's (1600 E. Main St.), you'll have the option to add $1, $3 or $5 to your purchase at the checkout. All funds raised will be converted into gift cards and split between The FOOD Pantry and Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin to help those in need.

## SHOP, ROUND UP, AND GIVE BACK AT GOOD HARVEST

Good Harvest Market in Pewaukee is making it easier to give back this holiday season!

Purchase a $25 donation food bundle, and Good Harvest will match it–that's $50 worth of organic and natural food staples donated to The FOOD Pantry. Plus, you can round up at the register all December long to support The FOOD Pantry and local families in need.

**1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186 | 262.542.5300**
**info@waukeshafoodpantry.org | www.waukeshafoodpantry.org**

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