



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SPRING 2025

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 3RD ANNUAL BREAKFAST CLUB FUNDRAISER



You are cordially invited
to The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County's
3rd Annual Breakfast Club Fundraiser!

Saturday, May 17, 2025

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Red Circle Inn

N44W33013 Watertown Plank Rd
Nashotah, WI 53058

Live Raffle & Silent Auction | Entertainment by Devon Huckstep

Learn more about The FOOD Pantry at
www.WaukeshaFoodPantry.org



Thank you to our current event sponsors including:

Champion Sponsor: Eaton Corporation

Advocate Sponsors: James Imaging Systems, Old National Bank, ProHealth Care, and Unity Lutheran Church

Partner Sponsors: Central Office Services, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, GThankYou, Meijer, and Waukesha State Bank

Friend Sponsors: Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, Jack & Emme Pitzo, R&R Insurance, Red Circle Inn, Roundy's Distribution, Summit Credit Union, Vantage Financial, and Woodmans.

2024 PANTRY FAST FACTS

- 679,600 pounds of food were donated from businesses to The FOOD Pantry through the food recovery program.
- Combined pounds of food donated to the pantry from food drives, food recovery, and food banks was 1.98 million pounds of food valued at \$5.52 million.
- The pantry spent \$381,000 to purchase food, an increase of 319% from 2021 purchased food level of \$91,000.
- The pantry enrolled 1,240 first time households, a 155% increase from 2021 new client levels.
- The pantry served 8,897 unduplicated individuals, a 108% increase from 2021 unduplicated individuals served of 4,282.
- Approximately 32% of clients were children and 9% were seniors.
- 966 volunteers donated 28,184 hours to support the pantry.

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Pantry Supporters,

If you have not had an opportunity to visit the pantry in a while, it looks a little different as we have made **enhancements to the pantry space** to more effectively serve our clients and improve the warehouse for staff and volunteers. The client services remodeling project, which was 100% funded with donations and grants specifically for this project, was completed in November 2024. Staff, clients, and volunteers are enjoying the remodeled space, which has allowed our non-profit to be more efficient in serving the growing number of clients – 127 households a day on average. The warehouse also received some attention with the installation of new LED lights donated by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 494. This enhancement not only provides our food recovery volunteers with the light they need to work, but it will also result in an estimated \$1,400 a year in energy savings for the pantry.

Communication continues to be an area of focus for The FOOD Pantry. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to keep current on what is happening at the pantry. I am also sending monthly emails on a topic of interest to improve awareness about pantry activities. If you have not received those emails, it is because we do not have your email address. Please contact us to update your email address and ensure you keep current with what is going on at The FOOD Pantry.

With the increasing number of clients we are serving, **fund and food raising** to support our mission continues to be a high priority. As you saw on the previous page, the pantry will hold its 3rd Annual Breakfast Club fundraiser at Red Circle Inn on Saturday, May 17. Please join us to support The FOOD Pantry at our only in person fundraiser for the year. We need you to make this event a success.

In October, Jeremy Otte joined our team in a newly created position as our community engagement coordinator. Jeremy is a resource for individuals and organizations interested in group volunteer activities, holding a fundraiser to benefit the food pantry, or hosting a food drive. Since Jeremy started, we have had 98 food drives but are now entering the time of year when food drives and fundraising efforts decline. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser or food drive, please contact Jeremy at jeremy@waukeshafoodpantry.org and he will assist you in making your event a success.

Finally, our greatest resource is you--our dedicated volunteers and donors who choose to give of your time, talent and treasure to support our mission. Thank you for all you do to ensure Waukesha County residents have access to nutritious food.



Pictured (front row): Jeremy Otte, Jon Huckaba, Zach Trafton, Michael Egly, Keith Rauguth, and Robert Baranyk-Kloskey
(back row): Lyndsay Johnson, Wendy Jones, Marina Rodriguez, and Mirella Petrucci Sperbeck

HELP US STAMP OUT HUNGER ON MAY 10, 2025

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest, single-day food drive in the Nation. Many post offices in Waukesha County are participating in this year's event. This is an easy way for you to help individuals facing food insecurity.

This year's event is being held on Saturday, May 10. Prior to the event, participating post offices will place a plastic Stamp Out Hunger bag in mailboxes. Simply fill the bag with non-expired, non-perishable food items and place the bag next to the mailbox before your Saturday, May 10 mail is delivered. The letter carrier will pick up the food when the mail is delivered and will route the food to local food pantries.

In 2024, The FOOD Pantry received a total of 28,100 pounds of food to restock shelves from the Waukesha, Brookfield and New Berlin postal drives. All donations are appreciated but items that are in high demand include cereal, pasta, rice, canned protein, ready made soup, canned fruits and vegetables, and peanut butter.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!



Volunteers at the Waukesha Post Office for the 2024 Stamp Out Hunger Event.

A WORD FROM OUR CLIENTS

- There isn't a lot of help for families in the middle like ours. We don't qualify for Foodshare or other assistance. Coming to The FOOD Pantry means bills get paid on time.
- We are living month to month with not much money left over at the end of the month. The food we receive from the pantry means that we have food to eat.
- The pantry is very necessary for my family. Rent and other costs continue to increase so I have to work several jobs just to make ends meet.
- I was in the US Army for the past 8 years but I hurt my knee and was honorably discharged. The pantry helps us save money when you don't have a lot.
- I'm currently unemployed. I'm grateful that I can come here for food and the staff and volunteers are super nice.

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.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES: SUPPORTING OUR CLIENTS

When people come to The Pantry, our main goal is to meet their immediate need of providing nutritious food. However, we know food insecurity may just be one of the challenges our clients are facing. To provide access to additional resources, The Pantry collaborates with other organizations to address some of these challenges.

Nutrition Education: We partner with UW-Extension and the FoodWise Program to offer nutrition education, recipe samples based on current items offered at The Pantry, and educational handouts about using seasonal produce, food safety, and shopping on a budget.

Health: In 2024, we partnered with ProHealth Care on two different occasions:

- Outreach nurses from the Wisconsin Well Women Program provided clients with education and information on breast cancer screening opportunities for underinsured or uninsured individuals.
- A free flu vaccine clinic was provided to clients, volunteers, and staff.

Waukesha Library: We partner with the Waukesha Public Library to provide an opportunity for adults and children to get signed up for a library card so that they can access free events and resources that the library offers.

SUPPORTING THE PANTRY: YOUR GIFTS MATTER

The Pantry's operation is primarily supported by individuals or businesses in our community. While we are working on diversifying our revenue sources, we need you to support our mission to ensure that our neighbors have access to food.

As we start a new year, these are some of the ways you can support us:

- **Donate money** by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope or through an on-line donation at waukeshafoodpantry.org. On-line donations can set up on a recurring basis to support our operation.
- **Leave a legacy** by remembering us in your estate plan. For more information contact: lyndsay@waukeshafoodpantry.org

- **Organize a food drive** at work, school, church, or in your neighborhood. Contact jeremy@waukeshafoodpantry.org to schedule your food drive.
- **Matching gifts** are an excellent way to maximize your donation. Many employers match their employees' donations so talk with your Human Resources Department to see if employer match is available.

Thank you for your continued and generous support!

