



Happy Spring, Friends!

It is hard to believe that 2018 has come to an end and we are a healthy distance into 2019. Last year, like most, was filled with triumphs and trials. Though there is no greater triumph than serving people in need of help putting food on the table and doing that well. Pantry patrons provide us generous feedback, things we can do better and the many ways in which their life is impacted. There are so many ripples of positive impact caused by your support – volunteer time, financial or food gifts, talents. Oftentimes I feel as though I fail to adequately explain or thank you for those huge ripples your gifts create. Here are a few impacts from your gifts:

- put food on the table for a single mother of 4 boys.
- prevent a senior from having to choose between lifesaving medications or life sustaining food.
- support WAFER's operations so the Mobile Food Pantry can travel to rural communities taking the food to people when coming to us just isn't a possibility.
- purchase foods in short supply to be able to offer a complete food package to every household at each visit.
- ensure the vehicles stay operating to fully leverage all food resources in our area, collecting from many local donors, in order to offer nutritious and health-filled foods to pantry patrons.
- provide education such as, nutrition education to pantry patrons to encourage healthier choices, food insecurity education to students and community members to create awareness, encourage engagement, and social justice advocacy.
- provide a rural, single woman the opportunity to extend her food budget by utilizing food resources to pay down debt, improve her credit score, and have opportunities for growth and independence.
- allow us to provide a welcoming, non-judgmental, and safe place for pantry patrons to receive compassionate service while they choose foods to increase quality of life and aid in their wellbeing.

You can find a plethora of information in the 2018 Annual Report on our website under the "About Us" tab; highlights from the year, service impacts, pictures of only a few of our rockstar volunteers, a farewell to a beloved board member, and client stories. If you don't already, please consider following WAFER Food Pantry on Facebook or sign up for the monthly e-newsletter on the website.

Board members and staff eagerly anticipate 2019, whatever may come our way. We invite you to join us on this year long journey, to stay connected, get involved, or come tour our facility and operations. We will have a special opportunity to do so on Sunday, April 28, 2019 from 1-6pm. Staff and board members will be on hand to provide tours to show you how we put your dollars to work, answer questions, and direct you to some outstanding entertainment. We have been lucky enough to have local musicians generously offer up their talents to provide family-friendly, community-creating fun. Local breweries and food trucks will be on hand to round out the entertainment options. There is no charge for this event, just come on out, [join us](#) for some fun and "Feed the Need". You can find additional event information on the website under the "Open House" tab or "Feed the Need" event on Facebook.

Spring is here and with it comes a changing set of circumstances for the food insecure people in local families. Mothers will wonder how they will feed those extra mouths home for the summer, seniors will pinch pennies to be able to use air conditioning to help them breathe a little easier, and our homeless may find themselves on the streets once again. In each of these cases WAFER is able to provide security, reliable consistency, and a sense of ease because each person knows they are just a resource away from the meals they need. Thank you for providing those meals and for choosing to positively impact your neighbors in need.

In Service,

~*Erin Waldhart, Executive Director*

You are invited. Join **WAFER** Board Members Staff, and the community for **"Feed the Need"**!

When: Sunday, April 28th from 1-6 pm

Where: 403 Causeway Boulevard, La Crosse

Why: For an open house and afternoon of fun.

What: Tours will be offered of the facility and Mobile Food Pantry, food trucks, local breweries, and entertainment provided by local musicians.

More information can be found under the "Open House" tab on the website or "Feed the Need" Event on Facebook.

Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to join together to learn how WAFER impacts your neighbors in need, enjoy camaraderie, and celebrate the strength of our community. Thanks to generous sponsorships, this event is free to attend.



403 Causeway Blvd
La Crosse, WI 54603
608.782.6003
waferlacrosse.org

Facebook.com/WAFERlacrosse

To sign up to receive the e-newsletter please go to waferlacrosse.org.



WAFER is a United Way and Channel One Feeding America Partner Agency

Our Mission: Responding to God's love, WAFER provides food and works to eliminate hunger.

We received many inquiries about the shutdown and government workers. We did provide food to several families who suddenly found themselves with a \$0 paycheck. These families were very grateful, one even returning to make a donation once back to work. Thanks to our generous community of supporters, we were able to meet these new needs.

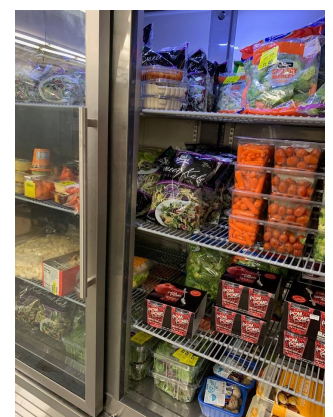


In January, WAFER received the Healthy Living Hero award from the La Crosse County Healthy Living Cooperative. to make La Crosse County a healthier place to live, learn, work and play.

Brutal winter weather didn't stop WAFER staff from keeping the pantry in full operation. Pictured here (L-R) are Eric (and Leonard, who work in the warehouse receiving deliveries.



Thanks to generous partners, produce has been in ample supply even throughout the cold winter months.



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