



WAFER

FOOD PANTRY

April 2024

HOW YOUR GIFTS HELPED HELEN . . .



Erin Waldhart
Executive Director

Helen contacted me to ask if she could use the Mobile Food Pantry when it stopped just around the corner from where she lives.

Helen explained how she held a professional job at Mayo Clinic for years, built a solid nest egg, and retired. Shortly after retirement, she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. It didn't take long before doctor visits and medications (which were some of the most costly on the market) wiped out her savings.

Faced with choosing between the medications she needed and food, Helen chose the medication. This meant that she skipped meals, which is why she was inquiring about the Mobile Food Pantry.

Food items from the Mobile Food Pantry not only provided her with more meals, but supported a healthy diet.

Fast forward to today...Helen's situation has stabilized and she continues to visit WAFER's Mobile Pantry to supplement her dietary needs, and is able to continue on her medications.

Your gifts helped Helen when she really needed it. Thank you!

YOUR GIFTS = UNPARALLELED SERVICES

Thank you for your financial support making these unique services available to a wide variety of populations:

- Homebound seniors are receiving personalized food package delivery
- Rural children receive backpacks of food to take home on the weekend
- A large Hmong community are able to choose culturally appropriate foods
- A mobile pantry (pantry on wheels) is traveling to 19 sites throughout the county to get food to people unable to get to the main facility
- Community activities and educational opportunities are using designated spaces at the WAFER facility for those we serve

Your gifts are directly serving those in need!



BUILDING CAPACITY, HOPE & DIGNITY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

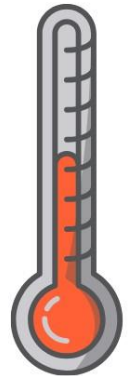
We are entering Year 2 of the capital campaign to fund our new facility. **We are excited to share that more than 50% of the project has been funded!**

The cost of the total project is \$4.6M, which allows for twice as much space, a location not prone to flooding, features a garage to store delivery trucks (which have been vandalized in the past), has abundant cooler and freezer space to store large donation offers, and most importantly, is a welcoming space for a dignified and personalized shopping experience.

Our solar panels were turned on shortly after the first of the year. The system is projected to supply 50% of our energy needs. These savings will be passed on to serving those need!

Our Executive Director, Erin Waldhart recently wrote: *“We have been struggling with inadequate space for years. We had just begun our capital campaign when an opportunity for a larger and better located facility became available...we jumped at it. We are now serving more people than we have in the last five years. Even though we had not completed our capital campaign, we knew it would be the best stewardship of funds to secure the facility and continue on with the campaign.”*

You are invited to contribute to our Building Capacity, Hope & Dignity Capital Campaign. Capital Campaign gifts should be over and above regular contributions that support our day-to-day operations.



WAYS OF GIVING TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Gifts of cash and/or commitments to be given over a 3-year fulfillment period are welcomed. By using the QR code below, you can make a one time gift or a 3-year pledge.

A tax benefit may be realized by making an IRA Charitable Distribution gift. Individuals age 70.5 or older may consider making a gift through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA. These gifts can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMD) for the year. **A QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income.**

The maximum annual amount that can qualify is \$105,000. If filing jointly, a spouse can also make a QCD gift from your IRA within the same tax year for up to \$105,000.

WAFER can accept gifts of stock, bonds, or mutual funds. You can transfer stock to WAFER and take a tax deduction based on the market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

You can also make a gift through your **Donor-Advised Fund.**

It is important to contact your donor advisor, accountant, or attorney for guidance when considering one of the tax advantage options.

If you would like some help, please contact Erin Waldhart at 608-782-6003 or email waferdirector@waferlacrosse.org.



**Every gift makes a difference.
Thank you for your consideration!**

What's New?

- Access the 2023 Annual Report on waferlacrosse.org/about-us/ for highlights, volunteers, service impacts, and donors.
- Consider participating in the USPS Food Drive on May 11th by leaving food donations at mailboxes by 8:00am.
- Stay updated by following WAFER Food Pantry on Facebook and signing up for the monthly e-newsletter on the website.



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Visit waferlacrosse.org to sign up
for our monthly e-newsletter.



OUR MISSION: RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE, WAFER PROVIDES FOOD AND WORKS TO ELIMINATE HUNGER.



Meals provided
1.5M

38,500
People Fed

Fresh Foods Rescued
900,000
pounds

CELEBRATING
2023

THANK
YOU!

Volunteer Hours
20,071

New Households
917

