



## HOW YOUR GIFTS HELPED AVA AND HER FAMILY.....

Over the years, Danielle and her three children have relied on WAFER to ensure enough food at mealtime. Recently, their situation turned even more critical when their rental house was sold, and were given just one month to move out. To make matters worse, the family discovered their elementary-schooler, Ava, needed a life-threatening surgery.

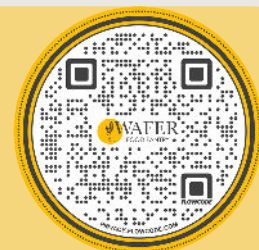
Concerned for the family, Ava's teacher contacted WAFER. With Ava's health preventing public outings while waiting for surgery, the teacher picked up and delivered food to them.

Thanks to your support, Ava and her family were cared for during this incredibly stressful time. The family received not just food to fill their bellies, but fresh and healthy items to support their health when it mattered most.

**Your kindness and generosity brings hope** to Danielle, her children, and countless other families facing food insecurity in our local communities. Together, we are building brighter tomorrows.

### Inside this Edition

- Vote to help us win \$15,000
- Meet Volunteer Donna
- A Holiday Family Activity
- Be a "Hunger Hero" or donate today. Scan the QR code for more information.





# Exciting News: Challenge Gift to Boost Impact Here at Home!

We are in a great position to finish the year with a wonderful opportunity for all friends of WAFER. We are thrilled to announce **"The Valiquette Challenge"**. Longtime, sincere friends of WAFER, the Valiquettes have pledged a gift of \$15,000 designed to inspire and challenge our community to join forces in hopes of meeting their gift with another \$15,000. The Valiquettes have giving in their hearts, serving for years as Peace Corp volunteers and educators. They have worked with our most vulnerable populations and know that time, talent and treasure can make a lasting difference for individuals and families. Since retiring, the Valiquettes have made their gifts to WAFER through Required Minimum Distributions from their IRAs after a suggestion from their financial planner.

This challenge arrives at a time when demand for services remains at an elevated level as thousands of individuals rely on WAFER for nutritious food for their family. This heartfelt call to action is an invitation to our community to come together to keep the pantry shelves stocked.

From December 8-14, we will participate in Thrivent's "Carols for a Cause" campaign for a **chance to win up to \$15,000**. Staff and volunteers will create a unique and fun video based on the 12 days of Christmas. Voting is open to everyone, so please consider voting for WAFER and sharing with your family and friends to help us win. Simply scan the QR code to cast your vote.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2024 draws to a close, I want you to know how much your support means to WAFER and the individuals on the receiving end of your generosity. Staff and volunteers witness firsthand the gratitude and relief shoppers express. One community member commented, **"Families, especially children, don't ask to be in this situation. It takes a village to raise a child, and as I see it, WAFER is that village for area families."** THANK YOU for caring about our friends and neighbors here at home. May your holidays be blessed knowing your gifts provide for holiday celebrations for families like Ava's.

In the July newsletter, I highlighted our Perfect Storm situation, and you truly stepped up in incredible ways. **Thank you for hearing our challenges and supporting us through the journey!**

Would you consider WAFER in your year-end giving plan? There are many options to consider such as gifts of cash, an IRA charitable contribution, gifting from a donor-advised fund or mutual fund, or even gifts of stock and bonds. We regularly offer tours and would love to show you how your gifts create hope for every person who walks through our doors.



*Erin Waldhart*  
Executive Director



# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Gather family and friends this holiday season to participate in a fun, interactive event. The “**Reverse Advent Calendar**” is a twist on the traditional advent calendar. Each day during December, add one item to your box. At the end of the month, bring the much needed supplies to the pantry. More information can be found on the website.



Be A  
**Hunger  
HERO**

Join us in celebrating nearly 40 years of service by becoming a monthly donor, or a “**Hunger Hero**”. Your committing to *giving every month* provides stability in feeding people. Just \$50 per month provides food to a family of four for 4-5 days. Can you help us reach our goal of 40 new monthly donors before the end of the year? To become a “**Hunger Hero**” visit <https://waferlacrosse.org/donate/today>.

Donna has volunteered for a year, helping by sorting and stocking to create a “clean and friendly place to shop”, but mostly she enjoys interacting with shoppers, sharing recipes, and promoting new foods. “**Food insecurity can impact anyone**” and Donna is grateful “**community donations keep the doors open**” to support so many in need.







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for our monthly newsletter.**



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



Logan High School  
Ecology Students  
Learn About  
Environmental  
Stewardship  
Processes

In October, our neighbors from Logan High School had the chance to discover more about WAFER. Along with exploring our programs and services, we talked about the various efforts we have made in the past 5 years to reduce emissions in the environment. Some of our initiatives include:

- Collecting food that cannot be sold in retail due to damaged packaging or close to its "use-by date".
- Participating in organic recycling for foods that arrive past quality.
- Recycling cardboard and plastics.
- Optimizing pickup routes for efficiency and fuel savings.
- Installing a solar array. Through October, the 146 panels had captured enough energy to power more than 3 million cell phones or 7 homes for an entire year. The financial impact resulted in \$6000 in energy savings, which has been reinvested into services to provide nearly 20,000 meals!