



WAFER, Inc.
Annual Report

January 1-December 31, 2024

Mission Statement

Responding to God’s love, WAFER provides food and works to eliminate hunger.

Vision Statement

WAFER is committed to addressing hunger-related needs in La Crosse County, while treating each person with personalized service and dignity. We will procure food, develop resources, and collaborate with other programs, organizations, and businesses to alleviate hunger and food insecurity in our area. We will strive for effective stewardship of resources to provide successful food assistance programs.

Over the course of the next five years, WAFER will be working to reach those in our population most at risk, children and seniors. Our strategic directives include:

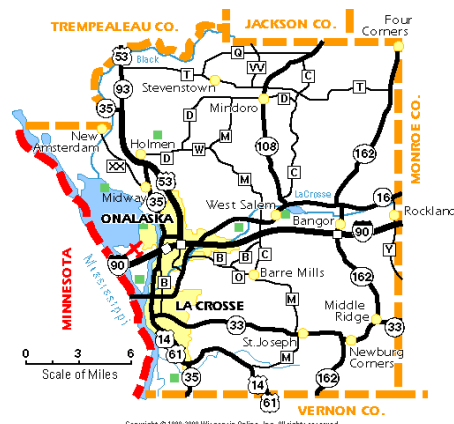
- Expanding and developing food procurement and food distribution
- Educating patrons on nutrition and food preparation

December 2024 Board of Directors

President, Taylor Haley; Pastor at First Presbyterian Church
Vice-President, Mike Voss; Sales Manager at Torrance Casting
Secretary, Madalene Buelow; Retired Fundraiser
Treasurer, Lee Bluske; Financial Advisor at Mutual of Omaha Companies

Mary Chilcote; Volunteer Representative
Cory Gylock; VP/GM FOX 2548 (Nexstar Media Group, Inc.)
Dorothy Stroschein; Lawyer at Lawyers at Work
Mike Swinghamer; Architect at River Architect
Kelly Wilde; Program Director/On-Air Announcer at Magnum Media

Dedicated to fighting hunger
in La Crosse County
since 1985



Dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the second full year in the new facility. The move seems like yesterday and a lifetime ago all in the same thought. We are consistently reminded of how lovely the space is for shoppers when someone who has not needed WAFER for a few years visits the new pantry for the first time. Bright, welcoming, clean, organized, and similar to a “coop” are just a few descriptors we hear. How validating for our staff to hear, because each facility decision was made with our shoppers at the top of mind.



In preparation for this report I compile service and impact statistics, comparing them retrospectively. It is interesting to look at where we have been, how programs have grown, and maybe even where we need to focus a bit more effort to reach people in need.

Did you know that WAFER was incorporated in 1985, but existed many years before that in its infancy? That means this community project has been providing critical food resources for more than 40 years! This has only been possible because of fantastic retail partnerships (like those you will find on the donor list below), individuals, foundations, businesses, service groups, congregations, and much more. I would be amiss to not mention that the most amazing volunteers are truly the backbone of all the good work that is accomplished. You can see some of individuals who give so much of themselves further in the report.

Honestly, if you haven't volunteered before I would highly recommend doing so. Our volunteers will tell you the time they give is not just about helping others, but also about how it makes them feel to make a difference. They will also tell you about the community they build with one another. Such sweet relationships have been built over the years, relationships that extend beyond the food pantry walls and into everyday life. When someone is sick or has surgery, they care for each other. When someone goes on an adventure there is shared joy in that too.



Talking about joy, our neighbors down the street at the fire department brought us bags of stuffed animals to hand out to children while they were shopping with their parents. How fun to see the smiles and joy! Molly McCormick from Station No. 2 is pictured at the left. We have also been working together to provide hearty snacks or light meals to individuals who are utilizing the warming shelter during extreme weather.

Molly was also involved with an opportunity we had to host a CPR and AED training. Thanks to great response and participation we were able to receive a free AED. These units typically cost thousands of dollars. Volunteers, staff, board members, friends, family, and even a handful of community members attended this morning training. The 7 Rivers Cardiac Preparedness and Education team delivered a great educational presentation and plenty of hands on time for trying out this new information.



Hosting the AED training was a wonderful opportunity to welcome individuals into the building who were perhaps unfamiliar with who WAFER is or even what we do. Another attempt to engage our community has been to regularly offer facility tours. These tours allow individuals, groups, and businesses an opportunity to

see the process shoppers go through when choosing food, a behind the scenes look at pantry prep and operations, learn about the history and initiatives, and for the “northsiders” we talk about the remaining architectural/historical features of the early 1900’s grocery store that still remain. We would love to welcome you for a tour if you have not been on one yet. Give the office a call to register for the next one!

In the fall, we welcomed several sections of the ecology class at Logan High School. Their course study focused on business environmental impacts and initiatives to address them. The classes took part in a brief tour about the history, overview, shopping process, and general operations. Finally, we talked about the variety of ways WAFER is attempting to be better stewards of the environment and the practices that have been put in place; efficient route planning, recycling cardboard and plastics, recycling organics (composting), and the newest initiative.



Solar, is the newest initiative. Thanks to generous community donors, grants, and federal incentives, and the stellar work of Solar Connection, an array of 146 panels was commissioned in January. There were some issues with the invertors (the equipment that converts the sunlight into power) through most of the year. The array should provide us ~50% of all the power we require for operations. We look forward to seeing the statistics at the end of 2025 after a year at full capacity. In 2024, we captured 78,290 kWh which saved ~\$7000 in energy expenses. The energy captured is equivalent to charging 3.6 million cell phones, powering 7 homes or 13 vehicles for one year, or saving 6000+ gallons of fuel. Now that is some impressive stewardship results.



This past fall, Hank Kasson, a longtime patron, contacted WXOW to share his story and the importance the Mobile Pantry has for so many individuals like him. Hank is disabled, on a limited income, and relies on WAFER to meet his monthly food needs. Not only is the food appreciated, but the social interaction and comraderie is a boost as well. Mid-year, we began asking shoppers to volunteer information regarding disability status for themselves or anyone living in the household. Next year we should have a better understanding this particular barrier has to access food resources. Pictured: Tony (Mobile Pantry Manager) and Hank, from news segment.



Another news story that generated quite a buzz showcased WAFER volunteer, Mary Chilcote, who was selected as a Jefferson Award winner. Mary has volunteered for nearly 4 years, starting in the thick of the pandemic when volunteerism was very low. Mary has become a fixture in the pantry, and like so many volunteers, a huge asset to the day-to-day operations of serving the community so well. In addition to Mary's volunteer work with WAFER, she spends time blessing others at Adult and Teen Challenge and mission outreach with her church. Pictures are from the news segment on WXOW.



As the populations we serve grows more diverse it is necessary to continue evaluating whether services are provided in an accessible way. One issue that surfaced was communicating with limited- or non-english speaking shoppers. Hmong shoppers faired the worst, so we made a plea to the community for translators. These volunteers could either assist shoppers in person or be available for a translation over the phone. Several people stepped up to assist with Spanish and Hmong interpretation which helps staff and volunteers communicate the process, and any additional important information. If you have this gift and would be willing to be an "on-call" translator, we would love to get you oriented to the process.

For the last few years, we have been gathering impact metrics from a shoppers point of view through a singular survey question that changes monthly. January through April were the final four questions of a series of eight. The series gathered a wide range of data; importance of produce availability, financial burdens, lack of personal care items, skipping meals, and then the final questions in 2024. The results:

- 40% of respondents indicated they had skipped meals, ate less, or ran out of food in the last year.
- 44% of respondents indicated that in the last year they have had to make choices between food and other basic necessities such as housing, medical care/medications, utilities, transportation).
- 91% of respondents indicated they eat healthier because of the healthy food available at WAFER.
- 94% of respondents indicated that the new facility provides a more dignified, personalized, and welcoming shopping experience.

This data helps the board and staff make informed decisions when developing strategic plans or goals for the next year. What I am most proud of, every decision that was made in the planning process for the new facility considered what was best for those utilizing services, and a 94% approval rating must mean **we got it right!**

Staff, board members, and volunteers are not limited to service or advocacy within the walls of the pantry. This past year we have been busy telling WAFER's story and sharing the profound impact to thousands of individuals who need help the most. In addition to public speaking events for schools, service clubs, churches, businesses, and more, we also had the opportunity to provide a tour to Lieutenant Governor, Sara Rodriguez, meet with the Vice President of the United States, and speak with Governor, Tony Evers. Advocacy is so important. If we do not tell our story, or the story of the people we serve, we are not making every effort to improve the situations for our friends and neighbors. We are grateful and honored for these opportunities.



Carols for a **Cause** is an annual Christmas carol competition organized by Thrivent Financial. This year, WAFER was one of five selected non-profits, with Thrivent Foundation providing \$50,000 in grants. It was a voting competition where people could vote for their favorite carol (or nonprofit). Our volunteers and a few staff members created a funny spoof of "The 12 Days of Christmas." If you watched our video, you'll never forget "5 pounds of beef." Thanks to local media, Facebook friends, and volunteers rallying their networks, WAFER finished in 3rd place, earning a \$10,000 award. Competing against larger organizations from Madison and Milwaukee, our small community stepped up in a big way! Pictured are the staff and volunteers who created the spoof video, available on WAFER's YouTube channel.



After filming rapped up, volunteers stayed and danced to Christmas Carols on the accordion. We all had such a great time!



We also made a quick clip of happy holiday wishes for our friends and supporters to use on social media. Our thanks to Connor Waldhart, from Resonate, who created great video products to use on multiple platforms.



Please take a few moments to read more about WAFER in 2024. In the report you will find a highlight overview, information about volunteers, pictures of just some of the amazing volunteers who spend time with us, a snapshot of volunteer groups, programs and services, financial information, community donors list, and a thorough breakdown of service statistics including a historical viewpoint.

Thank you for choosing to partner with WAFER in 2024. Your gifts of time, talent, food, and funds make a world of difference for thousands of people every month. I invite you to get to know us or get to know us better. Come spend some time in the pantry, consider serving your friends and neighbors here at home, or join us for a tour to maybe learn a little bit more about who WAFER is and all WAFER does for people who need it most.

In Service,

Erin Waldhart, Executive Director

Service At A Glance – A 2024 Highlight Overview

- More than 40,000 people fed through in-house food package distribution, senior food package delivery, weekend backpacks, mobile pantry distribution sites, and mass distribution events.
- In all programs combined, 19,500 food packages were provided.
- The Mobile Food Pantry distributed 3427 food packages.
- Mobile Food Pantry had 20 established stopping points each month by the end of the year.
- The “Backpack” program operating at the Bangor School District provided a total of 270 weekly weekend food packages, up to 40 children were served throughout the school year each week.
- Mass distribution and pop-up events provided an extra 217 food packages.
- Shoppers could receive once complete food package per month and produce/surplus packages the other weeks of the month the complete package wasn’t utilized. Partial package utilization increased by more than 250%.
- Nearly 900 families were new to WAFER.
- Nearly 1.9 million pounds of food, equivalent to 1.6 million meals, were provided.
- More than 1,160,000 pounds of food was rescued from local retailers, an increase of nearly 200,000 pounds. Find our retail partner list on the donors page.
- Nutrition Education classes continued thanks to a partnership with UW-Extension FoodWI Nutrition Educators, Mary, Emily, and Karie. Classes offered included split peas, crockpot cooking, 5 ingredient mix and match meals, kale, and preserving summer produce.
- Partnerships were developed with other community entities to provide programming and educational materials to shoppers. Some of the offerings were Goal Setting, Blood Pressure Clinics, financial education, food samples, and more.
- Tours continued to be offered every 4-6 weeks. This has been a great opportunity to welcome individuals, businesses, school groups and more. While most people understand the basics of WAFER, few realize the reach and services intended to break down barriers to food access.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of WAFER. Without an amazing and dedicated group of individuals, WAFER wouldn't be nearly as impactful for people struggling with food insecurity.

WAFER volunteers reflect the best of our local communities. They are filled with compassion, determination, and service above self for others in need. WAFER staff are honored to stand alongside amazing volunteers and to witness their love in action.

In 2024, volunteers gave 23,343 hours of service, an increase of over 3000 hours! The value of a volunteer hour is \$33.49 according to Independent Sector. Based on this rate, WAFER volunteers contributed a value of \$787,757.07. Even if each person was paid minimum wage, volunteers saved WAFER \$169,237 in staffing expenses.

"Giving" the gift of time looked different for each volunteer in 2024. There were a handful of volunteers that devoted one or more days each week; others contributed their talents whenever and wherever they could, spent their workplace volunteer time with us, or for a school requirement.

Volunteers filled a variety of needs, routine and new. These included:

- Packing food packages based on family size for individuals using drive-thru distribution, delivered to seniors, or through the Mobile Pantry.
- Assisting patrons through the shopping experience.
- Stocking and distributing food packages from the Mobile Pantry.
- Picking up donations and unloading vehicles.
- Sorting food donations.
- Stocking shelves and coolers.
- Assembling food packages for delivery programs
- Delivering food packages to households with transportation or mobility issues.
- Cleaning shelves, coolers, bathrooms, floors, and more.
- Assisting with administrative projects such as mailings, volunteer form filing, and more.
- Representing WAFER at community events.
- Attending events like food drives, volunteer recruitments, and community resource fairs.
- Facility and equipment repairs.
- And stepping in wherever possible to just get things done.

Just A Few Of WAFER's "Rockstar" Volunteers



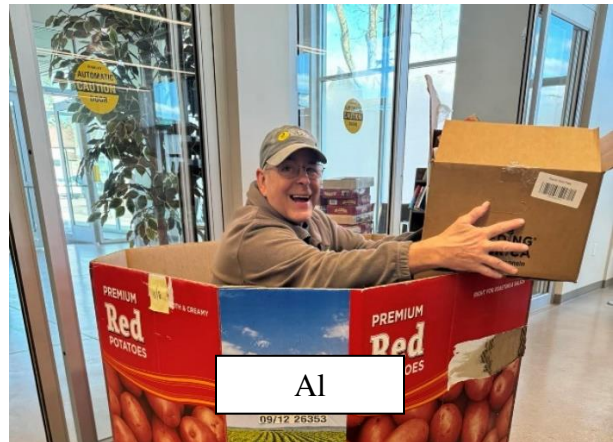
Abby



Alice and Gary



Madalene and Family



Al



Claire and Andrea



Deb, Laura, and Diane at a fundraiser for WAFER



Judy, Chuck, and Diane
at a fundraiser for WAFER



Sig



Roger



Stacy



Donna



Mary, Linda, and David



Laura, Becky, and Ed



Tom



Sue and a friend



Joan



Marjean



Mike



Dave



Eleanor



Ed and Judy



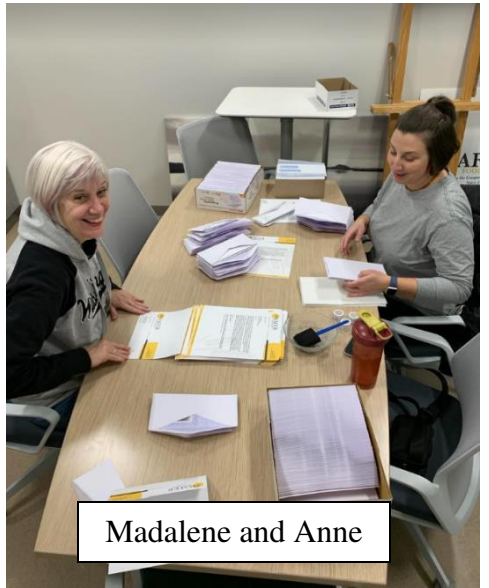
Gary and Donna



Doug



Julie



Madalene and Anne



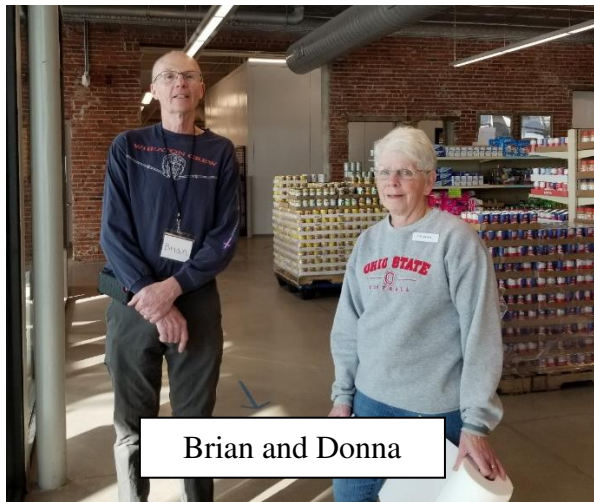
Mary Beth



Angie



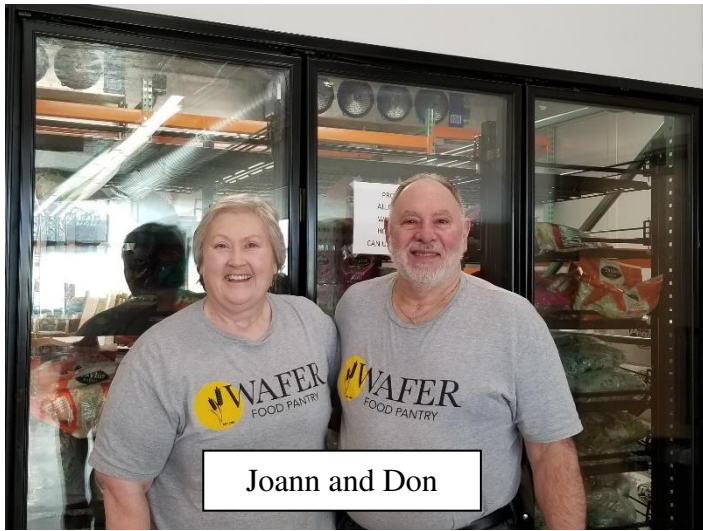
Emmet



Brian and Donna



Janet



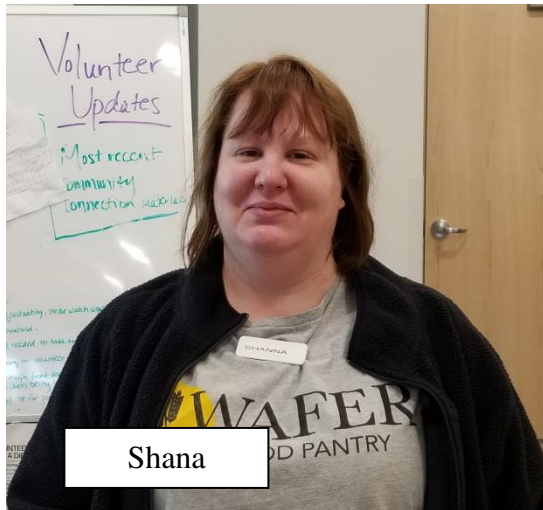
Joann and Don



Judy, Sue, Marjean, and Barb



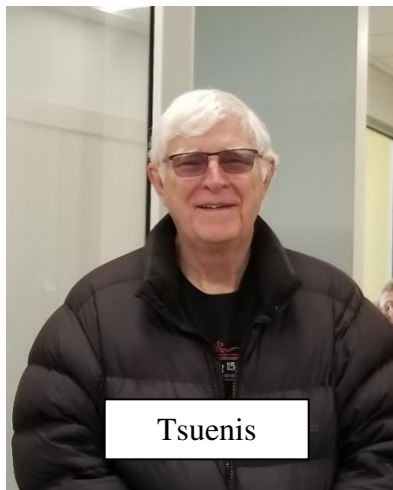
Mary



Shana



Trish



Tsuenis



Virginia

VOLUNTEER GROUPS play a critical role in tackling more involved and larger scale projects. In 2023, group volunteerism returned to levels we experienced a few years ago. Businesses were especially eager to volunteer in the new space. Individuals who had spent time in the old building were amazed by the open, bright, spacious, and clean space.

Pictured below are just a few of the groups who have spent time with us this year: Coulee Bank, Associated Bank, Clifton Larson Allen, United Way Day of Caring, Nexstar (Fox 25/48), the Mayor's office, Trane Technologies, Sysco, Coulee Region Day Center, Nesnah Ventures, Altra Gives Back Day, Remedy Staffing, DSG, Emplify, Compeer Financial, and so many more.







Who Does WAFER Help?

WAFER provides food to individuals and families throughout La Crosse County - The city of La Crosse, Mindoro, Holmen, West Salem, Onalaska, Bangor, Rockland.

The face of hunger for the people served at WAFER is similar to the face you see passing by you on the sidewalk. Hunger does not discriminate, it affects all people regardless of age, gender, race, family upbringing, social status, or any other factor. WAFER families/individuals come from every walk of life: single parent household, two parents working yet still unable to get by, chronically disabled, newly diagnosed, jobless, homeless, veterans, seniors, and more.

WAFER's Programs and Services (see statistic graphs below)

Food Package Distribution

The main program is food package distribution. Patrons receive 4-5 day's worth of food a minimum of one time per month; quantities vary with food package size. The food package consists of non-perishables (canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, beans, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, soup, tomato products, mac-n-cheese, and side dishes as available), bakery items, dairy products (milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, eggs), frozen meat, a plethora of produce (such as lettuce, greens, onions, potatoes, oranges, apples, bananas, peppers, melon, squash, berries, cabbage, green beans, carrots), and hygiene items. Across all programs and services, 19,493 food packages were provided in 2024.

Mobile Food Pantry

New in September 2017, The Mobile Food Pantry program is a specially designed vehicle that travels to various communities and neighborhoods throughout La Crosse County to provide food package distribution closer to home. The Mobile Food Pantry has a similar set up to the in-house food pantry and offers the same foods - canned goods, bakery items, frozen meat, dairy products, fresh produce, and hygiene items. Patrons were able board the vehicle to choose their foods initially, but after the number of individuals using this service skyrocketed during the pandemic we moved to a prepacked box. Patrons may either receive a food package at the food pantry or at the mobile food pantry, not both. Regular scheduled stops make the service predictable, reliable, and accommodating. Days, times, and locations where the Mobile Pantry stops can be found on the calendar on the WAFER website. In 2024, 3427 food packages were provided.

Senior Share

The Senior Share program provides WAFER's normal food package to homebound low-income seniors. Food is pre-packed according to preferences, as much as possible, and delivered to La Crosse County senior meal sites, apartment complexes, community sites, or individual residences. In 2024, 423 senior packages were delivered. There are a small number of individuals who volunteer specifically for this program.

Hmong Food Package

The Hmong Food Package contains 4 basic staples found in the Hmong diet and is one of WAFER's longest operating programs. This food package has been offered for more than 12 years since many of the Hmong families do not use or eat a portion of the foods available in the "traditional" food package. Many traditional

American staples are not a part of the Hmong culture or diet. Therefore, Hmong families can choose bamboo shoots, fish sauce, rice noodles, and rice in their food package if they so choose.


Feeding Today's Youth – Bangor Backpack Program

Coordinating with the Bangor School District, we provide easy to prepare or prepared foods for children to take home on the weekend. Though Bangor isn't technically considered a "food desert" (meaning urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food within a one-mile radius and ten-mile radius respectively) there are few community resources for people to utilize. This program assures children have access to food outside of the school setting, return to school on Monday ready to learn, and have better opportunities for proper development. Children identified by school staff take home a backpack of food a minimum of one time per week, about 40 children participate. In 2024, 270 food packages were provided.

Nutrition Education and Education Opportunities

This project began in 2014 as a collaboration of community education partners; Gundersen Health System Dietitians, Mayo Clinic Health System Dietitians, Viterbo Dietetic Students, Chartwell Chefs, and UW-Extension Nutrition Educators provide produce-emphasized education and food preparation skill development. Understanding that many of our patrons lack basic kitchen tools and food preparation knowledge to fully utilize all WAFER offers, this project was launched to tackle some root causes of food insecurity and poor health associated with food choices. Education sessions were offered monthly and each participant, typically 12 each session, receive education, recipes, samples, and an "incentive" (kitchen tool, cookbook, ingredients) related to the session topic in order to implement new skills at home. After a combination of in-person and virtual during and after the pandemic until the move, classes were somewhat sporadic. In 2024, and now that we finally got comfortable in the new facility, 5 nutrition education classes sessions were offered: split peas, make and take meals, 5 ingredient mix and match meals, kale, and summer preservation.

**5 Ingredients :
Endless Possibilities**



Join UW-FoodWise Nutrition Educators for a class that will mix-and-match 5 ingredients to make simple and tasty meals. The educators will provide tips, tricks, recipes, and samples.

*April 18th, 9-10am
WAFER Food Pantry
1603 George St, La Crosse

*Preregistration is required at least 2 days in advance for the first 15 people. Call 608-782-6003 or email info@waferylacrosse.org. One person from each household will receive a gift for attending.



A new partnership with Gundersen Health System also provided the opportunity to offer a variety of education and wellness opportunities; goal setting and blood pressure screenings to name two.



Join us!
WELLNESS CHAT

♥

- Free blood pressure check
- Ask questions
- Chat about staying healthy
- Summer recipes

Free gift Tuesday, July 9
4pm-6pm
Wednesday, July 10
10am-12pm
Wafer Food Pantry
Walk in; No appointment needed

For more information:
wellness@gundersenhealth.org
(608) 775-8558

WAFER
FOOD PANTRY

GUNDERSEN
HEALTH SYSTEM.



*Goal setting
in the New Year*

Learn how to create goals, action plans,
and adjust your daily habits for
long-term change

Choose one of two available session times:
Tuesday, March 12th from 4:00-5:00 PM
Wednesday, March 13th from 10:30-11:30 AM

Pre-registration is required.
Sign up on-site, call 608-782-6003 x1,
or email info@waferlacrosse.org

GUNDERSEN
HEALTH SYSTEM.

WAFER
FOOD PANTRY

Food Rescue

Food Rescue is a major component of WAFER's overall functioning and the means by which we are able to offer a large assortment of fresh food items as well as some dry products. Each day of the business week at least one driver is making stops throughout the community rescuing food that is "unsalable" in the store because of a dented box, close sell-by date, package mislabeling, and more. Produce in particular is typically quite bountiful, giving patron families a wonderful choice of healthy, nutrient-dense foods. Due to the generosity of WAFER's regular donors, people have an abundance of wholesome fresh foods to choose in addition to produce; dairy, baked goods, eggs, meat, and more. In 2024, rescued food accounted for nearly 1,200,000 pounds. Where 1 pound = \$1, a value of ~\$1,200,000 in product was rescued for the expense in vehicle and staff costs of roughly \$30,000.



Target pick-up



Walmart pick-up

The truck outside of Sam's Club.



Distribution Events

Funding for the mass distribution events through our foodbank was cut in 2023 and therefore the popular "Food Fair" ended. It was typically held on the 4th Saturday of each month. Distribution events now are held when we receive large amounts of mostly perishable items that need to move out before spoiling. These are marketed through news outlets, radio stations, and social media. In 2024, only one such event was held.

Financial Information

WAFER receives financial support from personal and business donations, foundations, grants, and the United Way.

Operating Expense Accounts - contain a minimum of 6 months of financial reserves to ensure uninterrupted service...\$87,762.17*

Receivable - United Way Pledge, prepaid insurance, promises ...\$39,196.92

CIMA \$102,531.54**

Current Assets: \$229,490.63

Property and Equipment: \$5,236,519.57

Non-current Assets: \$1,286.92

Total Assets: \$5,467,297.12

*Operating Expense Accounts include checking and money market accounts.

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance Accounts for ongoing programs including Nutrition Education Training and the Mobile Food Pantry, includes money market accounts.



***We wish to acknowledge community donors that partnered with
WAFER from January – December 2024.***

This list does not contain financial donors.

****Due to human and unintentional error, it is possible a donor may be emitted.***

Weekly Food Donors

- Aldi - La Crosse
- Aldi - Onalaska
- HyVee
- Kwik Trip
- Linda's Bakery
- Panera Bread
- Performance Food Group
- Sam's Club
- Starbucks
- Target
- Walmart - La Crosse
- Walmart - Onalaska
- Westby Creamery

Service Groups

- Ettrick Lions Club
- Handbell Musicians of America
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Gateway Area Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts, Badgerland Council
- La Crosse Chamber Chorale
- La Crosse Concert Band
- National Association of Letter Carriers
- North American Squirrel Association
- Oktoberfest Fraus
- Oktoberfest La Crosse Festivals
- PEO Sisterhood Chapter CR

Churches

- Blessed Sacrament Parish
- English Lutheran Church
- Faith Free Evangelical Church
- Faith United Methodist Church
- First Baptist Church
- First Congregational Church
- First Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
- First Lutheran Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Good Shepard Lutheran Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church
- Lewis Valley Lutheran Church
- Living Word Christian Church
- Mindoro Lutheran Church
- Mt Calvary Lutheran Church
- Northwoods International School
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church
- Prince of Peace
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Roncalli Newman Center Parish
- St. John's UCC, W.G.
- St. Joseph Cathedral

Business and Corporate Partners

3 Amigos Property Management
Ace Hardware
Amazon
Associated Bank
Bakalars Sausage Co.
Barnes and Noble
Beer by Bike Brigade
Big Lots
Bimbo Bakeries
CFS Egg
Christianson Farms
Community Care and Share Pantry
Coulee Bank
Coulee Cards & Gaming
Creamery Creek Farms
CSL Plasma
Culver's
Dave's Guitar Shop
Deep Roots Chiropractic
DFA Cares Foundation
DuraTech Industries
Enchanted Performances
Fed Ex Ground
Good Steward
Goodwill La Crosse
Goodwill Onalaska
Great Clips
Great Lakes Cheese
Great Lakes Coca Cola
Gundersen Health System
Hansen's IGA
Hidden Trails Corn Maze
High Roller Skating
Hillside Animal Hospital
Holmen Cheese
Hydrite Chemicals
J.F. Brennan
Jimmy John's
La Crescent Food Shelf
La Crosse & 3 Rivers Railroad Show
La Crosse Area Quilters
La Crosse Country Club Ladies Golf Assoc.
La Crosse Forage and Turf Seed Corp.
Magnum Media

Business and Corporate Partners Continued

Marine Credit Union
Mayo Clinic Health System
McLoone Metal Graphics Inc.
Metallics, Inc.
Metropolitan Salon & Day Spa
New Castle Title
North Country Steak Buffet
North La Crosse Business Association
Old Dutch
Onalaska Emergency Food Basket
Operating Engineers Local 139
OptumServe Health Services
People's Food Cooperative, Inc.
Pizza King
PleasureLand RV Center
Pogy's
Potato King
Remedy Staffing
River Bank
Riverplace Apartments
Rocky Mountain Elk Club
Select Custom Solutions
Spam Museum
St Clare Health Mission
Storandt Farms
Tammy Zee Yoga Studio
The Alpine Inn
Trane Technologies
Tree Huggers Co-Op
Tyson Foods
Union Home Mortgage
Vericor, LLC
Viaro Health
Westby Direct Distributors
WIPFLI
Yahnke Dental

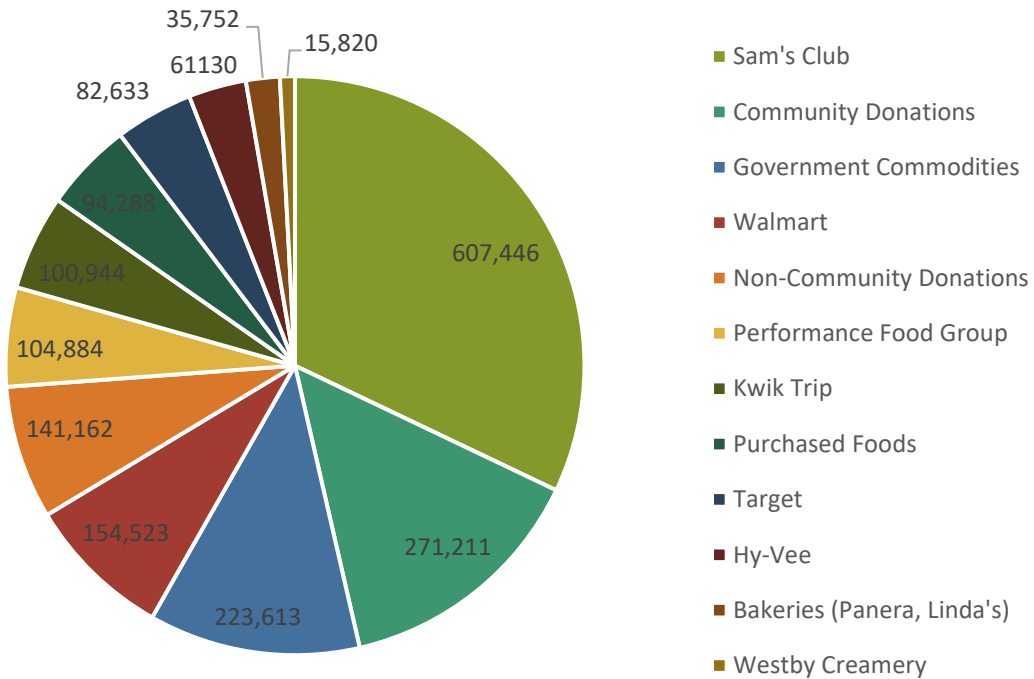
Governmental Partners

City of La Crosse
County of La Crosse
National Weather Service
Office of the Mayor
U.S. Geological Survey

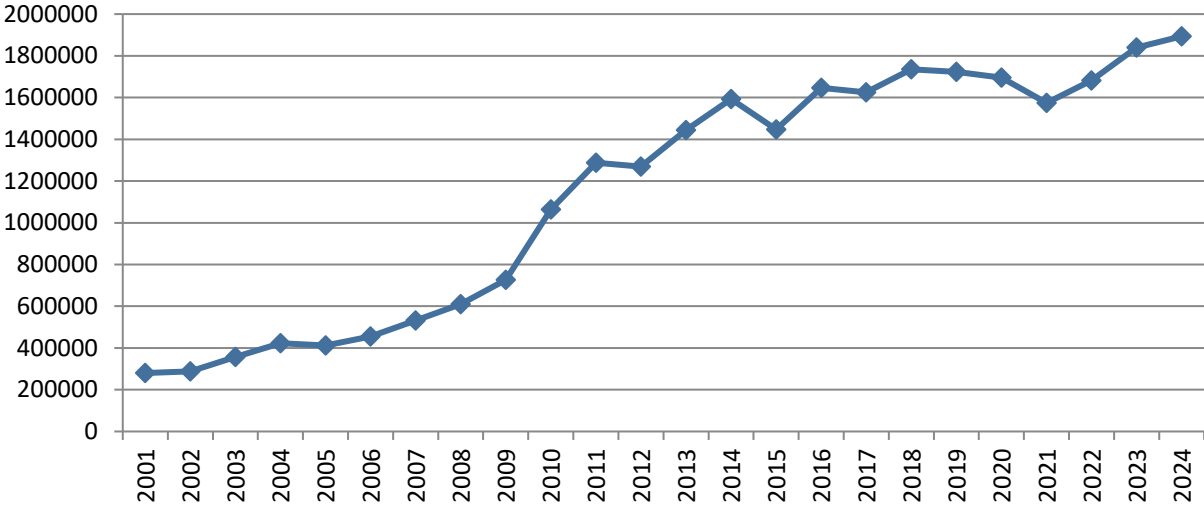
School and Education Partners

- Aquinas Middle School
- Bangor FFA
- Coulee Montessori School
- Holmen FFA
- Luther High School
- Providence Academy
- School Nutrition Association of WI
- Summit Elementary School
- UW-La Crosse
- Viterbo University
- West Salem FFA
- West Salem High School

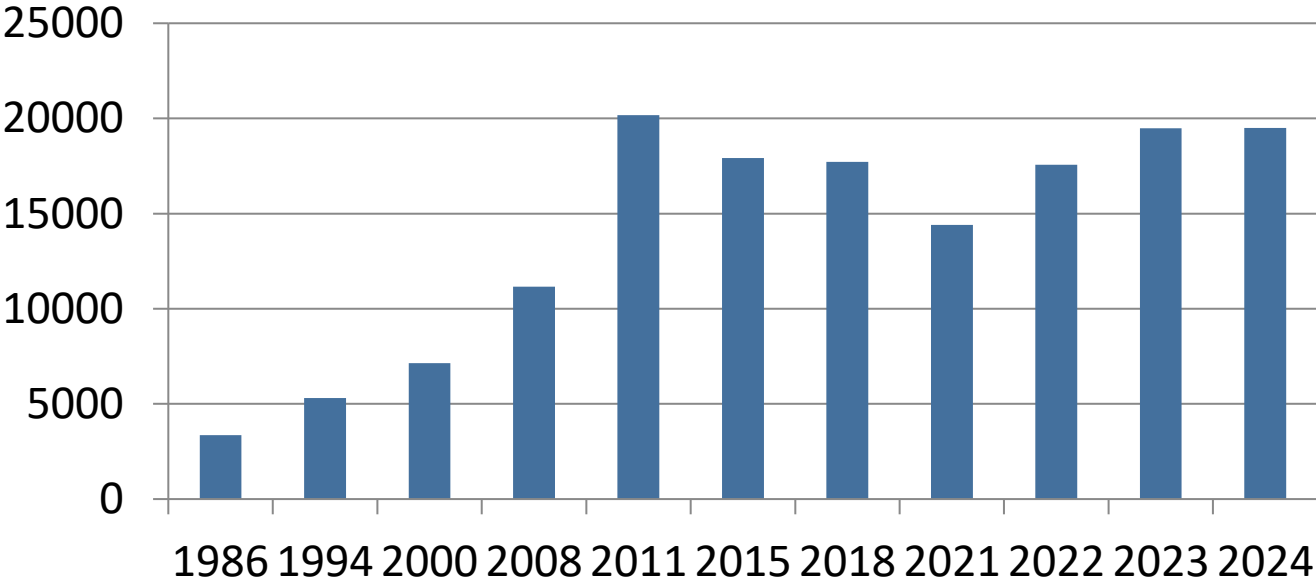
2024 Food Sources and Poundage



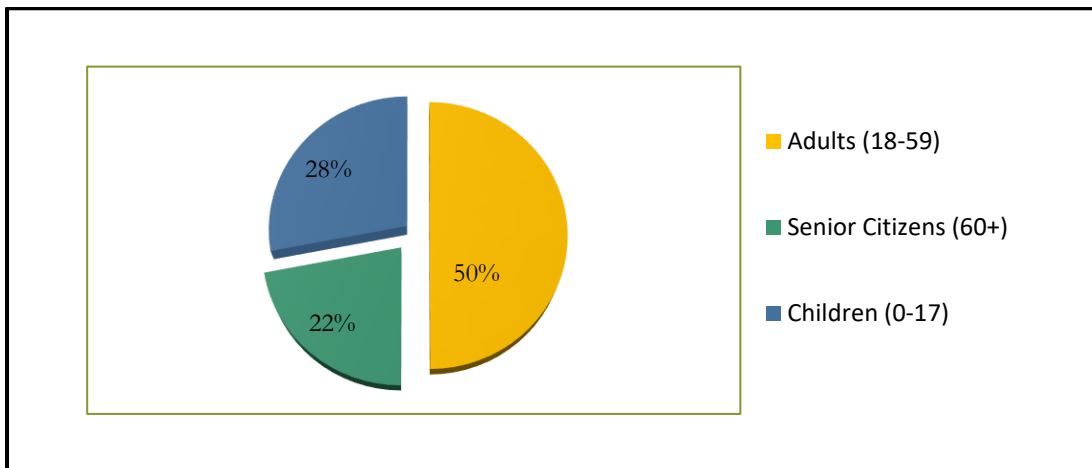
Total Pounds Distributed 2001-2024



Food Package Distribution 1986-2024



Household Demographics of Total People - by Age 2024

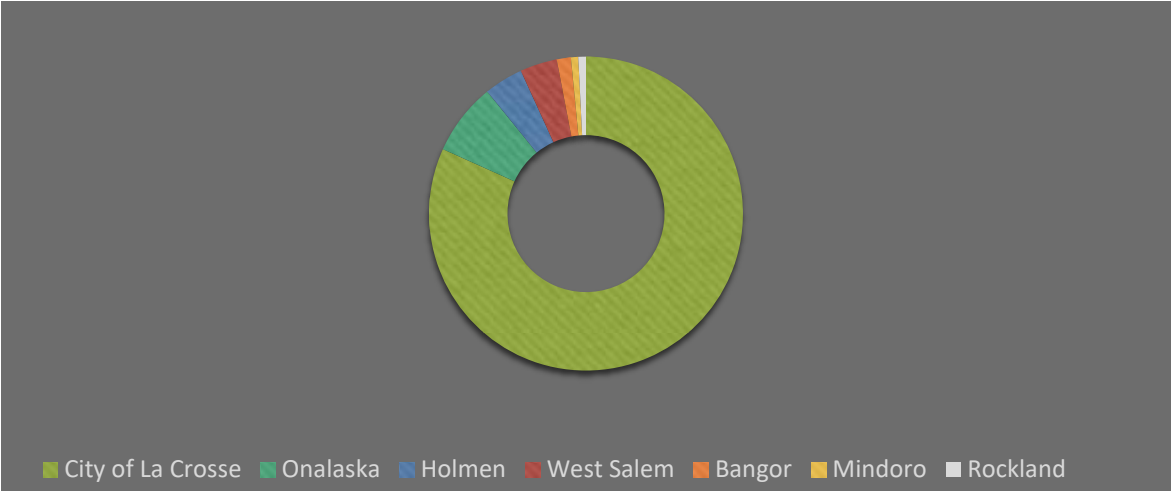


Food Packages Distributed by County

County	Number of visits in 2024	Number of visits in 2023
La Crosse	18110*	18745*
Vernon	61	115
Trempealeau/Jackson	122	129
Monroe	3	32
Vernon	61	119
Houston, MN	16	91
Other	8	6

* Does not include partial packages provided as demographics are not collected, only the number of households.

Food Package Distribution in La Crosse County Communities



Unique People Served by County 2024

County	2024	2023
La Crosse	8034	7609
Vernon	59	72
Trempealeau/Jackson	42	91
Monroe	40	33
Houston, MN	35	96
Other	54	17



THANK YOU FOR
HELPING TO FILL THE
SHELVES TO PUT FOOD
ON THE TABLE AT
MEALTIME FOR OUR
FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS RIGHT HERE
AT HOME! WE ARE
HONORED TO BE YOUR
**HOMETOWN FOOD
PANTRY!**

Should you have questions regarding the contents of WAFER's annual report, please contact a board member or the Executive Director.

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