

Winter 2025



Dear Friends:

Let me begin by saying "thank you." This past year, WAFER experienced an unprecedented outpouring of support as we navigated a challenging landscape that at times changed radically from day to day. Through all that, we learned something powerful: people like you were listening, paying attention to the issues we faced, and that we could count on you to show up with generosity when it matters most. We are deeply grateful. Thank you.

We are also thankful to those in our community who saw our situation and took it upon themselves to support us through food drives. Hunger and food insecurity are somber topics, but this past summer many local financial institutions created a fun and heartwarming effort with their Financial Food Drive Challenge. Later in the year, several automotive dealers and repair shops created a Wheels for Meals campaign to help stock our shelves. (See pictures below) Such initiatives demonstrate that our community is not only caring, but creative and innovative when it comes to addressing problems.

In turn, such generosity makes it possible for WAFER to meet our mission of addressing hunger in our community. The food packages we provide help our neighbors, families, individuals, seniors, and veterans who are trying to make ends meet - like Katie:

"In case you are wondering who uses food pantries...it's me circa 2017-18. I worked full time for a local hospital. Unfortunately, I was often put on call which meant I would be short \$400-\$700 that paycheck. I didn't have cable, didn't eat out. I donated plasma to buy Christmas gifts for my kids. One week I had \$100 to make it another 10 days. I needed gas for my car and had to pay my electric bill...so I went to WAFER.

I volunteered there many times. People I KNEW helped me walk the aisles to select my food package. I'm grateful WAFER was there for me and my two children."

Stories like Katie's are countless. Behind each story is your support. You make it possible for us to be there for Katie, and for families like hers. We are grateful that you are there for WAFER's patrons.

As the year draws to a close, please consider a gift to WAFER Food pantry this holiday season. Together, we can make life just a little easier for our neighbors in need and build a community where kindness and care prevail.

Gratefully,

Erin Waldhart,
Executive Director

PS. You can also make a gift via credit card at or Venmo - @WAFERFoodPantry-LaCrosse



Morries Chevrolet



Dahl Automotive



Rod's Ride On Powersports

Wheels for Meals



Del's Service Center

