

# **WISCAP'S GUIDE TO RESOURCES FOR WISCONSIN FOOD PANTRIES**

A guide to methods used by Food Pantries and  
Community Action Agencies in Wisconsin  
to obtain food and funding

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*The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) is the professional association of Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies and 3 statewide special purpose agencies. Through diverse programs and services Community Action Agencies help to alleviate the conditions of poverty and assist low-income citizens to attain greater self-sufficiency and economic stability. Since 1974 WISCAP has supported the anti-poverty mission of our member agencies through training and technical assistance, resource development, program administration and public policy advocacy.*

*Please visit our website [www.wiscap.org](http://www.wiscap.org) for more information on Community Action in Wisconsin or to download a free copy of this guide.*

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# Introduction

In recent years many Wisconsin food pantries have reported huge increases in the number of households seeking food assistance. Although food pantries are distributing more food than ever before, the demand in many areas is growing faster than the supply of food. This has caused some pantries to reduce the size of food packages or limit food distribution in other ways.

WISCAP has talked with food pantries, Community Action Agencies and others, about some of the strategies and methods they use to obtain food and funding. While many strategies and resources in the Guide will be familiar to you, we hope you'll discover some new and useful ideas to help you increase your food pantry's resources. If you have methods or ideas we haven't included and you'd like to them share with us, please use the form at the end of the guide to tell us more about it.

The guide is organized into the following sections:

- **Getting Food.** The 7 chapters in this section discuss strategies for community food drives, recovering prepared and perishable foods, planting gardens, using grocery store gift cards, utilizing Second Harvest and independent food banks, federal commodities (TEFAP), and stretching food dollars.
- **Finding Money.** The 2 chapters in this section summarize different fund-raising events that food pantries use, as well as companies and foundations that offer hunger grants.
- **Publicity & Networking.** This section lists some of the groups and networks that pantries have connected with to help them obtain funds, food or volunteers.
- **Outreach - Connecting Families to Resources.** This section describes nutrition and non-nutrition programs and ways pantries are connecting their clients to resources. Greater utilization of federal assistance programs is key to fighting hunger and reducing demand for emergency food. This section also includes information about advocating on hunger issues.
- **Resources & Organizations.** This section lists other resources & agencies of interest.

**A Word About The Internet!** As you look through these pages you'll notice many internet addresses. That's because food pantries are telling us that the internet is increasingly useful in their work. **REMEMBER** - even if YOU don't personally use the internet, you certainly have volunteers & staff who do and would be happy to help out. It's also a great way to involve high school and college students in your pantry's mission since they're very internet-savvy. Some of the reasons that food pantries are increasingly using the internet include the following...

- **Get useful information.** In recent years the internet has seen an explosion in websites operated by companies, community organizations, government agencies, libraries, and foundations. As a result pantries can use the internet to find (and submit) grants, read updates on hunger news, subscribe to and receive free electronic hunger newsletters, research hunger data for your county, order outreach materials, communicate with volunteers, mail articles, ads or pictures to local newspapers, get recipes or food safety information.
- **Post Information.** By creating a simple website you can give your clients and community useful information 24 hours/day, 7 days/week at VERY low cost. Inform clients when your pantry is

open, who is eligible, where the pantry is located, contact information, what services you provide, what to do in a food emergency. Inform community members about upcoming events, what foods to donate, how to volunteer, the pantry's history, what businesses have donated (include a link to their webpage). You might also distribute an online newsletter, post statistics on how many people the pantry has served or how many pounds of food have been distributed, etc. You can also use a website to thank volunteers and companies, post pictures, and other uses.

- **Raise money & food.** More and more pantries (and food banks) are using their websites to receive donations of money and food. This can be as simple as giving the address to send donations to or providing a form visitors can print out and return. But more and more pantries are increasingly allowing visitors to donate online using credit cards since they're fast, convenient and safe. For instance:
  - Some websites allow donors to set up recurring monthly or quarterly credit card gifts.
  - Some now operate "virtual food drives" by listing 6 to 10 food items and the cost per case for each item. The donor fills in the specific food to "buy" and the number of cases. The total is automatically calculated and the donor is prompted to pay online by credit card or by mail with a check. The pantry then buys food locally with the donation. See Aidmatrix page 42.
  - One pantry allows companies to register as food or fund drive sponsors. The sponsor (a company employee) gives other employees a code number to use when making a donation at the website during a campaign week. Donations may be matched by the company.
  - Others post information on how to make bequests to the pantry in the donor's will. This is sometimes a form with more information or may be just the name of the contact person who has been trained to handle such inquiries.
- **Connect clients to programs.** Pantries can post information and links to other agencies or programs with important services or benefits for their clients. In addition, Wisconsin has recently made it very easy for someone to find out if they appear to qualify for important programs. Visitors to DHFS' new ACCESS website ([www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov)) can anonymously enter information on their household, bills and income and ACCESS will report if anyone appears to qualify for help from a dozen major programs and how to apply. Almost 90% of people who complete the short questionnaire appear eligible for one or more programs. People can also use ACCESS to apply online for FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare and other programs or manage their benefits online if they already receive them. Food pantries can add links from their website to ACCESS. Some pantries now provide computer workstations with internet access and support staff to help clients use ACCESS to apply for programs. For more information on ACCESS see page X.

For examples of several Wisconsin food pantry websites, visit the following:

- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry [www.svdpmadison.org/food.html](http://www.svdpmadison.org/food.html)
- Mt. Horeb Food Pantry [www.food-pantry.org/](http://www.food-pantry.org/)
- First United Methodist Pantry [www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/food\\_pantry.htm](http://www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/food_pantry.htm)
- Mukwanago Food Pantry: [www.mukwonagofoodpantry.org/](http://www.mukwonagofoodpantry.org/)

The internet can be a tremendously valuable tool for your pantry and for those you serve. The possible uses for websites and online fundraising are limited only by your creativity. Not infrequently telephone companies, internet service providers and website developers will create and maintain food pantry websites as a way to donate to the organization's work. Be sure to investigate that option.

# Food Drives

For most food pantries food drives are the primary way they obtain donated food for distribution to families. A food drive may be entirely a local effort or it may be part of a larger statewide or national campaign coordinated by a company or organization. In either case successful food drives can raise hundreds or thousands of pounds of high quality food that can be safely stored for months. Success is usually a combination of good planning, collaboration with businesses and community groups, solid media and publicity, and dependable volunteers. Remember that when you organize a large food drive, always consider the extra time and volunteers needed after the collection to properly sort, transport and store the food for distribution.

You can download the Hunger Task Force's guide to organizing food drives, "*How to Host a Food Drive information packet*", from their website [www.hungertaskforce.org/volunteer/host](http://www.hungertaskforce.org/volunteer/host) (click on the link to "Food for Families Food Drive Manual"). Or you can request a copy by calling 414-777-0483. Readers can obtain additional information on how to evaluate the condition of donated food containers, a donated food checklist, and guidance on understanding packaging dates, by visiting Purdue University's website "Safe Food for the Hungry" at [www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html](http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html).

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Some of the community partners who have coordinated food drives in Wisconsin include:

### Letter Carriers

[www.usps.com/communications/community/fooddrive.htm](http://www.usps.com/communications/community/fooddrive.htm)

The National Association of Letter Carriers organizes the largest one-day food drive in the nation every May. Customers put donated food by their mailboxes or in special bags, which postal workers pick up during their routes. In 2004 almost 71 million pounds of food was collected nationwide. Contact the president of your local union if your community doesn't participate yet because the union is interested in a statewide campaign. If your community has a food drive, but your pantry doesn't get any food, talk to them about it. Their website has general information.

### Youth Organizations

Public & private schools, Sunday School classes, 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, and Boys & Girls Clubs are youth groups that routinely conduct food drives. Sometimes they host friendly competitions to see who obtains the most pounds. Contact an administrator or teacher at your local school or a coordinator for the various groups to find out how to partner with schools or organizations in your area.

### Service Organizations

The Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Optimist, Ministerial Associations, United Givers and Chambers of Commerce are all examples of service organizations that have partnered with Wisconsin pantries to raise awareness and conduct food drives. Contact the local chapter to discuss the possibility of working together in your area.

### Businesses

Employee and customer food drives at local businesses can effectively collect food and help build partnerships between the company and the pantry. Examples of businesses that have helped Wisconsin pantries include: Younkers, Great Lakes Higher Education, Madison Area Credit Unions, Curves for Women, casinos, Phillips Plastics, Fraser Paper, hospitals, chiropractors, and a wide variety of restaurants. Grocery stores

are also often willing to place collection barrels for customers to donate food. Give designated donation bags to people or employees of a company or organization with enclosed instruction to fill the bag and then return it to a collection bin. You can list specific foods you need. For information on hosting a virtual (online) food drive for a company see Aidmatrix page 42.

### **County or Municipal Offices**

You may be able to partner with municipal services to raise food. For instance, in some communities the local library accepts food items in place of library fines, then donates the food to area pantries.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Often times food drives are held in conjunction with a local community event. If well advertised these can be very successful because so many people attend within a short time. Some local events that have hosted food drives in Wisconsin include the following:

### **Election Day**

On Election Day ask voters to bring in non-perishable food items. You can advertise this in the local newspaper next to other electoral information.

### **Reduced-Price Admission**

Offer reduced price or free admission to an event, such as a school dance, musical concert, theatrical performance or conference, if you bring in a food item. Some major rock & roll bands are more than willing to partner with local food pantries. They may donate part of the admission price.

### **Company Gatherings**

Companies that schedule annual meetings, holiday celebrations, or social functions, such as a summer picnic or Christmas party, may be willing to ask those who attend to bring food items for your pantry.

### **Raffles**

Collect food in conjunction with a raffle (see Fund-Raising Section), or instead of selling tickets, give raffle tickets for every food item collected.

### **Sack Hunger Programs**

Pick 'N Save food stores and Copps food stores sponsor Sack Hunger bags. These may be promoted during a specific period, but are often available year round. Typically food pantries (or food banks) tell the grocer which particular foods to put into Sack Hunger bags. Grocers can also prepare bags containing personal care items. Bags often have a retail value of \$5-\$15 and are displayed throughout the store. Customers simply pick up a bag and pay at checkout. Local pantries sometimes take turns being the recipient of a single store's campaign. In addition to helping families the store gets good PR and increases its sales. Contact the manager of local grocery stores that do not have a Sack Hunger (or similar) program to discuss starting one. You may want to check with other local hunger agencies or food banks to see which stores already participate.

### **Stuff-the-Truck**

Stuff-the-Truck food drive in Ashland is a campaign in which the community tries to collect as many bags of food as possible to fill up a truck and beat the weight of food collected the previous year. The local grocery store worked with Northwest CSA to prepare food bags containing specific items. A recent bag contained two cans of tuna, two cans of kidney beans, two cans of canned fruit, a box of elbow noodles, a box of dry cereal, and a jar of peanut butter. Customers purchased these bags for \$10 and donated them to the food pantry (similar to Sack Hunger), or donated other non-perishable items at collection sites in the city. The promotion was advertised in local newspapers and at all the local schools.

## **Incentives for Events**

During holiday food drives some sponsors create friendly competitions between youth or school groups (grades, classes) by hosting an ice cream social or pizza party for the winner. One school held a drawing contest. The student pictures were hung and milk crates placed below them. To vote for their favorite picture students brought in food items and put them in the crate below the picture. Another community organizes an annual "Food Fight" between the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary clubs. Local businesses give their employees a "jeans day" if they meet a food drive goal. Posting goals visually, like a thermometer with an increasing temperature, makes it easy to see progress.

## **Themes for events**

Connect the food drive with a theme, such as Breakfast foods or protein items. Another idea is asking people to create "Birthday Bags" with cake mix, vegetable oil, an egg voucher, packaged frosting, and a toy. Or, "Baby Bags" with baby food, formula and a non-food item such as diapers.

## **HOLIDAY EVENTS**

There are many examples of holiday events that can be organized to collect food for pantries. November and December food drives are some of the most successful because it is traditionally a time of giving. Many communities organize large scale campaigns, partnering with numerous businesses and organizations to raise food and cash donations.

### **Media Events**

In Dane County "Share Your Holidays" has dozens of business sponsors who donate food and gifts to emergency food providers. It is heavily promoted on television and radio for several weeks leading up to Christmas. With the added resources many pantries will host Thanksgiving, Christmas or Passover dinners or create special holiday gift baskets for their clients.

### **The Canadian Pacific Railway Holiday Train**

US Midwest Media:  
Laura Baenen  
Ph: (612) 851-5659  
[laura\\_baenen@cpr.ca](mailto:laura_baenen@cpr.ca)  
or call the Community Connect Line at  
800-766-7912

Canadian Pacific Railway sends out two lighted Holiday Trains each year beginning in early December. Major Midwest stops have included Sturtevant, Brookfield, Watertown, Portage, the Dells, Mauston and LaCross. A Sparta pantry near the train route in 2003 received \$500 each year. Trains are decorated with thousands of Christmas lights and each has a "stage car" - a renovated boxcar that contains lighting and sound equipment. At each stop groups on the train entertain with short outdoor concerts. Admission to the train is free, but visitors are encouraged to make a contribution of money and/or a non-perishable food item. All the contributions stay in each community for distribution by local food pantries. Schedules with times and locations of stops are announced and posted on: [www8.cpr.ca/cms/English/General+Public/Community/Programs/default.htm](http://www8.cpr.ca/cms/English/General+Public/Community/Programs/default.htm).

### **Holiday Light Displays**

La Crosse has a large light display during holiday time organized by the Rotary club. Admission to look at the lights is free but visitors are encouraged to make voluntary contributions of cash and/or food as they exit the park. Seven area food pantries share in the 100,000 canned and packaged goods that are donated. The cash not only supports the light display but also area non-profit organizations. In the Advocap region, there is also an annual light display called "Celebration of Lights" that raises food for many area food providers. Light displays are usually sponsored by local businesses, often electrical or construction companies or electrical unions.

### **Trick or Treat?**

Westcap's food pantry gave children a "scavenger list" of food items. The children dressed up for Halloween and went door-to-door collecting as many items on the list as they could. Westcap reports they raised a considerable amount of money and food during the two hour event.

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# Prepared and Perishable Foods

Shelf-stable foods naturally constitute the largest category of food pantry inventory, but many emergency food providers also distribute some perishable foods, and to a lesser extent, prepared foods. Offering households these types of foods not only increases the variety and nutritional quality of food packages, but reduces waste as well. However, safely handling these foods requires close attention to storage conditions & temperatures and continuous monitoring of food quality. Readers can obtain excellent information on prepared and perishable food safety, including proper handling methods, and storage temperatures/times by visiting: (1) Purdue University's "Safe Food for the Hungry" website at [www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html](http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html) and (2) the Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin's "Safe Food Recovery Manual" available at [www.cacscw.org/food/gleaners/Food%20Safety%20Curriculum.pdf](http://www.cacscw.org/food/gleaners/Food%20Safety%20Curriculum.pdf).

## Perishable Foods

"Perishable food" includes items like meat, venison, fresh produce, milk, eggs, cheese, bakery items, etc, that have a limited shelf life and often require refrigeration or freezing, but which are not leftover from prepared meals. Many food pantries already handle produce and bakery items (which some consider prepared food) because they are easier to handle and store than prepared foods. Bakery items can be kept for several days at moderate room temperature. Most produce can be stored for brief periods at cool room temperatures, but is best kept in refrigerated coolers to maintain freshness. Dairy, eggs & cheese must be refrigerated at 35 to 40 degrees; meat must be kept frozen at 0 degrees or below.

### Produce

Many food pantries distribute fresh produce, especially during the summer and fall, because it is readily available and easily stored. Typical sources of fresh produce include grocery stores, produce stores, local farmers, home & community gardens, food pantry gardens, food banks, and produce wholesalers. Farmers markets and roadside produce stands can also be good sources of produce because many vendors don't want to haul food back home at the day's end and will often happily donate their surplus to food pantries. In Madison, volunteers pick up left over fresh produce from vendors at the Farmers' Market every Saturday during the summer. Just be sure to offer only quality produce to households and discard any that isn't fresh. (You can find more on gardens as sources of fresh produce in the "Gardening" chapter beginning on page 11.)

### Bakery Items

Pantries often collect day old bakery goods, like pastries, breads, pies, bagels, and rolls from grocery stores, bakeries and restaurants. Sometimes these businesses make deliveries because they have limited space to store yesterday's food. Bakery is especially desirable because many items can be safely stored for a few days at room temperature.

### Donations of meat, dairy, and eggs

Grocery stores may donate meat, dairy, cheese or eggs to food pantries. Local farmers also may also donate meat and eggs. Just be sure a licensed professional has processed any donated meat. A bank in Northwest CSA's region buys a steer each year at the county fair and donates 1,000 pounds of meat to the food pantries. Producers also may donate vouchers to buy their products at retail stores (such as egg producers giving vouchers for a carton of eggs, or pork producers giving pork vouchers.)

## Manufacturers & Food Businesses

Food companies and manufacturers often donate surplus and overstocked products, foods nearing expiration, or items with damaged packaging. While many are canned or shelf-stable, some items may include perishable produce, dairy, cheese (especially in Wisconsin), meat or eggs. Some examples from around the state include: Reedsburg Lakeshore cannery, Swiss Colony, Deans Vegetable Packing Plant, Organic Valley, Pizza Hut Pizza, Shullsburg Cheese Plant, General Mills, Bush Beans, Chappel Foods (a wholesaler), Tombstone Pizza, Jennie-O, Wal-Mart, and grocery stores.

## Venison Donation Program

Laurie Fike  
(low-risk counties)  
Wisconsin DNR  
(608) 267-7974  
laurie.fike@dnr.state.wi.us

Tanya Duerst  
(DEZ & HRZ counties)  
(608) 576-1742

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/  
org/land/wildlife/  
damage/donation/  
mainindex.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/donation/mainindex.htm)

Many food pantries participate in the DNR's Venison Donation Program, which processes venison for distribution to low-income families. In 2005, 300,000 pounds of venison were distributed to families in 53 counties by participating pantries. Hunters can donate venison by taking registered, field dressed deer to a participating processor in their area. There is no charge to the hunter. Processors will contact area food pantries who have registered to receive venison. The DNR contact person for the program depends on whether the food pantry is in central or northern Wisconsin (considered low-risk for Chronic Wasting Disease), or in those areas of southern Wisconsin considered high-risk. Refer to the map on next page to find the high risk DEZ and HRZ zones. A general DNR brochure on the Deer Donation Program is available at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/donation/mainindex.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/donation/mainindex.htm).



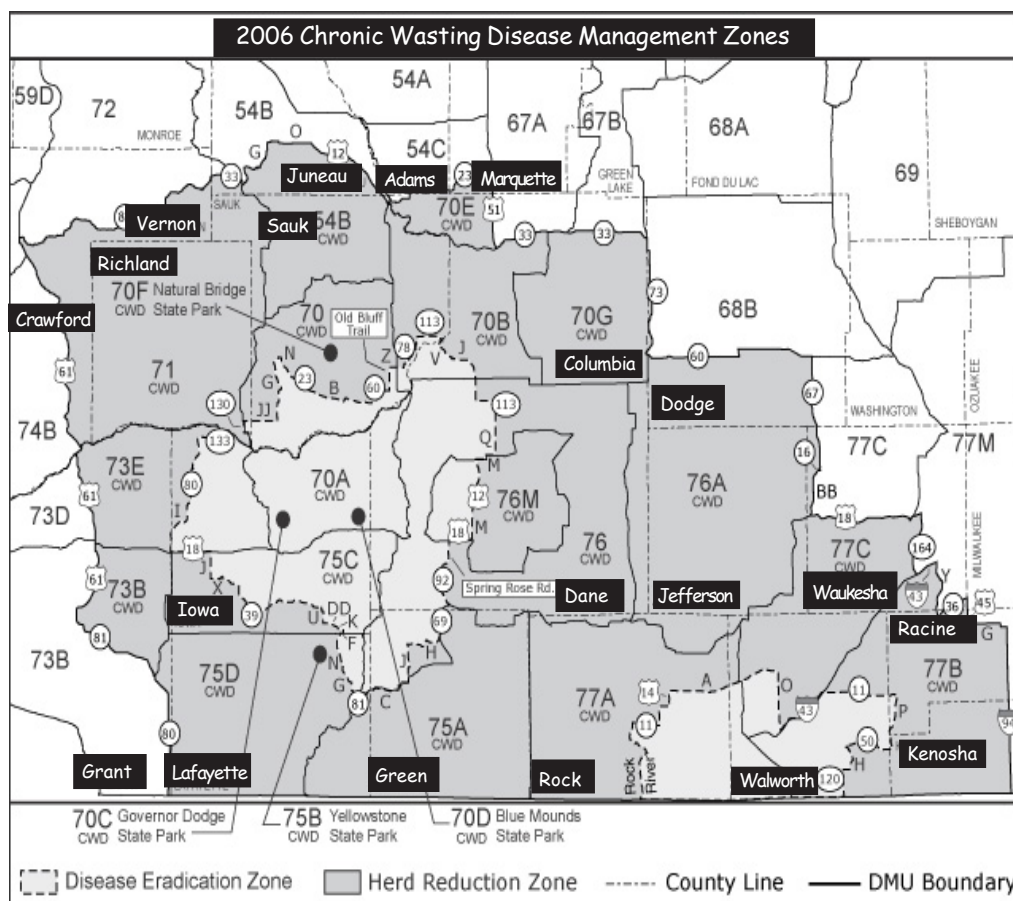
### **CWD and Venison - Is it safe?**

*Currently there is no evidence that people can contract Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from venison, and the overall incidence of the disease in Wisconsin is low. However this doesn't guarantee that eating venison is risk-free. The Disease Eradication Zone (DEZ) in Wisconsin has the highest occurrence of CWD-infected deer, about 1 in every 70 deer (1.4%). Most of these cases are concentrated in Dane and Iowa Counties, which account for 93% of all cases statewide in the last several years. Counties in the Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ), which completely surround the DEZ, have an infection rate of 1 in every 4,596 tested deer (.0002%). CWD has not been identified in the remainder of the state. (Map on the next page.)*

*The Venison Donation Program does not test venison harvested from outside the DEZ/HRZ zones. The DNR does test and hold all donated venison taken from the DEZ/HRZ zones - except fawns. (Fawns are not tested because so few test positive. It isn't clear if this is due to low infection rates or the inability of testing to identify CWD in young deer.) After test results are known only the venison from adult deer that tested negative for CWD and untested venison from fawns is donated to food pantries in the DEZ/HRZ zones.*

*To ensure safety accept only venison from the DNR program. Never accept home processed venison. Even venison prepared by a licensed processor that a hunter gives directly to a pantry could be unsafe.*

*Food pantries that distribute venison must always give clients CWD fact sheets so families can make informed decisions about eating venison. Distribute DHFS' guide "**Information About Donated Venison and CWD for Patrons of Food Pantries**". One version is for households receiving venison from the DEZ/HRZ zones where CWD occurs, and the other is for use in all other areas. Both versions are in the appendix or online at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD/index.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD/index.htm). UW Extension offers **Donated Venison and CWD: A Fact Sheet for Food Pantries and Consumers**. It's available at [www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/fmd/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/fmd/) or by calling Extension Publications toll-free at 877-947-7827.*



## Highway Patrol Weight Stations

Highway Patrol weight stations on interstate highways sometimes stop trucks carrying food or produce over the legal weight limit. The excess must be off-loaded before the truck can proceed. If your pantry is near a weight station let them know you're interested.

## Grocery Store Vouchers for Perishable Foods

Sometimes pantries don't have the capacity to handle perishable foods, but nevertheless want to provide these items to their clients. Grocery store vouchers are an excellent solution. They can be purchased at local grocery stores for clients to buy fruits, produce, meat, milk, cheese, butter, and eggs. The vouchers also enable families to get food at regular retail stores, which gives them greater choice, dignity, control and access. Pantries have funded vouchers with FEMA funds, Salvation Army funds, cash donations, and revenue from thrift stores or other retail ventures. WISCAP data on 230 food pantries found 23% distributed grocery store vouchers.

## Prepared Foods

This generally refers to leftover ready-to-eat food from restaurants, cafeterias, grocery store deli counters, caterers, hotels, events and trade shows. Volunteers usually store the food in containers that are immediately refrigerated or frozen. Safety is a primary concern with this type of food. All prepared food must be evaluated to determine if it's safe to eat, and requires special handling during storage and transportation to ensure it is kept at safe temperatures. These foods are often quickly distributed to families, frequently the same day, rather than placed in storage. Volunteers **MUST BE TRAINED** in safely handling prepared foods before accepting them. For more information read the "Safe Food Recovery Manual" available free online from the Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin's Gleaners website at [www.cacscw.org/food/gleaners/food\\_safety.htm](http://www.cacscw.org/food/gleaners/food_safety.htm).

## **Restaurants**

Restaurants, especially those serving smorgasbords, can be good sources of prepared dishes. Food can be put into containers, frozen and offered to families at food pantries.

## **Cafeteria Meals**

Collect food leftover from cafeteria meals served at schools, hospitals, hotels, community colleges, universities, or other institutional locations where a large number of meals are prepared daily.

## **Events, Conferences & Trade Shows**

Catered food at conferences, trade shows, company socials, music concerts, fairs, sporting events, and large public or private celebrations, can be a source of high quality meals. Food can be put into containers, frozen and offered to families. Sometimes food from trade shows may be pre-packaged perishable foods, not prepared meals. WISCAP obtained 120,000 pounds (15 trucks) of high quality pre-packaged, perishable foods from a single food industry trade show worth over \$400,000 that included meat, cheese, bakery & deli products that was distributed to pantries.

## **Convenience stores**

Pizza and sandwiches have a short shelf time in convenience stores. After the legal time has passed, the food must be removed from sale. This food can be packaged up and then stored for delivery to pantries for donation. Items are often packaged in individual servings.

## **CAC Gleaners**

1717 N. Stoughton Rd  
Madison, WI 53704  
Ph: (608) 246-4730  
ex. 206  
email: [chrisb@cacscw.org](mailto:chrisb@cacscw.org)

An example of an outstanding prepared and perishable food recovery operation is "CAC Gleaners" operated by the Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CACSCW). CAC Gleaners serves mainly Dane County, but delivers to a few locations in neighboring Jefferson County. A similar food recovery effort has recently been started by the Waukesha County Food Pantry to serve that county. In Dane County, over 100 volunteers pick up and sort through food from over 100 vendors including local bakeries, grocery stores, and restaurants and bring left over prepared food and other perishables to food pantries, soup kitchens, meal sites, senior centers, low income housing sites, and food banks. Food is also recovered from UW Food Service, the Dane County Farmers Market, local delis, leftover school lunches, food distributors and wholesalers, Meriter Hospital, and occasionally from special events (Camp Randall brat grill out and the Madison Mallards baseball team). CAC Gleaners safely collects 1 million pounds of food annually to fight hunger. A model for responsible business, CAC Gleaners also composts food waste incurred in the process and supplies the finished compost to CAC's Community Gardens program. Food pantries could undertake similar but more modest projects on a smaller, local scale involving just a few quality vendors.

# Gardens

Gardens are an especially appealing source of quality food that food pantries can distribute to families. Not only do gardens supply fresh food at low-cost but local produce is highly nutritious, non-fattening, and more likely to be free of pesticides and chemicals than store-bought vegetables. Produce is also preferred by some ethnic groups such as Hmong who may find canned food less desirable. Home gardens, pantry gardens, school and community gardens, farms, and orchards can all provide fresh produce to food pantries. Pantries can also distribute seeds and seedlings to pantry clients to grow their own home gardens. These increase family self-sufficiency and self-esteem and present opportunities to learn food preservation techniques (canning & freezing) that can stretch household food budgets.

## Plant a Row for the Hungry

Carol Ledbetter  
Phone: (877) 492-2727  
Email [PAR@gwaa.org](mailto:PAR@gwaa.org)  
[www.gardenwriters.org/par/Campaign.html](http://www.gardenwriters.org/par/Campaign.html)

This program encourages local gardeners to plant an extra row in their home gardens and donate the produce from that row to local food pantries. Some community gardens participate by donating all the food harvested on a certain day to area food pantries. A challenging aspect of any gardening program is to deliver produce as nearly as possible on the same day the pantry will distribute it. Westcap has drop off sites throughout the season to make it easy for people to participate. CACSCW advertises for gardeners through their contacts with schools, elderly and youth organizations, and has utilized agriculture-related computer listserves. To learn how to start a program visit the Plant-A-Row webpage.

## Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens

Emmett Schulte  
518 So. Owen Dr.  
Madison, WI 53711  
(608) 233-4829  
[schulte@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:schulte@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Ken Witte  
5014 South Hill Dr.  
Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 233-1417  
[www.foodpantrygardens.org/](http://www.foodpantrygardens.org/)

Local food pantries can work together to establish gardens that will provide a steady stream of fresh produce for families they serve. Madison now has five one-acre garden plots at different locations that produce over 80,000 pounds of produce with the help of volunteers. All the produce is donated free to Madison area food pantries and low income housing units, primarily through the Community Action Coalition and Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. Volunteers work anywhere from once in the season to weekly, planting, weeding, harvesting, and delivering produce. They follow an established schedule for working individual gardens. Its a great way for a group of pantries to receive a regular supply of produce.



## The Greens Project

Gardening projects can also be a way to provide culturally and ethnically appropriate food to pantry households. Milwaukee ELCA churches collaborated to grow culturally diverse and preferred produce with the help of volunteers. They distributed over 4,000 pounds of produce, including greens, through 24 food pantries, meal programs, and shelters in the city.

## **Hunger Task Force in La Crosse**

In 1998 the Hunger Task Force in La Crosse raised \$6,000 to buy 2 city blocks for an urban garden. Low-income individuals were invited to work in the garden for a share of the harvest, encouraging self-sufficiency. The Salvation Army distributed left-over produce to area pantries. 5,000 pounds of produce have been harvested in recent summers. The Taskforce also encouraged local gardeners to donate excess produce to the project.

## **Kenosha County Field of Dreams**

A grant enabled Kenosha County Extension to hire a garden coordinator to establish a huge community garden on 15 acres of donated land. 400 volunteers, including church groups, youth groups, and individuals on work release, grew vegetables that were donated to local food pantries, soup kitchens, Meals-on-Wheels, community centers and nursing homes. Some volunteers were former pantry clients. The project produced 70,000 pounds of fresh vegetables. Volunteers canned tomatoes, froze tomato puree and grated zucchini for distribution. They also started a rental garden and 40 families began growing their own produce. Local schools even visited the garden in conjunction with a hunger curriculum.

## **Brown County Hunger Task Force**

The Brown County Hunger Task Force obtained a grant several years ago to expand an existing community garden from serving 12 households to 42 households. A project coordinator identified additional land, equipment and other resources and obtained 30 volunteers. Two-thirds of the families were Southeast Asian refugees, who often do not find traditional food pantry products appealing. Several families even started small food-related businesses. More locations were added, enabling more low-income households to participate.

## **School Gardens**

In Oconto NEWCAP helped to organize a simple school garden where children could plan and plant vegetables in the spring and harvest produce in the summer and fall. The children learn lessons about agriculture, ecology, and helping others. The harvested produce, about 1,200 pounds in 2003, was donated to NEWCAP's food pantry.

## **Seeds & Seedlings for Home Gardens**

Page Seed Company  
1A Green St.  
P.O. Box 158  
Greene, NY 13778  
Ph: 1-800-688-1986  
info@pageseed.com  
[www.pageseed.com](http://www.pageseed.com)

Every year the Indianhead Community Action Agency (Ladysmith) distributes vegetable seeds free to over 1,000 food pantry clients in 6 rural counties in north-western Wisconsin to plant home gardens. They purchase bulk seed at low cost and a local Girl Scout Troop packages the seed for distribution. UW-Extension provides written materials on gardening and preserving harvested food. Indianhead found pantry families felt great pride in their gardens and eating food they harvested themselves. Some home gardeners donated produce back to the pantry. Newcap (Oconto) and Couleecap (Westby) have also distributed garden seed to their pantry clients.



In 2006 WISCAP obtained a grant to provide over 5,000 pre-packaged garden seed packs to Community Action Agencies and others to distribute to food pantry clients in their areas to grow home gardens. Each pack contained 8 individual packets of vegetable seeds, including planting instructions. WISCAP purchased the seed packs in boxes of 100 packs from the Page Seed Company (New York). Page Seed lets customers

customize their seed packs from a list of over 25 vegetables. DHFS provided a one page "Got Dirt?" gardening guide with information on planting, harvesting and storing vegetables. The seed packs were quickly distributed and many agencies had requests for more. Food pantries interested in distributing garden seed packs to their pantry clients can contact the Page Seed Company directly. In 2006 they charged \$100 per box of 100 packs (each containing seeds packets for 8 different vegetables).

Commercial greenhouses or garden stores may donate leftover vegetable seedlings near the end of the planting season to pantries, who give them to clients for home gardens. Seedlings are commonly available for tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, brussel sprouts, zucchini, and squash.

### **Prison Farms**

Farms operated within prisons sometimes donate produce. The Portage, Cambridge, Oregon, and Oshkosh facilities all operate farms. In addition to helping needy families, such projects also gives inmates an opportunity to provide service to the community. Check with correctional facilities in your area to see if such a program exists or could be started.

### **Large Farms**

Farmers often donate surplus corn, apples, potatoes and other produce, and sometimes allow volunteers to glean or pick fruit or produce that would otherwise be wasted. Community Supported Agriculture farms, UW research farms, Farmer's Markets and roadside stands have all donated food.

### **CACSCW Community Gardens**

CACSCW Community Gardens works with 16 of the 24 community gardens in the Madison area that provide plots for family gardens, including many Hmong and Hispanic families. CAC staff provide free seeds and seedlings, tools, hoses and other equipment. They also facilitate access to mulch, compost and water from the city, assist with special projects like fencing and raised bed construction, and host registration meetings, workdays and skill sharing workshops. They have also worked to expand the number and size of gardens, and have advocated to preserve urban land for gardens. As a result of their supportive efforts local families are raising tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce each growing seasons on community garden plots.

While these community gardens doesn't normally provide food to food pantries, they are important sources of fresh produce for low-income individuals who otherwise use food pantries. Understanding that the more food families grow themselves, the less they need to rely on charitable food programs, has prompted some pantries to support local efforts to establish or expand community gardens in their areas.

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# Grocery Store Gift Cards

Increasingly food pantries are using Grocery Store Gift Cards to supplement the donated and purchased food they distribute to families because Gift Cards offer so many advantages. WISCAP has found 23% of TEFAP food pantries utilize gift cards some of the time to serve their families.

## **More Efficient**

It's easier and more efficient to move money than food. Food that originally sat on a grocery store shelf traveled many miles, was handled by many people, and had many destinations before reaching a family in need. If a food bank processed the donated item the pantry may also have to pay for it. Gift cards bypass considerable time, labor, and cost because pantries don't have to buy, move, store, sort, pack, pay for or physically distribute as much food.

## **Same Cost As Donated**

Compared to food donated by the public that was bought in a grocery store, gift cards cost EXACTLY THE SAME. When you factor in the savings of time and labor, gift cards actually cost less.

## **Choice & Dignity**

Low-income families already have limited choices in many aspects of their lives. Whenever possible pantries should assist families to get their food at grocery stores, which gives families the greatest choice and control over what they eat, and is inherently the most dignified way to get food.

## **Variety & Quality**

Grocery stores offer the greatest possible variety and quality of food.

## **Access to Perishable Foods**

Pantries often give gift cards so clients can get perishable items the pantry doesn't stock, like meat, eggs, milk, cheese, and butter.

## **Special Dietary & Ethnic Needs**

Gift cards enable pantries to provide culturally appropriate food & food that meets clients' dietary needs (low salt, low sugar, low fat, reduced carbs, kosher, ethnic) which are often in limited supply at pantries.

## **Stigma & Privacy**

Gift cards are routinely used by the general public and the source that paid for the card is not identified. This reduces stigma & protects privacy.

## **Less Waste**

Everyone has food preferences, especially children. When families pick the specific foods they want and need, the pantry knows it will not be thrown away, given away, or remain unused.

## **Supports local stores**

Supporting local businesses, especially grocery stores, is important to many pantries. Gift cards support local grocers since the public or pantries themselves buy gift cards from local stores at retail prices.

It's important to note that a lot of food in food pantries and food banks has come from sources other than grocery store purchases. This includes federal commodities, bulk purchases from wholesalers, donations from food manufacturers and processors, produce from gardens, farmers and farmers

markets, donated venison, prepared & perishable food from bakeries, restaurants, caterers and conferences, as well as food donated by grocery stores that was overstocked, had damaged packaging or was close to outdating. The time and cost associated with processing and distributing such foods - as long as they are the highest quality - is not only appropriate, but of considerable benefit to families.

However, a significant amount of food in pantries (and food banks) WAS bought by the public (or by the pantry itself) at retail prices from local grocery stores. With this in mind food pantries may want to consider ways to increase use of gift cards. They can purchase gift cards themselves or ask businesses, churches, schools, civic groups or the general public to donate cards or the funds to buy them. If a pantry promotes the obvious value and advantage that gift cards offer to families, pantries and grocers, the public is likely to respond. It also gives the community another way to support local anti-hunger organizations that will appeal to many.

In addition, a pantry's website can VERY EASILY incorporate online purchasing of gift cards by accepting credit card donations for that purpose. (See Aidmatrix on page 42 for more information). Pantries can also collaborate with grocery stores to promote gift card purchases during certain periods. Some stores might consider adding their own funds (up to some limit) to cards bought by the public as part of a particular campaign.

One final note: distributing gift cards to households will NOT impact your pantry's monthly statistics concerning the pounds of food distributed. A widely used standard is to simply convert each dollar on a gift card into the equivalent of one pound of food distributed.

# Food Banks & Food Rescue Organizations

Most food pantries supplement their inventories of donated and purchased food with various products from food banks and food rescue organizations. Many pantries effectively stretch their monthly food budgets by first getting food from food banks before shopping at grocery stores. Food banks and food rescue agencies generally don't serve families directly, but provide food at low or no cost to emergency food providers, who in turn serve low-income households. "Food banks" obtain food from many sources, including donations and purchases and primarily offer shelf stable canned food, but often have perishable items like produce and bakery. "Food rescue" or "food recovery" organizations mainly stock prepared and perishable foods. They operate within a shorter timeframe, sometimes picking up and delivering food on the same trip to avoid storage. Some agencies provide both food banking and food rescue services. Food banks and food rescue organizations either belong to the Second Harvest network or are considered unaffiliated independent agencies.

## AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANKS

America's Second Harvest is the nation's largest network of food banks & food rescue organizations with 200 affiliate members that distribute food and grocery products through a network of 50,000 charitable agencies. They distribute food from national donors, federal government programs, local donors and purchases. The Chicago headquarters seeks national donors for the network and in partnership with their members, also conducts hunger research and advocates for government policies to reduce hunger, including support for federal nutrition programs. Their webpage [www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org) has valuable news, information, and policy updates on hunger issues.

There are 7 Second Harvest affiliated food banks serving Wisconsin. Four are located in the state and three are based in Minnesota. They provide a diverse selection of foods to their members and usually charge a "handling fee" or "shared maintenance fee" for their products, though some items are available at no cost.

### America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

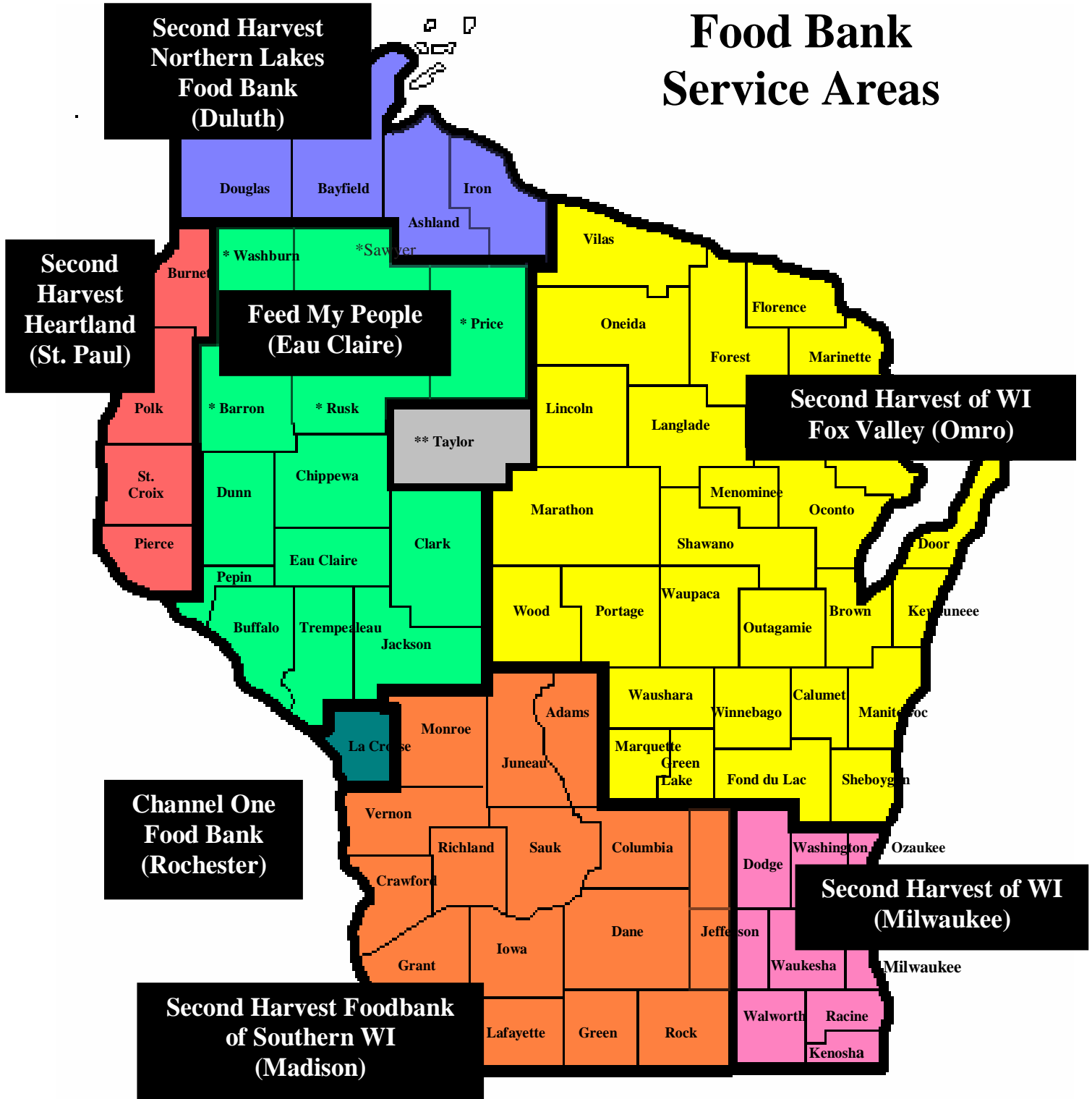
1700 W. Fond du Lac  
Milwaukee, WI 53205  
Ph: (414) 931-7400  
Fax: (414) 931-1996  
[www.secondharvestwi.org](http://www.secondharvestwi.org)

America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin's Milwaukee warehouse serves 800 agencies mainly in southeastern Wisconsin counties. However, they allow agencies in the 27 counties served by their Omro warehouse to use the Milwaukee facility which distributes 12 million pounds of food annually.

**Food.** ASHW usually offers a variety of nonperishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, as well as cleaning supplies and personal care items. Produce is available year-round at their warehouse. Member agencies can call a menu line to pre-order food or they can shop the current inventory at the warehouse. Recipient agencies usually pick food up directly from the warehouse.

**Fees & Services.** ASHW charges a shared maintenance fee of 18 cents per pound for donated food. Purchased products may cost more. There is an annual Membership Fee of \$100, however members also receive a matching grant of \$100 that is applied to their accounts to help pay maintenance fees they incur during the year. They also have a Food Fund grant program to help agencies sustain their programs. They do not offer equipment grants, though they sometimes receive equipment donations that members can apply for. ASHW operates Kids Cafes and senior

# Second Harvest Food Bank Service Areas



\* Barron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn Counties are served by both Feed My People and Second Harvest Heartland. Local agencies must pick one.  
 \*\* Taylor County is served by both Feed My People and Second Harvest of WI Fox Valley. Local agencies must pick one.

nutrition programs. They offer free classes at least once per quarter on topics such as nutrition education and food safety, as a service to their members. Additionally, members receive a quarterly agency newsletter. Pantries interested in membership should call the Milwaukee office.

### **America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin-Fox Valley**

1436 Progress Lane  
Omro, WI 54963  
Ph: (920) 685-6626  
Fax: (920) 685-6639  
[www.secondharvestwi.org](http://www.secondharvestwi.org)

America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin (in Milwaukee) also operates a Fox Valley distribution center in Omro that serves 300 agencies in 27 counties in eastern & northeastern Wisconsin. However ASHW also allows agencies in the Fox Valley service area to use the Milwaukee warehouse (and visa versa) if they prefer. Omro distributes 2 million pounds of food annually.

**Food.** The Fox Valley warehouse normally offers a variety of non-perishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, as well as cleaning supplies and personal care items. Produce is also available, but tends to be seasonal. Member pantries may sign up for weekly emails of new food arrivals, as well as daily and weekly specials.

**Fees & Services.** Fox Valley charges a shared maintenance fee of 18 cents per pound for most donated items. Purchased foods may cost more. The cost for produce is generally 18 cents per pound, though exceptions are made, such as if the produce item is highly perishable. Fox Valley offers delivery to agencies in surrounding counties for a additional fee of 4 cents per pound. There is an annual Membership Fee of \$100, however members also receive a matching grant of \$100 that is applied to their account to help pay maintenance fees they incur during the year. Fox Valley sponsors some free food safety and handling classes for all members that are conducted by UW Extension. Pantries interested in membership should call the Omro office.

### **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern WI (Madison)**

2802 Dairy Dr.  
Madison, WI 53718.  
Ph: (608) 223-9121  
Fax: (608) 223-9840  
[www.secondharvestmadison.org](http://www.secondharvestmadison.org)

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin serves about 400 programs in a 16 county area in southern and southwestern Wisconsin. They distribute 4 million pounds of food annually.

**Food.** SHFSW usually offers a variety of nonperishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, cleaning supplies and personal care items. Produce is available to agencies year-round, but is especially abundant in the summer to early fall. Many agencies come to the Madison warehouse to shop for food, but SHFSW also offers a combination of direct delivery and drop sites for pantries outside Dane County. In addition they operate 18 mobile pantries in 7 counties in partnership with local pantries. The mobile pantry makes a monthly delivery to neighborhood sites at a prescheduled time and distributes food directly to low-income residents. SHFSW hopes to expand their use of mobile pantries.

**Fees & Services.** SHFSW charges a shared maintenance fee of 18 cents per pound for many items. Purchased food costs more. They have an emergency grant program to help pay shared maintenance fees for pantries that experience a sudden increase in demand, as may occur following local disasters, fires or floods. Certain items (bakery, milk, baby food, produce, ice cream) are available to pantries without a shared maintenance fee. SHFSW offers several types of delivery outside the Dane County area for an extra 4 cents per pound fee. There is no annual membership fee. They do not offer equipment grants. SHFSW has an annual agency training day in Madison on food safety and grant writing. They also coordinate county training in partnership with local UW-Extension nutrition staff. Pantries interested in membership should contact the Madison office.

## Channel One Food Bank (Rochester)

131 35th St. SE,  
Rochester MN 55904  
Ph: (507) 287-2350  
[www.helpingfeedpeople.org](http://www.helpingfeedpeople.org)

Channel One Food Bank serves 13 counties in Minnesota as well as La Crosse County in Wisconsin from their Rochester, Minnesota warehouse. They served 8 Wisconsin agencies in 2005 with 58,000 pounds of food.

**Food.** COFB offers a wide variety of items including shelf stable food, surplus inventory, short-dated items, mislabeled items, bulk food, produce, as well as personal care items. At the end of each month they send a "shopping list" to their member agencies showing product that is currently available in the Rochester warehouse. Agencies place orders with COFB, which makes food deliveries to La Crosse twice a month.

**Fees & Services.** COFB charges a standard Shared Maintenance fee ranging from 0 cents to 18 cents per pound for donated product. They charge a higher price for food items they purchase, but there is no charge for produce. COFB charges food pantries an additional 4 cents per pound for food delivered to La Crosse (including produce). There are no annual membership fees. They don't provide donated equipment or offer equipment grants. COFB provides nutrition education and food safety classes to its members and can schedule training for La Crosse members if requested. Agencies interested in applying for membership should contact the Rochester office.

## Second Harvest Heartland (St. Paul)

1140 Gervais Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55109  
Ph: (651) 484-5117 or  
(888) 339-3663  
Fax: (651) 484-1064  
[www.2harvest.org](http://www.2harvest.org)

Second Harvest Heartland in St. Paul, Minnesota directly serves about 750 agencies in 41 Minnesota counties and 9 western Wisconsin counties<sup>1</sup>. *Four of the nine Wisconsin counties (Burnett, Polk, St. Croix and Pierce) are served solely by SHH. Five other counties (Barron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer & Washburn) are served directly by both SHH and Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire, one of its subsidiaries. Food pantries located in these five dual-service counties must choose membership in one food bank or the other. See the map on page 18 for details.)*

**Food.** SHH normally offers a variety of nonperishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, bulk foods, and personal care items. Produce is available, but tends to be seasonal. A complete list of their current inventory is available online. Members can obtain information on warehouses inventories and place orders in a variety of ways including mail, fax, phone, email and internet. Wisconsin members can either pick food up from the St. Paul or Minneapolis warehouse or SHH can deliver food orders according to a fixed schedule.

**Fees & Services.** The handling fee for donated food ranges from 0 to 16 cents per pound. Bulk food they've purchased at wholesale prices is available to food pantries at cost. Delivery to Wisconsin is available for an additional 2 cents per pound. There are no funds available to assist with paying the handling fee. There is no annual membership fee but SHH does charge a \$60 annual processing fee for members who do not use electronic means to receive warehouse inventories or place food orders. They do not offer equipment grants, but sometimes provide donated equipment to members. Members can attend classes on food safety, grant writing, and other topics at the St. Paul facility. Agencies interested in SHH membership should contact the St. Paul office. New members receive an orientation and SHH's handbook (available online) with details on services, ordering, warehouse rules, fees and food safety.

1. Only the Wisconsin counties SHH serves directly are counted here. Eleven other counties served by their subsidiary, Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire, are not included.

**Feed my People  
Food Bank  
(Eau Claire)**

P.O. Box 1714,  
331 Putnam St.,  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Ph: (715) 835-9415  
Fax: (715) 835-3844  
[www.fmpfoodbank.org](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org)

Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire serves 14 counties in north central Wisconsin. They distribute about 600,000 pounds of food annually to 50 agencies, including 30 food pantries. Feed my People is a subsidiary of Second Harvest Heartland (St. Paul) and receives a portion of their food from them. *Five counties (Barron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer & Washburn) are served directly by both SHH and Feed My People. Taylor County is served by both Feed My People and America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin in Omro. Food pantries in these 6 dual-service counties must choose membership in one food bank or the other. See map page 18 for details.*

**Food.** Feed My People offers a variety of nonperishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods and personal care items. Pantries with internet access can view their current warehouse inventory and place orders online or they can call the food bank to place their order. FMP makes food deliveries to a limited number of counties in the area - call for details.

**Fees & Services.** FMP charges a handling fee of 14 cents per pound for food products received from Second Harvest Heartland. However most locally donated food from food drives and private donations is available to pantries at no cost. There is a \$75 annual membership fee, but if an agency cannot afford the fee they should document their financial circumstances and request FMP in writing to waive it. There is usually no charge for food deliveries, however under some circumstances they may charge a delivery fee up to 4 cents per pound. Staff can provide details on request. FMP does not offer educational classes for members. They also don't offer equipment grants, though on occasion equipment may be donated to the food bank, which they make available to their members. Agencies interested in becoming a member should call to request a new agency packet, including an application form and ordering information.

**Second Harvest  
Northern Lakes  
Food Bank  
(Duluth)**

4503 Airpark Blvd.,  
Duluth, MN 55811.  
Ph: (218) 727-5653  
(888) 727-5653  
Fax: (218) 727-0105  
[www.northernlakesfoodbank.org](http://www.northernlakesfoodbank.org)

Second Harvest Northern Lakes in Duluth, Minnesota serves 4 counties in northeastern Minnesota and 4 northern Wisconsin counties. In 2005 they distributed 2.5 million pounds of food to 140 member agencies, including over half a dozen food pantries and shelters in Wisconsin.

**Food.** SHNLFB offers a selection of nonperishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, as well as personal care products. They have a produce program, as well as a perishable food recovery program that gleans food from hospitals, grocery stores, restaurants and colleges. Pantries must become a food bank member in order to receive food. SHNLFB mails monthly shopping lists to member agencies listing available products. Agencies can either "shop" their warehouse during business hours or order food from the inventory list for delivery.

**Fees & Services.** SHNLFB charges a shared maintenance fee that ranges from 0 to 18 cents per pound for donated food. Purchased products may cost more. Delivery is 4 cents per pound to member agencies, including those in Wisconsin. While SHNLFB doesn't have a program to assist pantries with paying the shared maintenance fee, they do offer a large amount of donated product at no charge. They have a \$50 annual membership fee. They don't provide grants for equipment. Members receive a monthly newsletter with a variety of food and hunger related information. Agencies interested in applying for membership should contact the Duluth office.

## INDEPENDENT FOOD BANKS & FOOD RECOVERY AGENCIES

Wisconsin has four independent food banks in LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Racine and Madison, which are not affiliated with the Second Harvest network. Although they are located in only a few regions, they are important sources of high quality food for scores of food pantries, meal sites and shelters. They usually distribute food for free, though some may charge annual membership fees.

### Hunger Task Force of La Crosse

P.O. Box 172  
La Crosse, WI 54602  
Ph: (608) 793-1002  
Fax: (608) 793-1003  
[www.lacrossehtf.org](http://www.lacrossehtf.org)

Hunger Task Force of La Crosse is a perishable food recovery organization serving La Crosse County and a portion of Vernon County. In 2005 they distributed over 500,000 pounds of food to 38 agencies.

**Food.** HTF offers mainly perishable products from retail stores, groceries, bakeries, restaurants, and others sources, but also carries some shelf stable items. They have 4 types of food: breads & grains, meats, dairy, and fruits & vegetables. They also operate community gardens that yield 25,000 lbs. of produce. Low-income individuals can help in the garden for a portion of the harvest. HTF delivers food throughout their service area.

**Fees & Services.** HTF charges members an annual fee from \$100 to \$750 depending on how much food is received annually. If a pantry cannot afford the fee, they can contact the Executive Director. Delivery is provided at no charge. Interested local agencies should contact their office.

### Hunger Task Force (Milwaukee)

201 S. Hawley Court  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
Phone: (414) 777-0483  
Fax: (414) 777-0480  
[www.hungertaskforce.org](http://www.hungertaskforce.org)

Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee is an anti-hunger public policy organization that operates an independent food bank serving Wisconsin. Annually, HTF distributes 8-10 million pounds of food to 80 emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Pantries in their network assist 32,000 people monthly, while meal sites & shelters provide 61,000 meals monthly.

**Food:** Hunger Task Force assures a stable supply of free food to its member agencies. Federal commodities are combined with donated and purchased foods to provide nutritious meals at congregate meal sites and a 2 to 3 day supply of food, based on household size at food pantries. Hunger Task Force organizes large scale food drives and solicits contributions from wholesalers and retailers. HTF operates a 50 acre farm that provides fresh produce from May to November. Their Stockbox Program provides 5,000 local seniors with a supplemental box of food each month.

**Fees and Services:** Hunger Task Force provides all services free of charge. No shared maintenance, delivery or storage fees are ever assessed. HTF acts as a grant making agency, offering funds to buy food and support operations. HTF gifts commercial grade equipment to its members to improve safe food handling and storage. All network programs operate according to Standards of Excellence and are inspected & recertified annually to ensure that clients receive appropriate, confidential & dignified services. Interested pantries in Milwaukee should contact HTF.

### Racine County Food Bank

2000 DeKoven Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
Phone: (262) 632-2307  
Fax: (262) 632-2643  
[www.racinecountyfoodbank.org](http://www.racinecountyfoodbank.org)

Racine County Food Bank serves 50 pantries, emergency shelters, meal sites and social service sites in Racine County. In 2005 they distributed over 500,000 pounds of food.

**Food.** RCFB offers a variety of nonperishable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, and personal care items. They receive a large amount of produce from the prison farms and the UW Master Gardener program. They collect food donations from a variety of local sources and participate

in national and regional food drives. Member agencies usually shop for food at the warehouse, but RCFB provides some delivery of produce and non-perishable items. During the holidays they provide about 1,000 holiday baskets to pantries.

**Fees & Services.** They do not charge for food they distribute or deliver, but obtain donations and grants to cover expenses. They do not have grants for equipment purchases. They collaborate with the UW Extension to provide some nutrition training, recipe sharing and other classes for pantry personnel. RCFB also advocates on hunger and homelessness issues, and provides referral services and information to clients.

**Community  
Action Coalition  
for South Central  
WI, Inc.**

1717 N. Stoughton Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Chris Brockel  
Ph: (608) 246-4730  
ext. 206  
[www.cacscw.org](http://www.cacscw.org)

The Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CAC) serves 61 food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Dane, Jefferson and Waukesha counties in southern Wisconsin. In 2006 CACSCW distributed over 3 million pounds of food to their member agencies at no cost.

**Food.** CAC warehouses shelf-stable, perishable, refrigerated and frozen foods, including produce and federal commodities, for their members. They coordinate over 30 food drives each year. They buy some bulk foods at wholesale prices with grant funds for Dane County pantries. CAC also operates a food recovery program, called "CAC Gleaners", that provides over 1 million pounds of perishable food annually to outlets in Dane and Jefferson Counties. A network of volunteers collect perishable food from over 100 local vendors (bakeries, grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers markets) and deliver it free to outlets. (See page 10 for more details).

**Fees and Services.** CAC does not charge its member agencies maintenance, membership or delivery fees. They have obtained funding from various sources to buy equipment for their member agencies. CAC coordinates the Dane County Food Pantry Network, a coalition of pantries in Dane County that meets monthly. CAC also plays an active role in food pantry networks in Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. They provide extensive support and coordination to 16 community gardens in Dane County, which enables hundreds of low-income households to grow their own produce. In addition to CAC's food programs, they also operate a number of anti-poverty programs, including housing counseling & home ownership, case management, financial literacy, citizen advocacy, and a free clothing center.

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# The Emergency Food Assistance Program

## TEFAP

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a USDA program that provides federal commodities to food pantries, meal sites and shelters for distribution to needy families. It is intended to supplement local agencies' inventories of privately donated and purchased food. TEFAP is administered in Wisconsin by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). DHFS contracts with 13 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and 3 non-CAAs to coordinate local distribution of 7 million pounds of commodities. These 16 coordinating agencies contract with 300 local pantries, meal sites and shelters to distribute the food to households. They also order food for their regions, monitor outlets and collect statistics. Some coordinating agencies directly operate their own food pantries. Some also provide additional donated food or other services to their TEFAP outlets. In 2006 the 230 food pantries in Wisconsin that received commodities distributed over 25 million pounds of food and directly served 125,000 people every month. The 70 TEFAP meal sites and shelters served 150,000 meals each month. DHFS also subcontracts with WISCAP to coordinate food ordering and with the Dept. of Public Instruction to deliver food shipments to each county.

Commodities are provided to TEFAP outlets each month at no cost and include mainly shelf-stable foods like meats, vegetables, fruit, juices, nuts, beans, grains, cereals, and milk. They may also include frozen meats, vegetables and fruits, and sometimes fresh produce. Nearly three-fourths of outlets receive free direct delivery, while the others pick up food from drop sites in each county.

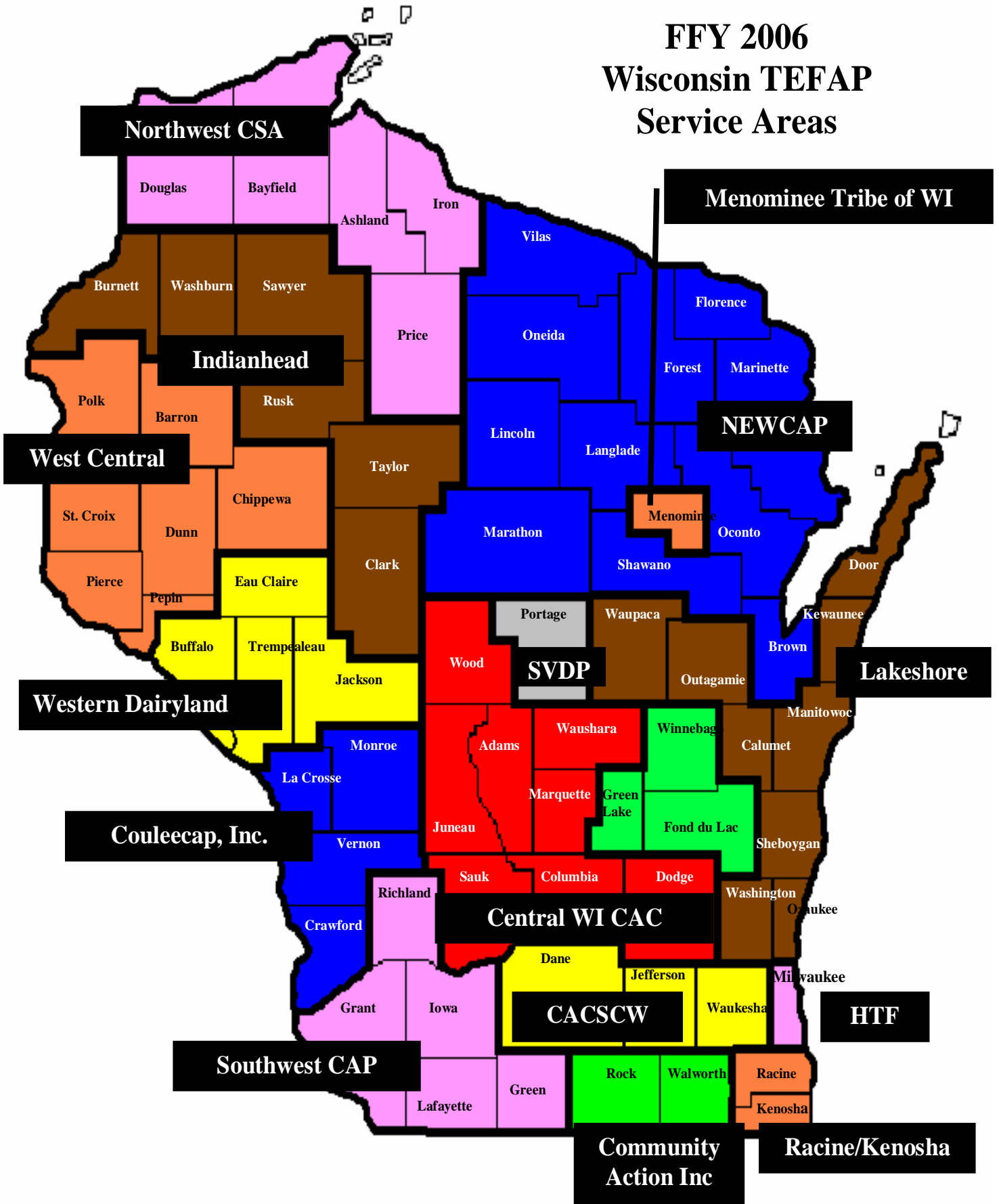
The volume of commodities IS limited. However, there are some underserved areas of the state where additional food pantry outlets may be needed. To learn more contact the coordinating agency on the following pages that serves your county. (See map on page 26 or the chart in appendix 2, page 63 for details). Coordinating agencies must consider many factors in deciding whether to approve a new application to become a TEFAP outlet. This includes whether there are sufficient commodities available to the area to support more outlets and whether the applicant pantry is in an underserved area. All TEFAP outlets follow TEFAP policies and standards of excellence to ensure food safety and optimal services. Pantry clients qualify to receive commodities if they reside in the pantry's service area and have self-declared income below 185% of poverty. Clients visiting meal sites and shelters are presumed to be income-eligible. For general information on TEFAP in Wisconsin contact Robin Soileau at (608) 267-9071 or email: [soilerr@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:soilerr@dhfs.state.wi.us).

**ADVOCAP, Inc.**  
19 West First Street  
Fond du Lac, WI  
54935  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Jenny Dehn  
Ph: (920) 922-7760  
[www.advocap.org](http://www.advocap.org)

Advocap serves 12 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago Counties. (See the map on next page or the chart in appendix for details). In 2006 they distributed over 310,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. Advocap also collects and coordinates donations of some private sector food and equipment for TEFAP outlets in their region. They also directly operate two food pantries in Green Lake and Neenah.

In addition to Advocap's food program, the agency also operates diverse anti-poverty programs, including housing and weatherization, job & business development, youth programs, community gardening, skills enhancement, Head Start, parenting and family support programs and literacy programs and others.

# FFY 2006 Wisconsin TEFAP Service Areas



### **Central WI CAC**

1000 Hwy 13  
Wisconsin Dells, WI  
53965  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Lisa Williams  
Ph: (608) 254-8353  
[www.wiscap.org/  
aca\\_agency\\_central\\_wi  
cac.htm](http://www.wiscap.org/aca_agency_central_wi_cac.htm)

CWCAC serves 15 TEFAP food pantries and meal sites in Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Juneau, Marquette, Sauk, Waushara and Wood Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in appendix for details). In 2006 they distributed over 470,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. CWCAC collects and coordinates the donations of some private food for TEFAP outlets in their region, and helps agencies obtain funding for food and equipment. They also coordinate an annual roundtable meeting of their outlets to share information, discuss TEFAP policies & fund-raising. CWCAC directly operates food pantries in Adams-Friendship, Rio, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin Dells, and Wautoma.

Besides CWCAC's food programs, they also operate a broad range of anti-poverty programs in Juneau, Adams, Sauk, Columbia and Dodge Counties. These include housing programs, weatherization, energy assistance, job & business development, skills enhancement, employment training, financial literacy, and other services. (North Central CAP in Wisconsin Rapids 715-424-2581 manages poverty programs in Wood County; CAP Services in Stevens Point 715-343-7500 manages poverty programs in Marquette & Waushara Counties. See the map on page 65 for their full service areas).

### **Community Action Inc.**

200 W. Milwaukee St.  
Janesville, WI 53548  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Judy Madsen  
Ph: (262) 728-8296  
[www.communityaction  
inc.org](http://www.communityactioninc.org)

Community Action Inc. serves 16 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Rock and Walworth Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in appendix for details). In 2006 they coordinated distribution of over 300,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. All TEFAP outlets in CAI's region pick up their allotment of commodities each month at a central warehouse in Darien. CAI provides some funding when it is available for pantries to purchase food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Madison and Milwaukee. CAI has been active in obtaining grants to buy equipment for pantries in their network.

Besides CAI's food programs, they operate many anti-poverty programs to help low-income households, including housing and homeless programs, weatherization, energy assistance, skills enhancement, youth services, women's health care, case management and other services.

### **Community Action Coalition for South Central WI, Inc.**

1717 N. Stoughton Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Chris Brockel  
Ph: (608) 246-4730  
ext. 206  
[www.cacscw.org](http://www.cacscw.org)

The Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin serves 61 food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Dane, Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. Forty six of these agencies receive TEFAP foods. See page 23 in the Food Bank Chapter for their complete agency description.

**Couleecap, Inc.**  
201 Melby St.  
Westby, WI 54667  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Janelle Olson  
Ph: (608) 634-7365  
[www.couleecap.org](http://www.couleecap.org)

Couleecap serves 12 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Crawford, LaCrosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. (See map on page 26 or the chart in appendix for details). In 2006 Couleecap coordinated distribution of nearly 300,000 pounds of federal commodities. They directly operate food pantries in Sparta and Prairie de Chien. Couleecap coordinates an annual meeting of all TEFAP outlets in their region to provide an opportunity for networking, sharing, discussing TEFAP policy, referrals, client choice, etc. They also provide some logistical support and funds for pantries to purchase food to supplement private donations. The agency has obtained some funding to purchase equipment for pantries.

In addition to their food program, Couleecap also operates a range of other low-income programs, including: housing programs, weatherization, energy assistance, job & business development, skills enhancement, family support, youth services, car purchase program, and other services.

**Hunger Task Force  
(Milwaukee)**

201 S. Hawley Court  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
Ph: (414) 777-0483  
[www.hungertaskforce.org](http://www.hungertaskforce.org)

Hunger Task Force is an anti-hunger public policy organization that operates an independent food bank serving Wisconsin. They provide TEFAP commodities to agencies in Milwaukee County. Annually, HTF distributes 8-10 million pounds of food to 80 emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. See page 22 in the Food Bank Chapter for their full agency description.

**Indianhead CAA**

1200 Roundhouse Rd.  
Spooner, WI 54801  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Mary Andrea  
Ph: (715) 835-3975  
[www.indianheadcaa.org](http://www.indianheadcaa.org)

Indianhead CAA serves TEFAP food pantries in Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties. (See map on page 26 for details or the chart in the appendix). In 2006 Indianhead distributed nearly 200,000 pounds of federal commodities through pantries they directly operate in Webster, Owen, Ladysmith, Hayward, Medford and Spooner. Indianhead also secures significant donations of private food, funding, and equipment to support their pantry operations. They directly coordinate or actively participate in pantry network meetings in all 6 counties.

In addition to Indianhead's food program, they also operate a number of other anti-poverty programs, including: housing programs, weatherization, job & business development, Head Start, literacy, youth services, parenting and family support, and other services.

**Lakeshore CAP**

540 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Roxanne Riesterer  
Ph: (920) 682-3737  
[www.lakeshorecap.org](http://www.lakeshorecap.org)

Lakeshore CAP serves 20 TEFAP food pantries, meals sites & shelters in Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington and Waupaca Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they coordinated distribution of more than 715,000 pounds of commodities to these agencies. Lakeshore operates a warehouse in Algoma that directly serves several counties. They also secure additional donated food for pantries in their network and have helped transport Second Harvest food to their outlets. Lakeshore operates TEFAP pantries in Sturgeon Bay, Algoma, and Sheboygan, and manages food donations, funds and equipment for these outlets.

In addition to Lakeshore's food program, they also operate a number of anti-poverty programs in their primary service area of Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties. These include: housing & homeless

programs, energy assistance, parenting and family support, youth services, mental health services and other programs. (CAP Services in Stevens Point 715-343-7500 manages anti-poverty programs in Outagamie and Waupaca Counties. See the map on page 65 for their full service area).

### **Menominee Food Distribution Program**

N737 Headstart Road  
P.O. Box 910  
Keshena, WI 54135  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Pat Roberts  
Ph: (715) 799-5132

The Menominee Tribal Government operates their Food Distribution Program in Menominee County. In 2006 they distributed nearly 20,000 pounds of federal commodities through their food pantry. In addition they also operate the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) for tribal members as a replacement for the FoodShare program. The tribal government obtains private donations of food, equipment and other supports to operate their food program.

In addition to their food programs, the Tribal Government also operates other anti-poverty programs to move families toward self-sufficiency.

### **NEWCAP**

1201 Main St.  
Oconto, WI 54153  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Kathy McMurray  
Ph: (920) 834-4621  
ext. 120  
[www.newcap.org](http://www.newcap.org)

NEWCAP serves 32 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Brown, Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 NEWCAP distributed over 780,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. NEWCAP also collects donated foods from various sources in their region to further support the food outlets in their network. NEWCAP operates an Oconto warehouse that provides regional food storage. They directly deliver TEFAP foods to outlets in 6 counties & donated food to all 12 counties. They directly operate pantries in Oconto, Marinette and Crandon.

In addition to NEWCAP's food program, they operate diverse anti-poverty programs in Brown, Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano, and Vilas Counties. Their poverty programs include housing & homeless programs, weatherization, energy assistance, job & business development, skills enhancement, community health, literacy, employment & training, and other direct services. (Poverty programs in Lincoln & Marathon Counties are managed by North Central CAP in Wisconsin Rapids 715-424-2581. See the map on page 65 for their full service area).

### **Northwest CSA**

1118 Tower Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Millie Rounsville  
Ph: (715) 392-5127  
[www.wiscap.org/aca\\_agency\\_northwest\\_csa.htm](http://www.wiscap.org/aca_agency_northwest_csa.htm)

Northwest CSA serves 7 TEFAP food pantries in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron and Price Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they oversaw distribution of more than 150,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. NWCSA operates a regional warehouse in Superior. NWCSA collects / distributes food donations from their Superior warehouse and directly operates 4 food pantries in Ashland, Superior, Hurley, and Park Falls. In addition they have helped to obtain funding for a mobile farmer's market. They coordinate or participate in food consortiums in all 5 counties including local businesses, tribes, community groups, UW Extension, clergy and farmers.

In addition to NWCSA's food programs, they also operate a number of anti-poverty programs, including: housing & homeless programs, energy assistance, WIC, RSVP, youth mentoring, clothing assistance, car purchase program, and other services.

**Racine/Kenosha CAA**

2113 N. Wisconsin St.  
Racine, WI 53402  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Michael Lill  
Ph: (262) 657-0840  
ext. 11

[www.rkcaa.org](http://www.rkcaa.org)

R/K CAA serves 26 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Racine and Kenosha Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they distributed over 480,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. They obtain donations of private food for distribution to their network and make regular deliveries to many outlets in their area. R/K CAA organizes quarterly food pantry network meetings in Racine County and monthly meetings in Kenosha County. They also directly operate a food pantry in Racine.

In addition to their food programs, R/K CAA also operates a number of anti-poverty programs, including: housing and rental assistance, weatherization, energy assistance, parenting and family support, youth services, Head Start, WIC, employment training and other services.

**Southwest CAP**

149 North Iowa Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Sharon Ray  
Ph: (608) 935-2326

[www.swcap.org](http://www.swcap.org)

Southwest CAP serves 12 TEFAP food pantries and shelters in Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they distributed over 180,000 pounds of federal commodities. They directly operate 4 food pantries in Boscobel, Platteville, Dodgeville, and Darlington and are responsible for obtaining private food donations, equipments and funding for these outlets. SWCAP participates in each of the 3 Hunger Task Force groups that meet in their region.

In addition to Southwest's food programs, they also operate a number of anti-poverty programs, including: housing and homeless programs, weatherization, job & business development, skills enhancement, financial literacy, Foster Grandparents, Head Start, WIC, women's health care, dental care, and other programs.

**St. Vincent de Paul Assistance Program**

2700 Post Road  
Plover, WI 54467  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Debra Hunt  
Ph: (715) 344-7395

St. Vincent de Paul operates their Food Assistance Program for low-income households in Portage County. In 2006 they distributed over 90,000 pounds of federal commodities through their pantry program. SVDP also obtains donations of private food, equipment and other resources to support their pantry operations. In addition to their food programs, SVDP also operates other low-income programs to assist their clients toward self-sufficiency. (CAP Services in Stevens Point 715-343-7500 also operates numerous poverty programs serving Portage County. See map on page 65 for their full service area.)

**West Central CAA**

525 Second Street  
P.O. Box 308  
Glenwood City, WI  
54013  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Melissa Wyss  
Ph: (715) 265-4271  
ext. 329

[www.wcap.org](http://www.wcap.org)

Westcap serves 21 TEFAP food pantries, meal sites & shelters in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. (See the map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they distributed over 375,000 pounds of commodities. They obtained funds to provide grocery store vouchers to pantry clients and sometimes distribute food donations to TEFAP pantries. They allow TEFAP pantries to use their van to collect & deliver donated food. Westcap directly operates a food pantry in Glenwood City and coordinates the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program in their area. They have obtained grants for equipment and regularly participate in food pantry network meetings in 6 counties.

In addition to their food programs, Westcap also operates a number of anti-poverty programs, including: housing programs, weatherization, energy assistance, job & business development, skills enhancement, JumpStart and other programs.

**Western  
Dairyland EOC**  
23122 Whitehall Road  
P.O. Box 125  
Independence, WI  
54747  
TEFAP Coordinator:  
Dawn Wood  
Ph: (715) 985-3239  
[www.westerndairyland.org](http://www.westerndairyland.org)

Western Dairyland serves 4 TEFAP food pantries in Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson and Trempealeau Counties. (See map on page 26 or the chart in the appendix for details). In 2006 they oversaw distribution of nearly 200,000 pounds of federal commodities to these agencies. Western Dairyland assists these pantries with funding to purchase food from Feed My People Food Bank to supplement pantry inventories. In addition, they have obtained equipment grants for their pantries. Their outreach activities have included updating and distributing a Community Food and Nutrition Resources Directory to pantries and other providers in the region.

Besides their food programs Western Dairyland also operates a number of anti-poverty programs, including housing & homeless programs, weatherization, energy assistance, job & business development, skills enhancement, Head Start, Fresh Start, RSVP, employment & training, parenting and family support programs, youth services, Head Start, women's health, and other programs.

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# Stretching Your Dollar

There are several strategies we encountered that emergency food providers use to stretch the buying power of their limited dollars - besides using food banks as much as possible.

## **Discount Grocery Stores**

Many pantries find they can buy good quality food for less at discount stores such as Aldi's and Save-A-Lot or at volume discount stores like Sam's Club.

## **Pre-ordering**

Grocers may give food pantries a better deal than purchasing off the shelves by allowing them to order cases of food. Pantries may be able to pre-order needed items that are on sale for a promotional price.

## **Bulk Food Buying**

The Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin in Madison coordinates bulk purchasing of certain staple food items for food pantries in Dane County. Several times a year CAC places bulk orders for basic foods using FEMA funding. CAC obtains significant savings because they purchase in large quantities from food wholesalers. Second Harvest food banks also make similar bulk purchases from food wholesalers, sometimes as part of national or regional food buys. Individual food pantries in a particular locality could establish a buying group among themselves to purchase key food items at reduced prices from a regional food wholesaler several times a year.

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# Fundraising Events

Fundraising events hosted by the pantry or by community partners are essential to successful operations because the unrestricted funds provide the resources needed for diverse needs. Funds from events can enable pantry staff to buy food to supplement donated food inventories, buy freezers, refrigerators, pallet jacks or shelving, pay transportation costs, utilities, personnel or other essentials.

## Fundraising Meal

Host a fundraiser meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) such as a pancake breakfast, soup and sandwich lunch, or spaghetti dinner. Or, host a Thanksgiving dinner or New Year's Day brunch. Donate the proceeds to pantries. In the Newcap area there is a "Taste of the Northwoods" Benefit. Local restaurants and bakeries sell food, wine, and beer. In conjunction with the event, there is a silent auction and a raffle. Participants were also asked to make a food or cash donation to the pantry. Connect with local wineries and have a wine-tasting festival. Charge a set amount for food and wine and ask for donations. The winery gets publicity and the pantry raises money.

## Empty Bowls for Hunger

Empty Bowls  
P.O. Box 1689  
Burnsville, NC 28714  
[www.emptybowls.net](http://www.emptybowls.net)

Have an *Empty Bowls for Hunger* event. Ask local elementary, high school and college art students and professional artists to create clay bowls and donate them to the project. Then organize a soup dinner. Event organizers usually charge a fixed amount for the bowl and soup (\$10-20 per bowl) and allow people to pick a bowl and variety of soup. Participants get to keep their bowl and the proceeds go to a local pantry. Events often include music or other performances. There is information on the national webpage: [www.emptybowls.net](http://www.emptybowls.net) or you can write to Empty Bowls or contact them via email.

## Hunger Walks & Bike-A-Thons

Crop Walk  
1955 W. Broadway  
Suite 102  
Madison, WI 53713  
(888) CWS-CROP  
[www.cwscrop.org/wisconsin/](http://www.cwscrop.org/wisconsin/)

Organize a hunger walk or bike-a-thon with donated prizes. *CROP Walks* provide funds for local hunger organizations as well as international hunger relief. For information on how to organize a Crop Walk, go to [www.cwscrop.org/wisconsin/](http://www.cwscrop.org/wisconsin/). Or write to 1955 W Broadway - Suite 102, Madison, WI 53713. Phone: 608-222-7008 or 1-888-CWS-CROP. Fax: 608-222-4815. Director is Gaston Razafinanja at email address: [grazafy@churchworldservice.org](mailto:grazafy@churchworldservice.org)

## Community Events

When there is a big event in the community, ask to get involved. The Star Spangled Celebration in Richland Center donates proceeds from a spaghetti dinner to the pantry. Holiday events, such as the light displays mentioned above, will collect money and allocate it to area organizations.

## Percentage of Sales Donation

Ask stores and restaurants in your area to donate a percentage of their sales during a publicized time to the pantries.

*Food Share Day.* In Madison, area restaurants participate in a fundraising event called Food Share Day. Participating restaurants pledge to donate 10% of their sales on a designated date (usually the first Tuesday of April) when the public is encouraged to eat out to benefit local food pantries. The money is donated to the Dane Co. Food Pantry Network for purchasing children-friendly foods for the summer months when pantry donations from other sources are low. This year 50 area restaurants participated in the event and raised \$9,000 in one day for Dane Co. food pantries. The restaurants benefit from free publicity on the local news, radio stations, the Capital Times (daily paper) and Isthmus (weekly alternative paper) and from increased patronage on a day that is typically slow for restaurants.

## Sale of Promotional Coupons

*Creative Innovations.* Food pantries in the Indianhead CAA region contract with an Iowa-based company, *Creative Innovations*, to sell packets of promotional coupons for local businesses (e.g. 2 for the price of 1 pizzas, etc.). The pantries receive \$1.00 for every coupon packet sold. Last year one of the pantries in the Indianhead region earned \$500 through sales of the coupon packets.

## Matching

Ask businesses and companies to make a match (such as donate \$1 per pound of food collected). Partnering with corporate sponsors can lead to regular donations.

## Penny Wars

Each team has a jar, and you try to fill it with as many pennies (which are positive points) as possible. Placing silver coins or dollars in the other team's jars counts as negative points.

## Funeral Memorials

Families who receive money at funeral memorials can donate a portion of the money to a charity.

## Silent auctions

In conjunction with another event, do a silent auction with donated prizes. Individuals are allowed to inspect the items and submit written bids with their name and number. The highest bidder at the end of the auction wins and pays the amount they bid.

## Sales

**Rummage Sales.** Host an agency rummage sale and donate the money to the pantries.

**Bake Sales.** Have an internal bake sale with people rotating to bring in baked goods. You can also have sales inviting others to join in or make the bake sale a part of another event.

## Brown Bags

Ask people to skip a meal and give what they would've spent on it to the local pantry. CAC solicits these donations with a Brown Bag Mailing. They ask people to bring their lunch for a day and then donate what they would have spent eating out.

## **Loose Change**

Ask to place a loose change jar in company break rooms. Ask local businesses if you can leave a change canister at the register for the local food pantry.

## **Raffles**

Ask local businesses to donate prizes or services. In the past very impressive items such as a craftsman built playhouse and a Harley Davidson Motorcycle have raised money for food pantries.

## **Incentives**

Some pantries reported that children were motivated to reach a fundraising goal with the promise of something outrageous - like throwing a pie in a teacher's face or shaving the coach's head. Some have sold tickets like a raffle to determine a winner. People at one school sold foot long strips of duck tape for 50 cents so kids could tape a teacher to the wall (make sure their skin is covered and that they wear old clothes, though!). When the fundraising goal was met, the "victim" stood on a stool and kids applied the duck tape they bought. The stool was then pulled away.

One danger in using "outrageous incentives" though is that children may forget that "hunger" isn't a game and that the food or funds raised are badly needed by families and children, perhaps even by some who are participating in the event. Coordinators should take steps to balance the "fun" of an event with an awareness that preventing hunger is important work that serves their neighbors in need.

## **Cookbooks**

Ask for donated recipes to collect into a cookbook. Sell them and donate the proceeds to the pantry. One example of a particularly successful effort (although not a food pantry): the Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition created a very popular cookbook in 1996 with recipes featuring different types of locally grown produce. It's been revised several times and has sold over 17,000 copies. They also market it on their website. They use the funds for various activities, including assisting low-income people to participate in Community Supported Agriculture farms. Visit their website at: [www.localharvest.org/store/item.jsp?id=270](http://www.localharvest.org/store/item.jsp?id=270).

## **Golfing Events**

During the summer of 2007 Central Wisconsin CAC will hold their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing at a local golf course with 100% of the proceeds going toward CWCAC supported Food Pantries and the Homeless Prevention & Intervention Programs. Participants pay \$85 per person for a golf package that includes the driving range, green fees, golf cart with gps, prizes, auction, dinner buffet and other golf event prize opportunities. Central also solicits event sponsors as well as corporate sponsors of individual holes. They receive many wonderful prize donations from local businesses that are raffled off following the evening dinner. The raffle, which generates the majority of the funds, raised \$5,000 in 2006 from the 122 golfers who participated.

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# Other Sources of Funds

This section describes community strategies - other than events - to obtain funds. This includes collection boxes, thrift stores, companies, foundations, some grant programs and internet-based donations. However, many of the companies and foundations listed here have limited resources or target specific communities or purposes. Remember - usually its the companies and foundations in your own communities that are most interested in supporting your anti-hunger work. ALWAYS contact a company or foundation FIRST before submitting an application.

## Community Boxes

In the Westcap area, a local grocer donates \$1000 a year to community groups (such as the food pantry). Collection boxes for each group are set up near the check out lines, and shoppers can put their grocery receipt in the box of their choice. At the end of the year, the money is allocated proportionately to which boxes have the most value of receipts in them.

## Thrift Stores

An increasing number of pantries run a thrift store or clothing store in conjunction with their food distribution site. Locations include the Evansville Food Pantry, Love, Inc., South Madison Food Pantry, Manna For Life Food Pantry. Not only does a thrift store provide a location in the community to buy inexpensive clothing, furniture, appliances and other supplies, but it gives pantries a steady and significant stream of income to purchase food, food vouchers, equipment or meet other needs.

## Point of Purchase Programs

email:

[ben@foodforall.org](mailto:ben@foodforall.org)  
[www.foodforall.org/  
index.html](http://www.foodforall.org/index.html)

*Round Up Program.* Sentry Grocery stores ask shoppers to round up their bill by a quarter, a dollar, or more and then donate the difference to local charities. In areas without Sentry stores, talk with local grocers about starting their own version of the program.

*Food For All Campaign.* There are two types of this program: year-round and holiday season. Both programs invite shoppers to make contributions of \$1, \$3 or \$5 each time they pay for their groceries, hence the "point-of-purchase" description. To find out if there is a participating retailer in your area, go to the website at [www.foodforall.org/index.html](http://www.foodforall.org/index.html) and go to the Food For All link, and then link to the Participating Retailers. The email is [ben@foodforall.org](mailto:ben@foodforall.org).

## Donate Now!

[www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)

Any nonprofit can join the Donate Now! Program with Network For Good. A nonprofit with a website can use the Network for Good Giving System to collect donations by linking their donation page with Network for Good. If you do not have a website, your organization can receive donations through the network by letting your constituents know that they can go to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org), search for your organization, and make a donation online. There are no set-up costs to the nonprofit, but 3% of donations are kept to cover the costs of processing transactions. Donors receive records of contributions for tax purposes. For more information go to: [www.networkforgood.org/npo/fundraising/donations/](http://www.networkforgood.org/npo/fundraising/donations/).

## **Roundy's Foundation**

Ph: (414) 231-6159  
[www.roundys.com/modules/content/index.php?id=5&secid=1](http://www.roundys.com/modules/content/index.php?id=5&secid=1)

Milwaukee-based Roundy's Inc. has a corporate foundation that distributes grants to Wisconsin community-based organizations for hunger prevention projects. Roundy's is the largest food wholesaler in Wisconsin and the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation. They distribute food products to over 800 stores in 12 states, including Cops and Pick 'N Save. Successful projects must meet 3 criteria: (1) Your organization must be a non-profit; (2) The project must address either hunger relief, family development, or education; (3) Your organization must be located in one of the 102 Wisconsin communities where there is a grocery store that Roundy's supplies. To locate eligible communities go to [www.roundys.com/modules/roundys/locations.php?secid=3&state=WI](http://www.roundys.com/modules/roundys/locations.php?secid=3&state=WI) and click on "Retail Locations". The company's main website also has a link to the online grant application. For more specific application guidelines or questions, contact them at (414) 231-6159.

## **Mazon**

MAZON  
1990 S. Bundy Dr.,  
Suite 260  
L.A., CA 90025-5232  
Ph: (310) 442-0020  
Fax: (310) 442-0030  
[www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org)

Mazon allocates donations to nonprofits that provide food and help to people of all faiths and backgrounds. The hunger relief efforts are funded by Jews and others who donate three percent of the cost of events (such as weddings and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs); who contribute at the High Holy Days (Chanukah and Passover); and who make contributions in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. Mazon grants provide assistance to charitable food programs serving hungry people with the largest grants supporting organizations whose efforts go beyond the immediate provision of food. Organizations can apply in 4 categories, including Advocacy, Education/Research; Emergency/Direct Food Assistance; Food Bank; and Multi-Service. For more information on requirements go to [www.mazon.org/](http://www.mazon.org/) and select "What We Fund", select "Mazon's Funding Guidelines".

## **Local Companies & Foundations**

[www.srinc.biz/hja/index.html](http://www.srinc.biz/hja/index.html)  
[www.srinc.biz/index.html](http://www.srinc.biz/index.html)

Do a search for local foundations in your area on the internet or talk with large corporations in your area or your librarian to find any local or regional community foundations. (Northern Wisconsin, Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, [www.srinc.biz/hja/index.html](http://www.srinc.biz/hja/index.html) SRI Philanthropy, [www.srinc.biz/index.html](http://www.srinc.biz/index.html)) are two examples. Local foundations and large corporations in your community are the most likely to support your hunger relief efforts.

## **Community Foundations**

Council on Foundations  
1828 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Ph: (202) 466-6512  
Fax: (202) 785-3926  
[www.cof.org/Locator/](http://www.cof.org/Locator/)

Many areas of Wisconsin have local community foundations, which are charities with the mission of improving the quality of life in their area. An organization, business or individual can create a fund to help their community, which the foundation then administers. There are 29 community foundations serving most areas. To locate the nearest go to [www.cof.org/Locator/](http://www.cof.org/Locator/) and click on Wisconsin for a complete list. Or, you can search for one in your area by entering your zip code.

## **Paul Newman/ Newman's Own Foundation**

Newman's Own  
246 Post Road East  
Westport, CT 06880  
[www.newmansown.com](http://www.newmansown.com)

Paul Newman, owner of Newman's Own brand, donates all after tax profits and royalties to the foundation. The foundation gives money to educational and charitable purposes, including hunger relief. For more information about the foundation, visit [www.newmansown.com](http://www.newmansown.com) or write or email the foundation.

**FEMA Funds-  
Emergency Food  
and Shelter  
National Board  
Program**

[www.efsp.unitedway.org](http://www.efsp.unitedway.org)

Every county is allocated federal dollars from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program to use for various services, including food in the form of groceries or served meals. Local boards administer these FEMA funds. To find out the contact information for the board in your county go to [www.efsp.unitedway.org](http://www.efsp.unitedway.org) and scroll down to "Funded Organizations." Here, you can either enter your zip code, or click on this link, which will lead to a list of states. Click on Wisconsin, and then on your county. On the top of the page will be the individual contact for your county's local board. You can also contact United Way of Wisconsin to find out how to contact your local FEMA Board at (608) 246-8272.

**Feinstein  
Foundation**

The Feinstein  
Foundation  
37 Alhambra Circle  
Cranston, RI 02905  
Ph: (401) 467-5155  
email: [asf@intap.net](mailto:asf@intap.net)  
[www.feinsteinfoundation.com](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.com)

This foundation encourages fundraising by pantries by pledging to divide up one million dollars each year among pantries that fundraise during their designated collection period. Pantries can collect money for 2 months, then notify the foundation of the total amount raised. The foundation then distributes checks proportionately (dividing up 1 million dollars). The check is not large, but as a challenge grant, it adds to the amount collected through the efforts of the pantry. The foundation also raises awareness for hunger issues. For more information visit [www.feinsteinfoundation.com](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.com) or contact them at their address.

**iGive.com**

iGive.com  
PMB 115  
2859 Central Ave.  
Evanston, IL 60201  
[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)

For fans of online shopping, when you shop through iGive.com a percentage of your purchase price goes to your favorite charity. Any cause can be listed on iGive. They have over 400 merchants on their online "mall" including Barnes and Noble, Land's End, and Ebay. Membership for online shoppers is free and product prices are often cheaper than store prices. Next to each merchant is a percentage, such as 12.5% or 8% or 10%, which is donated to the cause of your choice. So, sign up your pantry and advertise to the community to shop through this website (there are already 25,000 nonprofits that patrons can choose to receive donations). Checks are sent out every 75 days. The minimum amount of checks is \$25. Funds below this carry over until \$25 accrues.

**Gifts in Kind  
International**

Gifts in Kind Int'l  
333 N. Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Ph: (703) 836-2121  
[www.giftsinkind.org](http://www.giftsinkind.org)

Gifts in Kind provides donated products and services to non-profit organizations. They also have special pricing programs with corporate partners to provide products and services at a lower cost. Examples of available products are books, computer equipment, office equipment, clothing, and building materials. This is one way to save on equipment and supplies your agency needs to buy.

**United Way of  
Wisconsin**

2059 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704  
Ph: (608) 246-8272  
[www.unitedwaywi.org](http://www.unitedwaywi.org)

The United Way works within communities to better the quality of life. Each local chapter is run independently and addresses the most critical local issues. United Way works with community organizations, schools, businesses, and others. To locate the United Way near you, visit their national website at [national.unitedway.org](http://national.unitedway.org) and enter your zip code in the locator at the left of the screen. You can also contact United Way of Wisconsin to see if there is a United Way serving your community.

## Miller Brewing

Attn: Mail Stop #4-11G  
PO Box 482  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
Ph: (414) 931-2005  
[www.millerbrewing.com/  
inthecommunity/  
breweryOutreach/  
default.asp](http://www.millerbrewing.com/inthecommunity/breweryOutreach/default.asp)

Miller Brewing accepts grant requests from non-profit organizations classified as tax-exempt 501(c)(3). Preference is given to organizations near communities where Miller Brewing has a plant - such as greater Milwaukee and Chippewa County. Some organizations that have received support include Feed my People, the Food Pantry of Waukesha Co., Hortonville Community Food Pantry, the Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce Co., NEWCAP, Inc., NorthWest CSA, and the Oneida Pantry. Before submitting a request call the Community Affairs Information Line: (414) 931-2005 to see if your program is eligible or email [publicaffairs@mbco.com](mailto:publicaffairs@mbco.com).

## Alliant Energy Foundation

4902 N. Biltmore Lane  
PO Box 77007  
Madison, WI 53707  
Ph: (608) 458-4483

Alliant Energy Foundation supports programs that seek to improve the social and economic environment in the communities Alliant Energy serves - mainly southwest and central Wisconsin. To find out more and to get an online application, go to: [www.alliantenergy.com/stellent/groups/public/documents/pub/comm\\_cf\\_index.hcsp](http://www.alliantenergy.com/stellent/groups/public/documents/pub/comm_cf_index.hcsp). Or, you can contact them by email: [foundation@alliantenergy.com](mailto:foundation@alliantenergy.com).

## Buckets for Hunger

4761 Coolidge St.  
Oregon, WI 53575  
email: [bfh@chorus.net](mailto:bfh@chorus.net)  
[www.bucketsforhunger.com](http://www.bucketsforhunger.com)

BFH was started in 1995 by volunteers who organized a celebrity basketball game and a raffle of sports memorabilia for food pantries. Since then, BFH has run basketball clinics, silent auctions of sports memorabilia, "meet the legends" events, and has engaged corporate sponsors including American Express Financial Advisors, Alliant Energy and Charter Communications. BFH has donated over \$360,000 to food pantries. Their funds are limited so email [bfh@chorus.net](mailto:bfh@chorus.net) first before applying.

## AidMatrix Foundation

11701 Luna Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75234  
Ph: (469) 357-3885  
[www.adimatrix.org](http://www.adimatrix.org)  
or  
[www.aidmatrix.org/  
virtual-aid-drive.html](http://www.aidmatrix.org/virtual-aid-drive.html)

**This may be the future of food drives!** Aidmatrix, a Dallas-based non-profit headed by Wisconsin's former Governor Scott McCallum, has created an internet fundraising tool called a "Virtual Food Drive" that allows donors to pledge money toward charities in a very fun and easy way. They currently serve over 35,000 charitable organizations on five continents.

Here's how it works... AidMatrix sets up a donation webpage reached from a link on your pantry's webpage. Visitors to this page see a list of foods your pantry wants, including the cost to buy one case of each item. They can select which foods to "buy" and the number of cases. They can also make general donations in \$20 or \$50 increments or donate money to buy "grocery store gift cards" so clients decide what food to buy. AidMatrix automatically totals the contribution and processes the credit card payment for an 8% fee. Funds are sent directly to you. You buy food or gift cards locally. You promote the campaign as you would any food drive - with links on your webpage, through newspaper or media stories, or among community & business partners. You get only the food you want (or cash or gift cards) and gain additional savings if you buy cases of food at a discount.

Your pantry can also arrange for sponsoring companies or organizations to have their own virtual food drive webpage for their employees, customers or members to support your food pantry! A webpage is set up with the company's logo. Company employees donate to your pantry during the campaign. It's also easy if the company wants to match contributions. To see an example of a working site visit [www.secondharvestnashville.org/donate/vfdUsers.htm](http://www.secondharvestnashville.org/donate/vfdUsers.htm). Call AidMatrix for information or email at [virtualldrivesupport@aidmatrix.org](mailto:virtualldrivesupport@aidmatrix.org).

# Publicity & Networking

The more people we talked with who were directly involved with distributing food to people, the more we understood the importance of connecting with others in the community for their help in securing resources, food, and support. Well-connected, hard working, and passionate pantry coordinators are key to successful food pantries. They communicate the pantry's needs to the broader community and engage diverse people and organizations in supporting the pantry's work. Here are some of the comments and suggestions we heard from pantry coordinators about publicity and networking.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### **Food Service & Producers**

Make contact with as many business people as possible in the community who may have surplus food. This includes restaurants, farmers, grocery stores and distributors and wholesalers. It is important to communicate the need to these people and to ask if they will donate their surplus food.

### **Churches & Religious Establishments**

For most pantries, connections with local churches and religious establishments are very important. Keep an open communication with as many congregations as possible, since this is an effective way to communicate the need to a large group who are filled with people who want to help others. Specific needs are communicated through church bulletins. Encourage collaboration between churches.

### **Youth and Elderly organizations and Schools.**

Schools, Sunday School classes, 4-H groups and the Boy and Girl Scouts are all groups that regularly conduct food drives. Contact an administrator or teacher at the schools or a coordinator for the different groups to find out how to partner with the ones in your area.

### **Service Organizations**

The Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Ministerial Associations, and United Givers are all examples of Service Organizations that have partnered with pantries in the past to raise awareness and conduct food drives. Contact your local chapter to discuss the possibility of working together in your area. Try to have opportunities to talk at their meetings and discuss the need directly with the members.

### **Government**

Some pantries network with other government programs and provide needed services to their clients. Having information on nutrition programs (such as food stamps, school lunch and breakfast, Elderly Nutrition Programs, and WIC), health insurance programs (such as Badgercare, Healthy Start, Medicare and Medicaid), energy assistance, child care, economic support and job assistance, and tax credits can help families get through times of trouble. Some pantries have clothing centers and temporary rooms for those in need on site. Others provide rental and utility assistance, gas vouchers, and transportation assistance. Direct people to the Community Hotline 211 if applicable in your area.

<b>Nutritionists</b>	Invite staff from UW-Extension or other nutrition experts to give recipes or cooking classes with innovative ideas for using some of the food that they will be receiving.
<b>Pantry Networks</b>	To collaborate with other pantries, many have created pantry networks that meet anywhere from monthly to annually to share information and ideas and to reduce duplication of services. Networking with other pantries has lead to sharing of surplus food and taking turns picking up food from Second Harvest in different areas in the state. Some networks do county or network wide collaborative food drives. Networking with other pantries can also help ensure that you are not simply getting back the food you have distributed when doing drives in areas that have been economically hard hit.
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	
<b>Local Media</b>	Have contact with the local media, including the newspaper, television and radio stations. If there is a shortage of food or an increase in need, contact the media about doing a story on the issue. Media also is often willing to provide free publicity for an event (such as a food drive or fundraiser). Writing letters to the editor about the need of continuing support for pantries will also bring the attention of community members to the pantry. Publicize fundraising and food-raising events as much as possible. They will not only increase the donations you receive, but will also communicate the need to the community.
<b>Posters</b>	Hang posters in local businesses (such as grocery stores) listing the location, contact information, and hours of the pantry.
<b>Events</b>	Have collection bins and booths to solicit volunteers at events such as the county fair.
<b>Survey Users</b>	To make sure pantries are meeting the needs of clients, information can be obtained with needs assessments and surveys distributed to users.
<b>Hunger Roundtables</b>	Local hunger roundtables to share information can be done with community and civic organizations and area pantries.
<b>Thank You's</b>	Make sure to recognize and thank the efforts of your outstanding community members. Let them know what their generous donations do to help people in their community.

# Outreach -- Connecting Families to Resources

So why does a Guide about resources for food pantries include a section on resources for families? The reason is straightforward – communities simply cannot end hunger locally unless we engage ALL available resources for low-income families. And no one has more contact with people who need those resources than food pantries. Increasingly pantry staff and volunteers report that for a variety of reasons outreach is becoming more central to their hunger prevention mission. Why??

- **Demand is rising.** Requests for food assistance have increased dramatically, which is stretching local pantry capacity. And the trend shows no signs of abating. The number of household monthly visits to the 230 pantries that distribute federal commodities has risen over 50% in five years. And pantries are reporting that more households need help more often.
- **Pantries alone can't meet the need.** Pantries provide immediate, short-term food assistance with minimal red tape. Food packages usually provide sufficient food for 3 to 5 days. Federal programs are needed to help close the remaining nutrition gap as well as ease pantry demand.
- **Many pantry clients qualify for more help.** Studies show that 90% of pantry clients are eligible for FoodShare but less than half participate. In fact over 400,000 Wisconsinites qualify but aren't enrolled. Many also qualify for other programs like health care, WIC, tax credits, and more - but haven't applied.
- **Federal programs can provide major resources.** The average FoodShare benefit is over \$175 a month or about \$2,100 a year. That's equivalent to four years worth of pantry food packages. While the amount individual households receive varies considerably - on average - benefit amounts are significant. The additional value of school meals, WIC, tax credits, energy assistance and/or health coverage can total hundreds or thousands of dollars more.

## OUTREACH STRATEGIES

Many pantries not only give information but help clients overcome their reluctance to apply. Their reluctance can arise from stigma, inconvenience, thinking they're ineligible, low benefit amounts (imagined or real) and complex programs rules. But when pantry staff give good information, dispel myths, and keep encouraging people to apply, families are more likely to seek those resources.

When families do enroll in assistance programs the benefits can help stabilize their income and increase the amount of money in their budgets to buy food at grocery stores. Applying for these resources is also a key way for families to help themselves, as well as the pantry and community in the fight against hunger. The following methods are the main ways that pantries report engaging in outreach. Ideally, the more *engaging, personal and supportive* outreach is the more effective it is.

### **HELPFUL – Provide Information**

- Display up-to-date brochures on key programs.
- Put appropriate materials in food packages. Each month feature new programs.

### **BETTER – Inform & Engage Clients Personally**

- Invite outreach staff from specific programs to provide information.

- During intake interviews ask clients what programs they're enrolled in. Provide materials and encourage them to apply.
- Conduct interviews with clients who use the pantry often to connect them to more resources.
- Conduct annual interviews with all clients to assess which programs could help.

### **BEST – Assist Clients to Apply**

- Provide a computer in a private setting with internet access so computer literate clients can check their eligibility or apply online by themselves.
- Recruit volunteers to help clients check their eligibility or apply online. Fill out paperwork or use ACCESS on the web ([www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov)). Follow up with mailing required documents.
- Invite outreach staff from specific programs to take applications onsite.

### **ACCESS WEBSITE** ([www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov))

Even motivated clients can face real obstacles in getting to a local agency office to complete an application. Fortunately Wisconsin has a brand new resource - the ACCESS website - that is making it easier for clients to apply to programs and for community organizations, like food pantries, to help them apply. The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) created this user-friendly website so families (and community organizations that serve them) could use the internet to see if a household may be eligible for key programs, apply online for some programs, and afterwards manage those benefits online. ACCESS has 3 basic easy-to-use tools:

- **"Am I Eligible"** This tool helps people find out if they appear to qualify for a range of health & nutrition benefits (see box). It takes customers about 15 minutes to enter information about their household, income and bills. They instantly get a printable summary of which programs they appear eligible for and instructions on how to apply. Over 100,000 people have used the screener to date and 90% of those who complete it appear eligible for at least one program. 70% appear eligible for FoodShare and the same for health care.
- **"Apply For Benefits"** This important tool allows people for the first time in Wisconsin to submit an online application for FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare, and family planning services. It takes about 45 minutes, but people can save their application and return to it later if they wish. When an application is submitted it arrives within seconds at the local Human Services office. Customers who apply for FoodShare (which requires an interview) can request a telephone interview if they have difficulty getting to the local office and meet certain criteria. Local agencies will mail applicants a letter listing the documents they must provide. These can be dropped off, mailed, or faxed. Each month 2,000 applications are submitted in ACCESS.
- **"Check My Benefits"** This tool lets people who already receive FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare, SeniorCare and the Caretaker Supplement (for disabled parents raising children) to manage their benefits. Recipients can find out basic information about their benefits and report household changes to the local office to maintain their benefits.

**"Am I Eligible" Screener**  
checks eligibility for...

*FoodShare*  
*WIC*  
*School Meals*  
*Summer Food for Children*  
*TEFAP Food Pantries*  
*Medicaid (manytypes)*  
*BadgerCare*  
*SeniorCare*  
*Medicare Part D*  
*Medicare Premium Assistance*  
*WI Housing & Energy Assistance*  
*Earned Income Tax Credit*  
*Homestead Tax Credit*

## WISCONSIN CONNECTIONS

WISCAP and UW Cooperative Extension jointly developed *Wisconsin Connections* – an eligibility guide containing one-page summaries of 18 key assistance programs for low-income families. It includes nutrition, health care, cash assistance, child care & tax credits programs. You can download the most recent edition [free](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/connections/) at [www.uwex.edu/ces/connections/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/connections/). The website also includes one-page reference sheets for each county listing local phone numbers for every program. *Wisconsin Connections* briefly describes general eligibility, benefits and how to apply for each program. You may want to share copies with your staff or volunteers so they have an easy reference tool on eligibility. You also may want to give individual program descriptions (or the entire guide) to low-income families you serve, to inform them about program eligibility.

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

It is difficult to overstate the importance of encouraging & helping clients enroll in federal food programs. They bring hundreds of millions of dollars to families & communities each year.

### FoodShare

The FoodShare program provides food assistance to eligible households by means of a plastic debit card that can be used like cash to buy food at grocery stores. Over 350,000 Wisconsin residents use FoodShare each month to stretch their food budgets. Participating households receive an average of \$175 per month. Contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office. Clients can check their eligibility or apply by visiting the ACCESS website ([www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov)).

### WIC

WIC provides food and nutrition services to pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children. Over one third of all pregnant women in Wisconsin and nearly one quarter of infants and preschool children participate. Monthly food packages average \$50 per person and over \$120 per month for infants. To find the nearest clinic call 800-722-2295 or go to [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wic/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wic/index.htm). Clients can see if they may be eligible by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

### School Lunch & Breakfast

The National School Lunch Program is available in nearly every public school and in many private schools in Wisconsin. The School Breakfast Program is available in about one-third of public schools and some private schools. While both programs serve students at all income levels, children in low to moderate income households can qualify for free or reduced price meals. Last year 190,000 children received free or reduced-price School Lunch each day and over 42,000 students ate free or reduced-price School Breakfast. The combined value of both meals is approximately \$75 per month per student. To apply for free or reduced price school meals, complete and return the application form your school district provides at the beginning of the school year. Clients can find out if they may be eligible by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

### Elderly Nutrition Programs

Elderly nutrition programs provide seniors with low-cost, nutritious meals as well as opportunities to socialize with others. There are two programs to meet the differing needs of elderly persons - Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals. An estimated 70,000 seniors in Wisconsin participate in Elderly Nutrition Programs each year. For more information, call 608-266-2536 or visit [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aging/Genage/ELDNUTPR.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aging/Genage/ELDNUTPR.htm).

### **The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)**

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) helps low income families and individuals choose healthful diets, prepare food safely, and become more food secure. There are currently WNEP projects in 59 Wisconsin counties. To reach your WNEP coordinator, contact your county UW Extension office or visit [www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/index.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/index.cfm).

### **SHARE of Wisconsin Food Buying Club**

SHARE of Wisconsin food buying club can provide significant discounts on food, saving customers from 30% to 50% on retail food prices. SHARE serves over 20,000 people each month. They have over 200 distribution sites with locations throughout Wisconsin - except for Bayfield, Crawford, Menominee, and Washburn Counties. Anyone can participate regardless of annual income. Customers can choose whether to buy SHARE's traditional food package or customize their order by selecting the specific foods and quantities they want. To get a copy of their monthly menu or to find out more call 800-548-2124 or visit them online at [www.sharewi.org](http://www.sharewi.org).

## **NON-NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

It isn't as widely recognized that helping families connect to non-nutrition programs -- like health insurance, heating assistance, or tax credits, can help as much - or more - to reduce hunger. The reason is simple: families have ONE pocketbook. When they have to pay a large utility or medical bill there is less money to buy food. When they have help paying these costs, they have more money for food. Some of these programs, especially Medicaid and BadgerCare, provide benefits worth thousands of dollars per year.

### **Health Insurance Programs**

#### **Medical Assistance (Medicaid)**

Medical Assistance (Medicaid) guarantees health care coverage to elderly & disabled persons, pregnant women, children, and adult caretakers of children who qualify for services. Income and asset limits vary. Each month Medicaid provides quality health care coverage to over 500,000 people in Wisconsin. For more information, contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office or W-2 agency, or call 800-362-3002. Information is online at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid1/index.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid1/index.htm). Clients can check eligibility or apply at the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

#### **BadgerCare**

BadgerCare provides free or low-cost health coverage to uninsured working families with children. You may be eligible if you meet income limits, have no health insurance, and don't have access to insurance through your or your spouse's job. Even if your employer has a health plan you could still qualify if it does not meet the state's standard. Over 100,000 people participate. Contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office or W-2 agency, or call 800-362-3002. Information is online at [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercare/index.htm](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercare/index.htm). Clients can check their eligibility or apply at the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

#### **Healthy Start**

Healthy Start increases access to Medicaid health care coverage for pregnant women, infants, and children. Families with health insurance may apply. More than 100,000 people receive coverage through Healthy Start. Contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office of W-2 agency, or call 800-362-3002. Information is also available online at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid1/recpubs/factsheets/phc10070.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid1/recpubs/factsheets/phc10070.htm). Clients can check their eligibility or apply through the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

## Medicare

Medicare is the nation's health insurance program for people age 65 or older, for some people with disabilities under 65, and for people with End-Stage Renal Disease. Medicare provides coverage for inpatient and outpatient care, doctors' services, diagnostic tests, medical transportation and other services. Over 750,000 people in Wisconsin receive Medicare coverage. For more information or to see if you are eligible, call 800-633-4227. Information is also available online at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov). Clients can check to see if they might qualify for the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Assistance program - or Wisconsin's Senior Care Program - by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

## Energy Assistance Programs

### Home Energy Assistance Plus Program

Wisconsin has two programs to help qualifying households pay their energy bills and reduce the amount of energy they use. These programs - Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance - can pay some of your energy costs, weatherize your home, and provide help in a heating or energy crisis. Over 100,000 households in Wisconsin receive energy assistance each year. Bill payment assistance averaged over \$400 per household. For more information, contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office or call 866-432-8947. Information is online at [www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/](http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/). Clients can see if they may be eligible at the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

## Child Care Programs

### Wisconsin Shares Child Care

Wisconsin Shares Child Care pays a portion of child care costs for working families with limited income. Families choose their own providers. Wisconsin Shares helps over 29,000 families with child care expenses, paying a monthly average of \$800 per household. For more information, contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office or call 888-713-5437. Information is also available online at [www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/wishares](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/wishares).

## Economic Support & Child Care Programs

### Child Support

If your children live with you most of the time and their other parent lives elsewhere, the non-resident parent may be required to pay child support to help with the expenses of raising your children. Your county Child Support Agency (CSA) provides many services, including getting child support for your children. Last year CSAs provided enforcement services to 352,000 Wisconsin households who received an average of \$144 per month in child support payments. For more information, contact your county or tribal government listings in the blue pages of your phone book for the number of your local Child Support Agency. Information is also available online at [www.dwd.state.wi.us/bcs/](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/bcs/).

### W - 2

W-2 provides a wide range of employment and training services to help limited income parents find and keep jobs. W-2 provides monthly cash payments to eligible custodial parents for participating in subsidized work-

experience positions that prepare them for regular employment. W-2 can also provide case management services to any eligible parents - including non-custodial and minor parents - and can help families access many other types of assistance. Each month W-2 helps over 14,000 families. For more information, contact your county or tribal Human or Social Services office or call 800-722-2295. Information is also available online at [www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/w2/](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/w2/).

### **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

Supplemental Security Income provides cash assistance to low-income persons who are elderly, or persons of any age who are blind or disabled. Last year over 95,000 Wisconsin residents received monthly SSI payments, which can be as high as \$628 for an individual and as much as \$949 for a couple. For more information, call 800-722-1213 or look online at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/ssi](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/ssi).

### **Unemployment Insurance**

Unemployment Insurance provides temporary cash assistance to qualified unemployed workers who are looking for a job. Benefits are based on past earnings, not current income. In 2003 an average of 117,000 people each month received UC benefits, which averaged \$229 per week. For more information, call 800-822-5246 or visit [www.dwd.state.wi.us/ui/](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/ui/).

## **Tax Credit Programs**

### **The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lowers taxes and provides cash back to low and moderate income workers. There are two related programs — the federal EITC and the Wisconsin EITC. In tax year 2001 over 189,000 tax filers claimed both credits. Households averaged more than \$2000 in combined state and federal credits. For more information on the federal EITC or to obtain forms, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. For information on the state EITC, call 608-266-2772. Information and EITC forms are also available online at [www.dor.state.wi.us](http://www.dor.state.wi.us). Clients can find out if they may qualify for EITC by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

### **The Homestead Credit**

The Homestead Credit is a Wisconsin tax benefit for low and moderate income renters and homeowners. It can lower your state income taxes, and provides cash back if your income is too low to pay taxes. In 2001, over 204,000 tax filers in Wisconsin claimed the Homestead Credit which averaged \$487 per household. For more information on the Homestead credit, call 608-266-8641 or check the state government listings in the blue pages of your phone book for the nearest Department of Revenue office. Information on the Homestead Credit is also available online at [www.dor.state.wi.us](http://www.dor.state.wi.us). Clients can find out if they may qualify for the Homestead Credit by visiting the ACCESS website at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov).

## **TALKING TO LEGISLATORS**

Every year Congress makes important decisions about federal food programs that affect benefits, participation, and administrative rules. ALL food pantry volunteers should communicate at least ONE time each year with their elected officials in Washington D.C. regarding their views on the importance of these programs. The reason is simple: pantry volunteers are highly credible

advocates on hunger and the role of federal food programs. But if those people who directly serve hungry families each month don't educate Congress about hunger in their community, who else will?

When giving your views always be respectful, concise, accurate and clear. Take the opportunity to:

- Educate your representatives about hunger in your community: how many people do you serve each month? who are they (children, moms, seniors)? How much food do you distribute? What trends do you see? Is demand rising? Do families run out of food before the end of the month?
- Share your views about the role of FoodShare (food stamps), WIC, school meals, TEFAP (commodities) and other key programs to the families you serve: Do these programs help? How would families be affected if funding was cut or increased? Does your pantry serve people who are eligible but don't participate? What changes can Congress make so it is easier to participate? What importance should Congress give to these programs when they set their funding priorities?

To find out who your legislators are visit the website: <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>. Visit [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org) for policy updates and general information on the federal nutrition programs.

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# Other Resources & Organizations

The agencies and websites listed below contain important information that may be useful to your food pantry, including model programs, federal policy, advocacy, federal nutrition programs, poverty programs, hunger statistics and research, internship assistance, and more.

## The Wisconsin Food Security Project

[www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs/)

The Wisconsin Food Security Project is maintained by the UW Extension and provides up-to-date county and state-level information about food security, economic well-being, and the availability and use of public and private programs to increase access to affordable and nutritious foods. Using this website, users can request standard or customized food security profiles for any county in Wisconsin. Data are available on:

- The availability and use of FoodShare, WIC, Elderly Nutrition Programs, School Breakfast & Lunch, and Summer Meals
- The availability of community food programs for low income families
- The availability of local hunger coalitions;
- Community well-being such as food insecurity rates, employment, earnings, income, poverty, household characteristics, housing, and transportation.

The website includes a mapping tool to plot locations of various programs and services and has numerous useful links to other hunger resources.

## The Wisconsin Food Security Consortium

The FSC was re-formed in 2005 to bring together representatives of state agencies, community organizations, hunger councils, food banks, businesses, the UW, and others to coordinate efforts to fight hunger in Wisconsin. *"The FSC, representing diverse sectors in the fight against hunger, is dedicated to the elimination of food insecurity in Wisconsin. The FSC will serve as a networking forum to develop and promote effective solutions through education, collaboration, new partnerships and public policy that measurably reduce hunger."* The FSC, co-chaired by UW Extension and the WI Dept. of Public Health, is currently developing a statewide strategic plan to end hunger in Wisconsin. Their website is under development. Contact your local UW Extension Family Living staff or watch for a link at [www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm)

## WISCAP & WI Community Action Agencies

WISCAP  
1310 Mendota St.  
Suite 107  
Madison, WI 53714  
608-244-4422  
[www.wiscap.org](http://www.wiscap.org)

For over 40 years, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have been catalysts for change and a vital part of the effort to eliminate poverty. Wisconsin's 16 CAA's serve 69 counties. They are independent, non-profits that are community-based and locally controlled by boards composed equally of people experiencing poverty, local elected officials, and community and business leaders. Each agency is unique because their programs reflect the needs of their local communities. However all CAAs offer programs and services to assist low-income people to attain self-sufficiency, as well as address the conditions of poverty. In addition to food programs CAAs also operate housing and rental assistance programs, weatherization, energy

assistance, job and business development, skills enhancement, family support programs, youth programs, health care, Head Start, literacy programs, transportation assistance and other services. The map and chart in the appendix indicate which CAAs serve which counties. In a few counties the CAA that operates anti-poverty programs is different than the CAA that coordinates TEFAP (commodities.)

WISCAP is the professional association of Wisconsin's CAAs. Visit our website to learn more about community action in Wisconsin or to find one of our member agencies. WISCAP's website has information on poverty in Wisconsin, poverty programs, policy updates, and resources for pantries.

### **UW Extension**

[www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm)

UW Extension is a valuable resource in each county for information on nutrition, food safety and food security. Most counties offer the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP), which helps limited income people choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare healthy food and handle it safely, and become more food secure by spending their food dollars wisely. Extension also serves communities by convening hunger prevention coalitions. Contact your local Extension Family Living Educator or Nutrition Coordinator or visit the website [www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/countymap.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/countymap.cfm). They also have useful links, hunger research and other materials at their food security website: [www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wnep/specialist/fsecinfo.cfm).

### **WI Hunger Prevention Coalitions**

[www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/food/coalition/index.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/food/coalition/index.cfm)

Hunger Prevention Coalitions (also known as "hunger task forces" & "hunger prevention councils") exist in 26 Wisconsin communities. Activities, membership and resources differ among the coalitions. But they all share the common goal to reduce hunger in the short term, and to seek longer term solutions. Many coalitions include representatives of local food pantries. To find out about hunger coalitions and the work they do, visit UW Extension's website, which includes a searchable database.

### **Safe Food for the Hungry**

[www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html](http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/safefood/sfhungry.html)

This Purdue University website has valuable information for food pantries on food safety, evaluating donated food, food storage guidelines and other practical and reliable information.

### **WHY (World Hunger Year)**

[www.worldhungeryear.org](http://www.worldhungeryear.org)

WHY identifies, supports, and helps to replicate the best community-based hunger and poverty programs that promote self-reliance." WHY creates (1) Networking opportunities for local organizations; (2) Seeks to influence public policy on hunger, sustainable agriculture, microcredit, and community building; (3) Helps educate students about poverty and hunger. The website has many useful links. WHY also publishes an online newsletter and provide information on how to start a food pantry. They also promote the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance awards (up to \$5,000) to organizations that "have moved beyond charity to creating change in their communities".

### **FRAC (The Food Research and Action Center)**

[www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)

FRAC is the primary national organization working to improve public policies to end hunger in the U.S. FRAC is a nonprofit and nonpartisan research and public policy center that serves as the hub of an anti-hunger network of thousands of individuals and agencies across the country. FRAC's activities include public policy, research, support to state and local organizations, and serving as a clearinghouse on federal nutrition resources. Their website has links to other national hunger organizations.

## **Bread For The World**

[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

BFW is a nationwide Christian citizen's movement working on worldwide hunger issues. They publish a newsletter and encourage support of legislation to prevent hunger. Their website shows Congressional voting records on hunger issues and makes it easy to send emails to legislators.

## **Children's Defense Fund**

[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

CDF advocates for American children, and pays special attention to hunger and poverty issues, as well as concerns of minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates on the needs of children and encourages preventive investment. The web site offers a state-by-state profile with statistics on child poverty, hunger, education, and health.

## **National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness**

[www.nscanh.org](http://www.nscanh.org)

NSCAHH works with a coalition of students and community members across the country to end hunger and homelessness through education, service and action. It is the largest student network fighting hunger and homelessness in the nation. They organize Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Weeks at local campuses; hold an annual conference, establish Food Salvage programs, build community and campus coalitions; organize political efforts; and involve thousands of volunteers in service projects to raise funds for domestic and international relief. The website has information on hunger & homelessness and encourages political action.

## **Second Harvest Gleaners**

[www.wmgleaners.org](http://www.wmgleaners.org)

Their webpage has a valuable guide "Waste Not, Want Not" you can download for free with information on creating hunger-free communities and best practices for food pantries, including starting "client choice" pantries.

## **The Congressional Hunger Center**

[www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org)

The Congressional Hunger Center is a nonprofit anti-hunger leadership training organization located in Washington D.C. The Center offers internships to interested college students seeking to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to become effective anti-hunger leaders in both domestic and international programs.

## **Share Our Strength**

[www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org)

Share Our Strength is a national anti-hunger & anti-poverty organization that raises funds to fight hunger by mobilizing individuals in the culinary industry to organize events, host dinners, teach cooking and nutrition classes to low-income families. Through events and programs, chefs, restaurateurs, authors and artists, accountants, consultants and business executives help raise awareness and money to reduce hunger and poverty.

## **USDA Food and Nutrition Service**

[www.fns.usda.gov/fncs/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fncs/)

This federal government website offers links to information on all the federal nutrition programs, including WIC, the Food Stamp Program, School Meals, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and USDA commodity programs (TEFAP and CSFP).

## **World Hunger Program**

[www.nutrition.tufts.edu/academic/hungerweb](http://www.nutrition.tufts.edu/academic/hungerweb)

The HungerWeb is for researchers, educators, policy influencers, operations personnel, other professionals and students using the Internet to help find solutions to hunger at the global, national, community and household level—or for anyone who's interested in learning more about the subject. The site provides a bibliography of links to other sites with information relevant to hunger and related issues".

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# Acknowledgements

A project of this size owes considerable thanks to many people. We would especially like to thank Wisconsin's TEFAP Coordinators who provided valuable ideas, suggestions and feedback. This includes Kathy Snyder, Scott LeFerve, Chris Brockel, Judy Madsen, Janelle Olson, Lisa Williams, Sherrie Tussler, Mary Andrea, Roxanne Riesterer, Pat Roberts, Kathy McMurray, Millie Rounsville, Mike Lill, Sharon Ray, Debra Hunt, Melissa Wyss and Kathy Diel.

We also wish to thank the staff of all the Second Harvest Food Banks and Independent Food Banks that serve Wisconsin for their valuable input.

Last, but not least, we want to say "thank you" to the many food pantry coordinators and volunteers, who told us about the strategies and methods they use to obtain food and funding. Without your resourcefulness and commitment to fighting hunger in every community we wouldn't have anything to share.

This project was funded in large part by the Community Food and Nutrition Program, administered in Wisconsin by the Department of Health and Family Services.

Jonathan Bader  
Ellen Wuennenberg  
Mark Bauman

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# Appendix

Deer Donation Information

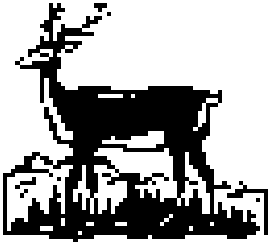
County Reference Guide (TEFAP, Second Harvest, CWD Zones, CAA Service Areas.)

Community Action Agency Map

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# Deer Donation Information

## INFORMATION ABOUT DONATED VENISON AND CWD FOR PATRONS OF FOOD PANTRIES



*This public food pantry offers venison from areas in Wisconsin where chronic wasting disease (CWD) is known to occur in some deer. **However, all venison at this pantry is from either adult deer that have tested negative for CWD, or from deer fawns.** (Not all deer fawns are tested because CWD is detected only very rarely in fawns.) The donation program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*

*We are providing some basic information about chronic wasting disease (CWD) to ensure that you, the consumer, can make an informed choice in your selection of meat at this food pantry.*

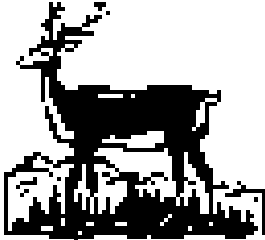
- CWD is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer and elk. It has never been known to naturally affect any other species of animal. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a **prion**, which can survive heat which would usually destroy disease-causing germs. Prions concentrate in certain tissues, such as brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, and spleen, although they may also be present in low concentrations in muscle tissue.
- Meat processors who are associated with the venison donation program are using boned-out meat from which most fat, connective tissue, and nerve tissue has been removed. In this way, the tissues where prions concentrate are not included in the processed venison.
- **CWD has never been shown to cause illness in humans.** However in Europe, a similar disease of cattle called BSE (also known as "mad cow disease") is the cause of a fatal nervous system disease in some humans who have eaten tissues from infected cattle. Because we know that, at least in this one instance, an animal prion disease has been able to infect humans, **no one can predict with absolute certainty that CWD will never cause human disease.**
- Again, adult deer from known CWD areas are tested, and **only negative adult deer and deer fawns are accepted for food pantry use.** It is important to know that **a negative test does not absolutely guarantee the deer is totally free of CWD prions.** However, it is the best means currently available to detect CWD, and is the same test used in Europe to detect mad cow disease in cattle.

If you would like more information about CWD and its implications for human health, you can call the Wisconsin Division of Public Health at (608) 267-9003 or go to the following internet site: [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD).

Prepared by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
August, 2006

# Deer Donation Information

## **INFORMATION ABOUT DONATED VENISON AND CWD FOR PATRONS OF FOOD PANTRIES**



*This public food pantry offers venison donated by Wisconsin hunters through the Deer Donation Program. This program is administered by counties with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture. Because chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been found in a small percentage of Wisconsin deer, we are providing some basic information about CWD to ensure that you, the consumer, can make an informed choice in your selection of meat at the food pantry.*

- CWD is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer and elk. It has never been known to naturally affect any other species of animal. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a **prion**, which can survive heat which would usually destroy disease-causing germs. Prions concentrate in certain tissues, such as brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, and spleen, although they may also be present in low concentrations in muscle tissue.
- Meat processors who are associated with the venison donation program are using boned-out meat from which most fat, connective tissue, and nerve tissue has been removed. In this way, the tissues where prions concentrate are not included in the processed venison.
- **CWD has never been shown to cause illness in humans.** However in Europe, a similar disease of cattle called BSE (also known as "mad cow disease") is the cause of a fatal nervous system disease in some humans who have eaten tissues from infected cattle. Because we know that, at least in this one instance, an animal prion disease has been able to infect humans, **no one can predict with absolute certainty that CWD will never cause human disease.**
- Based on extensive testing, CWD appears to be almost totally confined to two areas in southern Wisconsin. The venison available at this food pantry does NOT come from these known CWD areas. In the remainder of Wisconsin outside of the known CWD areas, over 29,000 deer have been tested, and none have tested positive for CWD. **This means the chance that any venison available at this food pantry came from an infected deer is extremely small.**
- It is important to know that a negative test does not absolutely guarantee the deer is totally free of CWD prions. However, it is the best means currently available to detect CWD, and is the same test used in Europe to detect mad cow disease in cattle.

If you would like more information about CWD and its implications for human health, you can call the Wisconsin Division of Public Health at (608) 267-9003 or go to the following internet site: [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD).

Prepared by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
August, 2006

# County Reference Guide

County	Agency Coordinating TEFAP Distribution in each County (see map page 26)	Warehouse Location of Second Harvest Agency Serving each County (see map page 18)	DNR Zones for Chronic Wasting Disease for each County (See map page 9)	Community Action Agency Managing Poverty Programs in each County (see narrative page 53)
Adams	Central Wisconsin CAC	Madison	NONE	Central Wisconsin CAC
Ashland	Northwest CSA	Duluth	NONE	Northwest CSA
Barron	West Central CAA	Eau Claire or St. Paul	NONE	West Central CAA
Bayfield	Northwest CSA	Duluth	NONE	Northwest CSA
Brown	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Buffalo	W. Dairyland EOC	Eau Claire	NONE	W. Dairyland EOC
Burnett	Indianhead CAA	St. Paul	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Calumet	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	NONE
Chippewa	West Central CAA	Eau Claire	NONE	West Central CAA
Clark	Indianhead CAA	Eau Claire	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Columbia	Central Wisconsin CAC	Madison	DEZ / HRZ / NONE	Central Wisconsin CAC
Crawford	Couleecap	Madison	HRZ / NONE	Couleecap
Dane	CAC for South Central WI	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	CAC for South Central WI
Dodge	Central Wisconsin CAC	Madison & Milwaukee	HRZ / NONE	Central Wisconsin CAC
Door	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	Lakeshore CAP
Douglas	Northwest CSA	Duluth	NONE	Northwest CSA
Dunn	West Central CAA	Eau Claire	NONE	West Central CAA
Eau Claire	Western Dairyland	Eau Claire	NONE	Western Dairyland
Florence	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Fond du Lac	Advocap	Omro *	NONE	Advocap
Forest	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Grant	Southwest CAP	Madison	HRZ / NONE	Southwest CAP
Green	Southwest CAP	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Southwest CAP
Green Lake	Advocap	Omro *	NONE	Advocap
Iowa	Southwest CAP	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Southwest CAP
Iron	Northwest CSA	Duluth	NONE	Northwest CSA
Jackson	W. Dairyland EOC	Eau Claire	NONE	W. Dairyland EOC
Jefferson	CAC for South Central WI	Madison & Milwaukee	HRZ	CAC for South Central WI
Juneau	Central Wisconsin CAC	Madison	HRZ / NONE	Central Wisconsin CAC
Kenosha	Racine / Kenosha CAA	Milwaukee *	HRZ / NONE	Racine / Kenosha CAA
Kewaunee	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	Lakeshore CAP
La Crosse	Couleecap	Rochester	NONE	Couleecap

\* This is the primary warehouse serving the county. However SH allows pantries throughout their 36 county service area to use either the Omro or Milwaukee warehouse.

DEZ = Disease Reduction Zone (region with the highest incidence of CWD)

HRZ = Herd Reduction Zone (region with a lower incidence of CWD)

NONE = CWD has not been found in this region

<b>County</b>	<b>Agency Coordinating TEFAP Distribution in each County (see map page 26)</b>	<b>Warehouse Location of Second Harvest Agency Serving each County (see map page 18)</b>	<b>DNR Zones for Chronic Wasting Disease for each County (See map page 9)</b>	<b>Community Action Agency Managing Poverty Programs in each County (see narrative page 53)</b>
Lafayette	Southwest CAP	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Southwest CAP
Langlade	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Lincoln	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	North Central CAP
Manitowoc	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	Lakeshore CAP
Marathon	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	North Central CAP
Marinette	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Marquette	Central Wisconsin CAC	Omro *	HRZ / NONE	CAP Services
Menominee	Menominee Indian Gov.	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Milwaukee	Hunger Task Force	Milwaukee *	NONE	SDC
Monroe	Couleecap	Madison	NONE	Couleecap
Oconto	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Oneida	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Outagamie	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	CAP Services
Ozaukee	Lakeshore CAP	Milwaukee *	NONE	NONE
Pepin	West Central CAA	Eau Claire	NONE	West Central CAA
Pierce	West Central CAA	St. Paul	NONE	West Central CAA
Polk	West Central CAA	St. Paul	NONE	West Central CAA
Portage	St. Vincent de Paul	Omro *	NONE	CAP Services
Price	Northwest CSA	Eau Claire or St. Paul	NONE	Northwest CSA
Racine	Racine / Kenosha CAA	Milwaukee *	DEZ / HRZ / NONE	Racine / Kenosha CAA
Richland	Southwest CAP	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Southwest CAP
Rock	Community Action Inc.	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Community Action Inc.
Rusk	Indianhead CAA	Eau Claire or St. Paul	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Sauk	Central Wisconsin CAC	Madison	DEZ / HRZ	Central Wisconsin CAC
Sawyer	Indianhead CAA	Eau Claire or St. Paul	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Shawano	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Sheboygan	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	Lakeshore CAP
St. Croix	West Central CAA	St. Paul	NONE	West Central CAA
Taylor	Indianhead CAA	Eau Claire or Omro *	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Trempealeau	W. Dairyland EOC	Eau Claire	NONE	W. Dairyland EOC
Vernon	Couleecap	Madison	HRZ / NONE	Couleecap
Vilas	NEWCAP	Omro *	NONE	NEWCAP
Walworth	Community Action Inc.	Milwaukee *	DEZ / HRZ	Community Action Inc.
Washburn	Indianhead CAA	Eau Claire or St. Paul	NONE	Indianhead CAA
Washington	Lakeshore CAP	Milwaukee *	NONE	NONE
Waukesha	CAC for South Central WI	Milwaukee *	HRZ / NONE	CAC for South Central WI
Waupaca	Lakeshore CAP	Omro *	NONE	CAP Services
Waushara	Central Wisconsin CAC	Omro *	NONE	CAP Services
Winnebago	Advocap	Omro *	NONE	Advocap
Wood	Central Wisconsin CAC	Omro *	NONE	North Central CAP

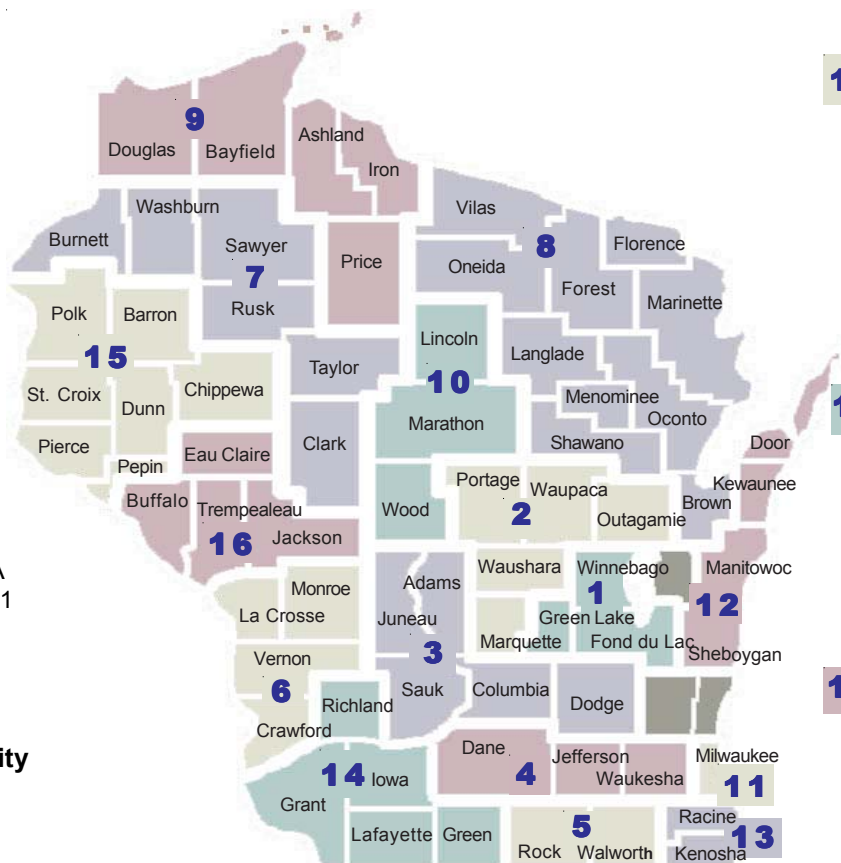
\* This is the primary warehouse serving the county. However SH allows pantries throughout their 36 county service area to use either the Omro or Milwaukee warehouse.

DEZ = Disease Reduction Zone (region with the highest incidence of CWD)  
HRZ = Herd Reduction Zone (region with a lower incidence of CWD)  
NONE = CWD has not been found in this region

# The Wisconsin Community Action Network

## Community Action Agencies

- 1** **ADVOCAP, Inc**  
Michael Bonertz  
Executive Director  
19 W. First St.  
P.O. Box 1108  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936  
920-922-7760, Ext. 515  
mikeb@advocap.org  
www.advocap.org
- 2** **CAP Services, Inc.**  
Karl Pnazek  
President & CEO  
5499 Hwy 10 East, Ste A  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-343-7500  
kspnazek@capmail.org  
www.capserv.org
- 3** **Central WI Community Action Council**  
Fred Hebert  
Executive Director  
1000 Hwy 13  
P.O. Box 430  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965  
608-254-8353  
cwac.joan@verizon.net
- 4** **Community Action Coalition for South Central WI**  
Greta C. Hansen  
Executive Director  
1717 N. Stoughton Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704-2605  
608-246-4730  
ghansen@cacscw.org  
www.cacscw.org
- 5** **Community Action, Inc.**  
Lisa Furseth  
Executive Director  
2300 Kellogg Avenue  
Janesville, WI 53546  
608-755-2470  
lfurseth@community-action.org  
www.community-action.org
- 6** **Couleecap, Inc.**  
Grace Jones  
Executive Director  
201 Melby St.  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-3104  
gracej@couleecap.org  
www.couleecap.org



- 7** **Indianhead Community Action Agency**  
Jerome Drahos  
Executive Director  
P.O. Box 40  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5594  
jerryd@ricelakeinter.net  
www.indianheadcaa.org
- 8** **NEWCAP, Inc.**  
Robert Koller  
Executive Director  
1201 Main St.  
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- 9** **Northwest Community Services Agency**  
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- 10** **North Central Community Action Program**  
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- 11** **Social Development Commission**  
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- 12** **Lakeshore Community Action Program**  
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- 13** **Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency**  
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- 15** **West Central Community Action Agency**  
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  - 14** **Southwest Community Action Program**  
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  - 16** **Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council**  
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- Special Purpose Agencies (Statewide)**
- Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups**  
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- Foundation for Rural Housing, Inc.**  
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- United Migrant Opportunity Services**  
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