

Dane County, we need your help.

As Dane County food pantries, we serve thousands of people in our community each day. Our shared mission is to make sure our neighbors don't face hunger.

But we are facing a serious challenge.

Visits to many of our food pantries have more than doubled in the past two years. We know some of the reasons why. Food prices are higher and rent is rising more here than anywhere else in the country. Federal assistance that helped people make ends meet during the pandemic is gone. We are also the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin. Nearly 13% of kids in Dane County were food insecure in 2022, up from 7.5% in 2021 — and that was before our food pantries started seeing drastic increases in demand.

We're also spending more on food than ever before.

The options we have to keep our shelves stocked continue to shift and are more limited than they were just a few years ago. Buying food in bulk is more expensive now and our traditional suppliers of free food can't keep up with the demand. Permanent changes to the food system over the last few years mean there is less surplus available for our food pantries.

These trends make it challenging to keep food on our shelves.

Food pantries have worked hard to stretch our resources, space, and teams as far as possible. The pressure will rise in the coming weeks as kids have less access to free food with schools out for the summer.

You can help.

Making a financial donation to your local food pantry enables them to purchase needed food. We welcome food drives and volunteers, too. We know there is no quick or easy fix to food insecurity and the structural and economic factors that drive it. So we urge our local, county, state, and federal officials, as well as other community leaders, to help find long-term solutions to food insecurity. We can't do it alone.

This is a critical moment for us to come together for our neighbors.

When our community supports local food pantries, we are stronger. With access to food, kids can learn, families can work, and seniors can stay healthy. It will take all of us to meet this challenge and make sure our neighbors don't experience hunger. We are committed to doing all we can. We are asking you to join us.

In partnership with you,

Allied Food Pantry	Mission Nutrition DeForest
Babies & Beyond of WI, Inc.	Neighborhood House
Badger Prairie Needs Network	Community Center Food Pantry
Bayview Community Center Pantry	Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Mt. Horeb
Catholic Multicultural Center	Oregon Area Food Pantry
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin	OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center
Deerfield Community Center	Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin
East Madison Community Center	Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Madison Food Pantry
Extended Hands Pantry	St. Mark's Lutheran Church Food Pantry
Fountain of Life Covenant Church	Stoughton Food Pantry
Good Shepherd Food Pantry	Stoughton United Methodist Church Food Pantry
Goodman Community Center's Fritz Food Pantry	Sun Prairie Food Pantry at Sunshine Place
Grace Food Pantry	The Keep Food Pantry
Great Lakes Dryhooch Madison	The River Food Pantry
Heights Unlimited Community Resource Center (Mazomanie)	Vivent Health Food Pantry
Islamic Community of Madison	Waunakee Food Pantry
Kennedy Heights Food Pantry	WayForward Resources
Lakeview Food Pantry Lussier Community Education Center - Food Pantry	Willy Street Pantry at the Social Justice Center

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

**United Way
of Dane County**



The Power of Caring. Working for All.

This message was sponsored by United Way of Dane County and the Wisconsin State Journal.