



**NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS**
WALWORTH COUNTY, WI

2025
Annual Report



EIN 26-4560796

www.TheBridgeWalco.org

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BOARD & STAFF

Board of Directors

Jennifer Myers, Board Chair

Karen Stoneman, Board Vice Chair

Paul Schmelzer, Board Secretary

Peter Wautlet, Board Treasurer

Dominic Sergi, Gregg Rice, Mark Reno, Penny Hallett, Taylor Smith

Staff

Tammy Dunn, Executive Director

Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Development Director

Carl Gustafson, Operations Manager

Cathee Laughlin, Volunteer & Guest Relations Manager



ABOUT THE FOOD & DIAPER BANK

Walworth County is located in the Southeast Corner of Wisconsin. It is a popular resort area known for its beautiful lakes. However, it has one of the greatest income disparities in the state.

Our mission began in 2009 with a group of local Boy Scouts pulling wagons of food. Throughout the past seventeen years we've expanded our operations to serve Walworth County as a food and diaper bank providing bulk food distribution services to 18 partner pantries, and offering diapers, incontinence products, and period supplies to our Walworth County neighbors in need.

As we look to the future in our fight to end food insecurity, our goal is to ensure that no one in Walworth County goes hungry. We will continually seek new ways to serve more neighbors in need, easing financial stress, and strengthening our community. Together, we are **neighbors helping neighbors**.

Our Mission

Our mission is to help neighbors in need build life security by providing food, diapers, incontinence products, period supplies, and complimentary programs and services. We leverage resources, donations, and grants to optimize our community impact.

Our Values

- Promote healthy life security through innovative approaches.
- Respect the individual in an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere.
- Operate with the highest standards of ethical integrity.
- Foster volunteer camaraderie and community partnerships.
- Demonstrate efficient resource stewardship.
- Advocate for those experiencing life insecurity.



MESSAGES



JENNIFER MYERS
BOARD CHAIR

Friends & neighbors - we thank you so deeply for your ongoing support! 2025 has been a year of planning and stretching for our organization. With the amazing support from the community, our volunteers, partners and private foundations, we've decided to take the bold step to expand our operations so that we can serve Walworth County more completely.

Three in ten families in Walworth County experience food insecurity throughout the year, and the constraints of our current location allow us to serve only a third of that population. We look forward to partnering with you so that we can reach everyone in need in the coming months, and for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and interest. We look forward to the opportunity to share our vision with you.



TAMMY DUNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hunger can be hard to recognize.

In the past year, we have been reminded that hunger is not always visible, but it is deeply present in the lives of many of our neighbors. Thanks to the compassion of our dedicated volunteers, partners, and supporters, we have continued to strengthen food security across our community. Together, we have provided not only meals, but also dignity, connection, and hope to families, children, and older adults who need it most.

As we look to the future, we are focused on expanding opportunities to serve even more neighbors in need. This means strengthening partnerships, increasing access to nutritious food, and exploring new programs that address the root causes of food insecurity. By investing in innovation, collaboration, and community engagement, we aim to reach more families, respond to emerging needs, and create lasting pathways to stability. Together, we can continue to build bridges to a better tomorrow for our neighbors needing a lift.



COMMUNITY NEED

33% of Walworth County households are at risk of food insecurity. Our goal is to develop a plan that focuses on helping our neighbors who are living in poverty AND on strengthening the ALICE households in Walworth County.

In Walworth County, **11% of our neighbors** (4,731 households) are living **below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**.

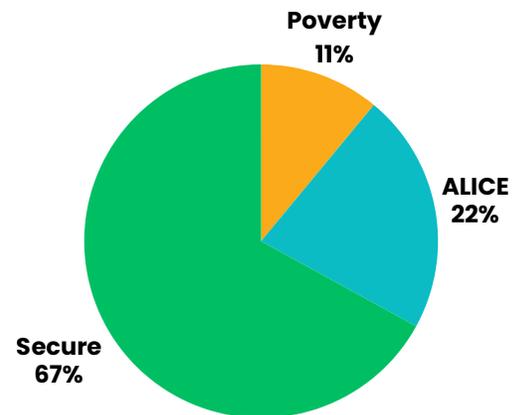
Currently, our guest income eligibility is based on government guidelines of 200% above the FPL.

In Walworth County, **22% of the households** (9,461) are **considered ALICE households**.

ALICE is an acronym for:

Asset Limited, they don't have many possessions
Income Constrained, they don't have much money
Employed, they are working 2 or 3 jobs

The income of an ALICE household is above the FPL, so they don't qualify for public assistance, yet they don't earn enough money to cover basic expenses like rent, food, and childcare. ALICE households are not living "paycheck to paycheck", they are really living day to day, unable to afford an unexpected expense like a car breaking down, an accident, or a health issue.



***Visit unitedforalice.org to learn more about ALICE**

OUR SERVICES AS A PANTRY

In 2025, The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank distributed **more than 500,000 pounds of food.**

As a food pantry, we provided assistance to Walworth County residents across 18 municipalities who are food insecure, serving 1,300 unduplicated households representing 4,000 unique individuals.

- 335 were new households
- 504 of 2024 households did not return in 2025
- 18% were older adults over the age of 60 years old
- 36% were children under the age of 18 years old
- 46% were adults ages 18 to 59 years old



Less than 5% of our guests come to us for help every month.

Some households only need a little help to get through a difficult time. It's situational. Event driven. They don't want to rely on us. But they need us in moments of crisis.

OUR SERVICES AS A BANK

As a food and diaper bank, we provide assistance to multiple pantries and organizations throughout Walworth County. In 2025, we shared **50,652 lbs.** of food, **a 2025 value of \$192,988.**

Supported Partners

Agape House

Big Foot Food Pantry, Walworth

Chapel on the Hill Food Pantry, Lake Geneva

Circle of Friends, Elkhorn

Delavan United Methodist Food Pantry

East Troy Food Pantry

Elkhorn Food Pantry

Food For Life Pantry, Delavan

Harold Johnson 14th Apostle Food Pantry, Delavan

Lake Geneva Food Pantry

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Genoa City

Lutheran Social Services

Mt. Zion Food Pantry, Lake Geneva

Sharon Food Pantry

St. Mary Church, Pell Lake

Tree House Child and Family Center, Elkhorn

Trinity Church, Pell Lake

Twin Oaks Shelter, Darien

Walworth County Aging & Disability Resource Center



DIAPER BANK

As the only diaper bank in the county, The Bridge fights more than food insecurity. As members of the **National Diaper Bank Network**, and the **Alliance for Period Supplies**, The Bridge fights period and diaper poverty. In addition to community drives and donations, these memberships provide access to purchase diapers and period supplies in bulk at heavily discounted costs.



Diaper and Incontinence Products

In Walworth County, 1 in 2 households struggle with diaper and incontinence product needs.

Working families struggle to meet the minimum amount of diapers required to drop off their children at daycare. Older adults on fixed incomes often sacrifice incontinence products to afford rent. Individuals and families with disabilities are burdened with medical bills in addition to their daily need for incontinence products.

In 2025, we distributed **60,967 diapers and incontinence products** for babies, toddlers, older adults, and disabled residents of Walworth County.

Period Supplies

In Walworth County, 1 in 3 women miss work and **1 in 3 girls** miss school because they don't have period supplies.

In 2025, we distributed **131,615 period products** enabling girls and women to feel confident and attend school and work when they have their period.



OLDER ADULTS

The need to support our older adult population has never been greater.

We proudly prioritize serving older adults in Walworth County who account for 27% of those living in our communities. Many face financial challenges living on a fixed income to support basic needs like food and personal care products.

Stockboxes are an additional box of nutritional foods we receive through the Hunger Task Force. The boxes are given out monthly to income eligible adults 60+ years old. Stockboxes include items such as rice, cereal, juice, pasta, and vegetables. We are the only facility to receive and distribute these boxes in Walworth County.

In 2025, we gave out **1,803 Stockboxes**.

We also provide older adults with a bag of personal care and household items monthly. In 2025, we gave out **2,336 CARE Bags**, an **18% increase** due to a generous, designated grant from Bader Philanthropies.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Our food resources and purchasing power make it possible for us to **turn every \$1 donated into \$7 of food.**

\$1 = \$7

We work with local, national, and government resources to acquire free food or purchase food at a reduced cost. Relationships with our partner resources are critical because we do not receive financial assistance from the government. **We are an organization fully funded by private donations and grants.**



Having a loading dock means we can accommodate semi-trucks and large donations. Some donation opportunities come in unexpectedly, and being able to receive and store them means more food for our shelves, and the shelves of other pantries throughout Walworth County.



With support from a strong community, a network of neighbors helping neighbors, our mission and growth are possible.



VOLUNTEER DRIVEN

The quality of our community and of our county is defined by the opportunities to volunteer, to give back, and to help our neighbors in need.



In 2025, The Bridge had 150+ dedicated volunteers donate 10,939 hours of their time. According to *independentsector.org*, the value of a volunteer hour in Wisconsin in 2025 was \$34.79.

**10,939 hours x \$34.79
= \$380,567.81**



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Changed our name from the Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank to **The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank, Inc.** to better reflect our mission, vision, and values.
- Wrapped two trucks with new logo and branding.
- Increased our weekly inventory of food including fresh fruits and vegetables through generous grants from the **Nicholas D. Sergi Foundation** and the **Paul M. Angell Foundation**.
- Received a new freezer, cooler, and pallet racking through a **Hunger Task Force** grant.
- Grew 639 pounds of fresh produce in our own garden planted with help from **Badger High School** students and tended by **Garden of Weedin' volunteers**.
- Distributed hundreds of turkeys and hams over the holidays, gave out holiday stockings for children in partnership with local radio station **Lake 96.1**, and co-hosted the Toys for Tots event with **Circle of Friends** distributing thousands of holiday gifts for 750+ Walworth County children.
- Recorded a PBS spot for **Wisconsin Life** aired November, 2025.
- Added 400 new donors.
- Participated and won 2nd Place in the **Geneva Lake Museum Parade of Trees** to raise local awareness about food insecurity.
- Added new partners, increasing support to 18 organizations in Walworth County.
- Purchased land for future expansion.



2025 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS



Resources

Cash

Fundraising \$28,291
Grant Awards \$72,710
Community Donations \$594,758
Non-cash Donations
Food* \$1,441,636
Diapers* \$42,190
Other \$15,112
Total Resources \$2,194,697

Distributions

Food Donated* \$1,428,943
Diapers Donated* \$64,276
Food Purchased \$137,035
Diapers Purchased \$6,900
Toiletries Health and Hygiene \$18,158
Supplies \$4,668
Total Distributions \$1,659,979

Operations

Payroll and Related \$253,699
Occupancy \$86,581
Accounting and Legal \$5,755
Marketing and Fundraising \$79,299
General and Administrative \$51,597
Total Operations \$476,930
Operating Surplus \$57,788
Restricted Donations \$577,264
Net Surplus \$635,052

**Hunger Task Force calculates the value of a pound of food at \$3.81 based on a blended basket of food items representative of a balanced diet. Diaper donations were valued at \$.50 each based on an estimated fair market value.*



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WALWORTH COUNTY, WI

In 2026, consistent with our strategic plan, we are moving forward with bold plans to increase service to our neighbors, the 15,000 households in Walworth County struggling to make ends meet.

We invite you to visit us for a tour and to learn more about The Bridge.

CONTACT US

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